

Volkswagen Blues Jacques Poulin

The "Jimmy" Trilogy Volkswagen blues roman On the Proper Use of Stars Volkswagen Blues A Virtual Love Rockbound The Collected Stories True Copies The People's Car Mister Blue The Perfect Circle Table Two My Sister's Blue Eyes The Big Book of Classic Fantasy Ugly Is Only Skin-Deep Abroad Wild Cat Volkswagen Blues Thornyhold The Jade Peony Love Like Crazy Detroit Du tac au tac: Managing Conversations in French America Unbound Running in the Family Marine Gravity The Myth of the Lost Paradise in the Novels of Jacques Poulin English Is Not a Magic Language "Volkswagen Blues" von Jacques Poulin. Eine road novel? Salvation Army Necessary Betrayals The King's Daughter Autumn Rounds Sémantique littéraire de l'espace dans Volkswagen Blues de Jacques Poulin Spring Tides Francophone Literatures The Bathroom Three Sisters The Satan Bug Ourika

The "Jimmy" Trilogy

Volkswagen blues roman

From award-winning translator Sheila Fischman comes a new novel by bestselling Quebec author and Canada Reads finalist Jacques Poulin, *English Is Not a Magic Language*. A follow-up to the author's critically acclaimed 2006 novel, *Translation Is a Love Affair* (Archipelago Books), here we meet reader-for-hire

Francis, the little brother of novelist Jack Waterman, whom longtime Poulin fans will remember from previous works as the author's loose alter ego. One call and Francis will arrive at your door in his Mini Cooper, ready to read. He's partial to works about the Natives, the fur trade, and the immense territory the French once held in North America. His principal client is Limoilou, a young woman from Quebec City who still bears the scars she slashed into her wrists at the end of *Translation Is a Love Affair*, who finds great solace in his reading voice. Altogether, Francis's ordinary life in the shadows of his better-known brother could almost be described as happy. But what is he to make of a missed rendezvous with a mysterious woman? And why have the Mounties suddenly started following him in front of the Plains of Abraham, where New France fell to the British?

On the Proper Use of Stars

A collection of short stories from celebrated author William Trevor in which he shines a light on the day-to-day life of Ireland and its citizens. William Trevor's *Last Stories* is forthcoming from Viking. From his debut collection, "The Day We Got Drunk on Cake," published in 1968, to "Family Sins" (1990), William Trevor has crafted the short story to perfection, giving us brilliant and subtle stories full of the reversals, surprises, and shadowy truths we discover in life itself. To read this volume is not just to encounter an extraordinary literary stylist, but to understand life as surely as though we were looking through the eyes of his protagonists and—deeper still—into their hearts.

William Trevor: The Collected Stories includes the tales from his seven previous books, as well as four stories that have never appeared in book form in America. They depict the comforts and frustrations of life in rural Ireland, the complexities of family relationships, and the elusive grace of love. They portray the almost invisible strands that bind people to each other as well as the chains that imprison them in solitary yearning.

Volkswagen Blues

Winner of the 2004 Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction (French language) Shortlisted for the 2006 Scotiabank Giller Prize. Marianne, a young Montrealer, has come to live in Tuscany to draw and write and examine her life. Here she meets Marco, a temptingly seductive man who still lives in his mother's house in the village and who's not prepared to commit himself to anything resembling a shared life. Though he breaks her heart, again and again, Marianne can only avoid him by returning to Canada. This first novel by Pascale Quiviger is marked by its luminous language and its unstinting look at what makes Marianne, and Marco, and, indeed, an entire village and the world beyond it, tick.

A Virtual Love

Rockbound

A quiet man, living in an apartment in Quebec City,

hears a marching band through his window. He looks out, sees the band and suddenly decides to join the crowd forming around them. So begins *Autumn Rounds*, a novel about love that unfolds late in life. The band turns out to be touring musicians, singers, and acrobats from France; among their number is a strangely familiar woman to whom the man feels very attracted. This is a bitter-sweet novel. Because it is his last tour, the man is acutely aware of the details of his life on the road: the way cats in the towns are attracted to his van because it was once a milk truck, how certain reading networks will soon be needing new coordinators, how hauntingly beautiful he and the woman find the landscape of the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River. band turns out to be touring musicians, singers, and acrobats from France; among their number is a strangely familiar woman to whom the man feels very attracted. This is a bitter-sweet novel. Because it is his last tour, the man is acutely aware of the details of his life on the road: the way cats in the towns are attracted to his van because it was once a milk truck, how certain reading networks will soon be needing new coordinators, how hauntingly beautiful he and the woman find the landscape of the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River.

The Collected Stories

Relationships. Love. Life. All things that can be considered-and oftentimes are-just a bit crazy. With an alcoholic father and an absentee mother, seventeen-year old Eppie Aberdeen has learned

firsthand that life's circumstances aren't always sunshine and roses. So Eppie doesn't expect the fairytale, because reality certainly isn't one. She's not waiting on the handsome prince with his white horse to come to her rescue. But even though she's not waiting on it, that doesn't stop nineteen-year-old Lincoln Ross from driving straight into her heart with his teal and white campervan and his too tall stature and perpetually goofy grin. It's difficult to believe in a happily ever after when a happy now is quite hard to find. But Lincoln gives Eppie hope that despite the odds, a true and unconditional love might actually be out there. A revised fairytale. A new kind of love story. But then again, that might just be plain crazy.

True Copies

'A comfortable chair and a Mary Stewart: total heaven. I'd rather read her than most other authors.' Harriet Evans The rambling house called Thornyhold is like something out of a fairy tale. Left to Gilly Ramsey by the cousin whose occasional visits brightened her childhood, the cottage, set deep in a wild wood, has come just in time to save her from a bleak future. With its reputation for magic and its resident black cat, Thornyhold offers Gilly more than just a new home. It offers her a chance to start over. The old house, with its tufts of rosy houseleek and the spreading gilt of the lichens, was beautiful. Even the prisoning hedges were beautiful, protective with their rusty thorns, their bastions of holly and juniper, and at the corners, like towers, their thick columns of yews.

The People's Car

IT WASN'T GERMAN ENGINEERING ONLY THAT MADE THE VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE AN ICON. IT WAS A MANHATTAN ADVERTISING AGENCY, TOO. Created in 1959 by Doyle Dane Bernbach and continued through the '60s and early '70s, the campaign for the Volkswagen Beetle is considered the best of all time. More than just promoting a car, it promoted a new kind of advertising: simple, charming, intelligent and, most of all, honest. In "Ugly Is Only Skin-Deep," Dominik Imseng retraces the creation of Doyle Dane Bernbach, sneered at by the big players on Madison Avenue because of the "ethnic" background of its founders and employees, who were mostly Jewish. Readers will then learn how the agency won the Volkswagen account and how an unlikely creative team set the tone for the most admired campaign in advertising history. Finally, the book examines the evolution of the Volkswagen campaign and how it managed to convince more and more Americans that smaller was better. In fact, the Volkswagen campaign didn't only fundamentally change the ethos of advertising, it also helped trigger the cultural revolution of the 1960s.

Mister Blue

Canada Reads 2005 Winner! In a David and Goliath style battle to the finish, *Rockbound* by Frank Parker Day triumphed over *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood and was declared the 2005 Canada Reads winner. In a series of debates that aired on the CBC in

February, panelist Donna Morrissey, author of *Kit's Law and Downhill Chance*, passionately championed this 1928 novel about life and nature on the small maritime island of Rockbound. The victory has brought this Atlantic Province favourite back into the limelight and is receiving nationwide attention, appearing on several bestseller lists across the country. After its initial publication, *Rockbound* remained in out of print status until 1973, when the University of Toronto Press acquired the rights to publish as part of their 'Literature of Canada Prose and Poetry in Reprint' series. It was reprinted with an introduction by Allan Bevan of Dalhousie University's English Department. In 1989, Gerald Hallowell, an editor with the University of Toronto Press, rescued *Rockbound* from the backlist of the UTP catalogue. The book was reprinted with an afterword by Gwendolyn Davies, Dean of Graduate Studies and Associate Vice-President (Research) at the University of New Brunswick. UTP had been selling around 200 copies of the book per year, until Donna Morrissey selected it for the Canada Reads debates. Since then, UTP has sold over 35,000 copies and it has been reprinted three times! The University of Toronto Press would like to thank Donna Morrissey for her superb defense of the book and all of the people at the CBC for their support and encouragement. A complete synopsis of the debates, as well as an interactive timeline for *Rockbound* and Frank Parker Day can be found on their website, www.cbc.ca/canadareads/index.html. Copies of *Rockbound* can be found in abundance at the University of Toronto Bookstore, www.uoftbookstore.com, or at your local bookstore.

To the harsh domain of Rockbound -- governed by the sternly righteous and rapacious Uriah Jung --comes the youthful David Jung to claim his small share of the island. Filled with dreamy optimism and a love for the unspoken promises of the night sky, David tries to find his way in a narrow, unforgiving, and controlled world. His conflicts are both internal and external, locking him in an unceasing struggle for survival; sometimes the sea is his enemy, sometimes his own rude behavior, sometimes his best friend Gershom Born, sometimes his secret love for the island teacher Mary Dauphiny; but always, inevitably, his Jung relatives and their manifold ambitions for money and power. The balance of life on Rockbound is precarious and thus fiercely guarded by all who inhabit its lonely domain, but just as a sudden change in the direction of the wind can lead to certain peril at sea, so too can the sudden change in the direction of a man's heart lead to a danger altogether unknown. Enormously evocative of the power, terror, and dramatic beauty of the Atlantic sea, and unrelenting in its portrait of back-breaking labour, cunning bitterness, and family strife, Rockbound is a story of many passions-love, pride, greed, and yearning -- all formed and buffeted on a small island by an unyielding wind and the rocky landscape of the human spirit.

The Perfect Circle

A 2005 Canada Reads Selection In this classic road novel, Jacques Poulin tells the story of a man in search of his brother. The geographical journey — through Detroit, into Chicago, on to St. Louis, along

the Oregon Trail and into California — becomes a metaphor for the exploration of the history of the French in North America.

Table Two

My Sister's Blue Eyes

Jacques Poulin's wonderful novel about a professional writer who composes and hand writes letters and documents for a living. He lives in the upper town of the old town of Quebec, in an apartment that shares a wall with Kim, a psychologist. The courtyard below Jacques' rooms is a home to Pretty Cat, who sleeps in the tree. The writer becomes involved with Kim when she reveals to him that she has been beaten — by a lover or a patient, he does not know.

The Big Book of Classic Fantasy

Three siblings tell the stories of their very different childhoods in Vancouver's Chinatown before and during World War II.

Ugly Is Only Skin-Deep

Abroad

In the late 1970s Ondaatje returned to his native island of Sri Lanka. As he records his journey through the drug-like heat and intoxicating fragrances of that

"pendant off the ear of India, " Ondaatje simultaneously retraces the baroque mythology of his Dutch-Ceylonese family. An inspired travel narrative and family memoir by an exceptional writer.

Wild Cat

Socken analyzes the shape and direction of Poulin's creation narratives as they evolve in the novels and demonstrates their presence from the earliest quasi-political *Un cheval pour mon royaume* to the highly introspective *Le Vieux Chagrin*. The novels move from an outer-directed concept of the lost paradise as a state to be attained beyond the self to a sense of the lost paradise as the kingdom within, achievable first on the individual level as self-knowledge and only afterwards on the social level. Poulin introduces the theme of the soul and his personal concept of it, as the soul for him is proof of the inner life that embodies the qualities of tranquility and tenderness associated with the lost paradise. Lost paradise literature is universal and timeless. Poulin's portrayal is placed in historical context so that his contribution to the genre can be fully appreciated. Referring to studies by such critics as Mircea Eliade, Northrop Frye, Jerome S. Bruner, and Jack J.

Volkswagen Blues

Studienarbeit aus dem Jahr 2001 im Fachbereich Medien / Kommunikation - Film und Fernsehen, Note: 2,0, Universität des Saarlandes (Französische Kulturwissenschaft und Interkulturelle

Kommunikation), Veranstaltung: Proseminar Sur la route - frankophone Roadmovies, 11 Quellen im Literaturverzeichnis, Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: Roadmovies stellen weltweit ein gern gesehenes, erfolgreiches Genre der gesamten Filmkunst da. Unter den meist rasanten und bewegungsreichen Filmen findet man Zuschauerlieblinge wie "Bonnie and Clyde" (1967), "Thelma und Louise" (1991), den deutschen Film "Knocking on Heaven's Door" (1997) und den nunmehr zum Klassiker avancierten "Easy Rider" (1969) von und mit Denis Hopper, der am Ende der Sechziger Jahre wegen seiner Geschichte für großes Aufsehen sorgte. Nur schwerlich lässt sich vorstellen, dass ein Roman die gleichen Möglichkeiten besitzen könnte, diese Bewegung auszudrücken wie es in filmischer Form gelingt. Jedoch ist das Gegenteil der Fall : vor dem road movie gab es bereits die literarische Form, die später erst zu Verfilmungen veranlasste. Diese literarische Gattung ist unter dem Begriff „road novel“ bekannt und hat ihren Beginn mit dem Roman On the Road von Jack Kerouac aus dem Jahre 1957, ein ebenfalls für damalige Zeit gewagtes und innovatives Werk, da es fast autobiographisch das exzessive Leben des Autors beschreibt. Das einige Jahre später verfasste und weniger skandalöse Werk Volkswagen Blues von Jacques Poulin gehört ebenfalls zu den road novels und wurde deshalb im Rahmen des Seminars zur Einleitung auf das Hauptthema „Frankophone Roadmovies“ behandelt. Die folgende Arbeit wird sich nun darauf konzentrieren, zu erklären, dass die Gattung des „road movie“ auch in Buchform möglich ist, wobei nochmals darauf hingewiesen werden muss, dass sie der eigentliche Vorgänger ist. Hierbei wird nach

einigen Informationen zum Autor, zur Geschichte selbst und zu den wichtigsten Personen von Volkswagen Blues besonders auf die Elemente der road novel eingegangen werden, die in der Thematik und der Bewegung am offensichtlichsten sind, um letztendlich genau zu erklären, wieso es durchaus vorstellbar wäre, eine Verfilmung von Volkswagen Blues zu produzieren.

Thornyhold

Francophone Literatures draws together extracts from novels written in French by writers from Francophone areas outside Europe. These areas include North Africa, Black Africa, the Caribbean and North America. The book includes the following features: * a general introduction, which outlines the rationale and purpose of the book * a literary and a linguistic commentary on each extract included * a separate bibliography accompanying each section * a glossary of linguistic terms. The above features enable students to contextualize the extracts, identify the key literary and linguistic features and political, social, and cultural themes, to embark on further study, and to achieve their own successful text analysis by means of the models provided. Unique in its analysis both of literary and linguistic techniques, Francophone Literatures is essential reading for students of Francophone studies.

The Jade Peony

'A compelling and very entertaining look at the

complexities of our hyperreal age, an insightful and witty exploration of the disconnect between image and reality, truth and appearance and whether love and sincere sentiment can overcome the short term thrills of social media.'James MillerFor Jeff Brennan, juggling multiple identities is a way of life. Online he has dozens of different personalities and switches easily between them. Offline, he shows different faces to different people: the caring grandson, the angry eco-protester, the bored IT consultant. So when the beautiful Marie mistakes him for a famous blogger, he thinks nothing of adding this new identity to his repertoire. But as they fall in love and start building a life together, Jeff is gradually forced into more and more desperate measures to maintain his new identity, and the boundaries between his carefully segregated personas begin to fray. In a world where truth is a matter of perspective and identities are interchangeable, Jeff finds himself trapped in his own web of lies. How far will he go to maintain his secrets? And even if he wanted to turn back, would he be able to?

Love Like Crazy

Bernhard Rieger reveals how a car commissioned by Hitler and designed by Ferdinand Porsche became a global commodity on a par with Coca-Cola. The Beetle's success hinged on its uncanny ability to capture the imaginations of executives, engineers, advertisers, car collectors, suburbanites, hippies, and everyday drivers across nations and cultures.

Detroit

Du tac au tac: Managing Conversations in French

From Montreal to Bar Harbour, Louisiana via New York and Florida, former bush pilot and photographer Jack leads us on a quest to conquer the shadows of a past life and into the heart of an ultimately warm and heady universe. Peace comes at a price and sometimes that price means burning bridges. Jack and Monica broke up a long time ago, but there is still something broken inside. After years of silence, the truce is over when Tristan, Monica's younger brother, reappears in Jack's life. Memories may have been buried deep, but there is no escaping the force of erosion. Tristan talks Jack into a road trip, a trip without a destination, where the point is to keep moving and open oneself up to chance. What follows is a trip and an encounter with Nuna, the young woman with disorienting eyes. But a triangle doesn't always travel easily, desire being a dangerous fuel. Guillaume Vigneault gives ample proof in this novel of his gift for translating subtle affairs of the heart. In elegant, measured prose, he paints a portrait of loving and leaving by a new generation.

America Unbound

Winner of the Ruth Schwartz Award Jeanne Chatel has always dreamed of adventure. So when the eighteen-year-old orphan is summoned to sail from France to

the wilds of North America to become a king's daughter and marry a French settler, she doesn't hesitate. Her new husband is not the dashing military man she has dreamed of, but a trapper with two small children who lives in a small cabin in the woods. With her husband away trapping much of the time, Jeanne faces danger daily, but the bravery and spirit that brought her to this wild place never fail her, and she soon learns to be truly at home in her new land.

Running in the Family

"By the Governor General Award and Quebec-Paris Prize-winning writer, a novel about a struggling writer and Mr. Blue, his cat and sole companion until the day they discover a copy of The Arabian Nights in a cave along the beach. Understated and deeply human"--

Marine Gravity

A book about the meaning of travel, about how important the topic has been for writers for two and a half centuries, and about how excellent the literature of travel happened to be in England and America in the 1920s and 30s.

The Myth of the Lost Paradise in the Novels of Jacques Poulin

Jack Waterman owns a bookstore in Ouebec City. He lives there, but works at the university, where he translates the Canadian Dictionary of Biography. He is an inspiration to writers, one of whom, Jimmy,

stumbles into his store. Jimmy has no roots; he knows he wants to be a writer, but he does not know how. He needs to learn and to gain experience. Jack Waterman takes on the role of his mentor. Jimmy goes to Paris, where he walks in the footsteps of Hemingway and Joyce, but he is called to return to Quebec because Jack has taken a turn for the worse. Jack suffers from "Eisenhower's disease," his name for Alzheimer's, and although it is progressing slowly, he is well aware that at some point soon he is going to lose his faculties completely. It is his intention to take his own life before he becomes a burden to those he loves.

English Is Not a Magic Language

Improve your French conversation skills with DU TAC AU TAC: MANAGING CONVERSATIONS IN FRENCH! The communicative strategies used in this French text help you reactivate, strengthen, and build on what you already know so that you can improve your French communication skills with ease. Each chapter is organized around what you need to know to interact with native speakers: how to initiate, maintain, and close conversations; how to communicate and respond to feelings and emotions; how to express opinions; and how to give and get information. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

"Volkswagen Blues" von Jacques Poulin.

Eine road novel?

In this classic road novel, Jacques Poulin tells the story of a man in search of his brother. The geographical journey — through Detroit, into Chicago, on to St. Louis, along the Oregon Trail and into California — becomes a metaphor for the exploration of the history of the French in North America.

Salvation Army

This original contribution to hemispheric American literary studies comprises readings of three important novels from Mexico, Canada, and the United States: Carlos Fuentes's *Terra Nostra*, Quebecois writer Jacques Poulin's *Volkswagen Blues*, and Native American writer Leslie Marmon Silko's *Almanac of the Dead*. The encyclopedic novel has particular generic characteristics that serve these writers as a vehicle for the reincorporation of hemispheric histories. Starting with an examination of *Moby-Dick* as precursor, Barrenechea shows how this narrative genre allows Fuentes, Poulin, and Silko to reflect the interconnected world of today, as well as to dramatize indigenous and colonial values in their narratives. His close attention to written documents, visual representations, and oral traditions in these encyclopedic novels sheds light on their comparative cultural relations and the New World from pole to pole. This study amplifies the scope of "America" across cultures and languages, time and tradition.

Necessary Betrayals

An autobiographical coming-of-age novel by the the "only gay man" in Morocco.

The King's Daughter

John Fowles presents a remarkable translation of a nineteenth-century work that provided the seed for his acclaimed novel *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and that will astonish and haunt modern readers. Based on a true story, Claire de Duras's *Ourika* relates the experiences of a Senegalese girl who is rescued from slavery and raised by an aristocratic French family during the time of the French Revolution. Brought up in a household of learning and privilege, she is unaware of her difference until she overhears a conversation that suddenly makes her conscious of her race--and of the prejudice it arouses. From this point on, *Ourika* lives her life not as a French woman but as a black woman who feels "cut off from the entire human race." As the Reign of Terror threatens her and her adoptive family, *Ourika* struggles with her unusual position as an educated African woman in eighteenth-century Europe. A best-seller in the 1820s, *Ourika* captured the attention of Duras's peers, including Stendhal, and became the subject of four contemporary plays. The work represents a number of firsts: the first novel set in Europe to have a black heroine; the first French literary work narrated by a black female protagonist; and, as Fowles points out in the foreword to his translation, "the first serious attempt by a white novelist to enter a black mind."

Autumn Rounds

“Poulin is a master of imagery and dialogue: They rest like froth on top of something much more murky and morose: an underlying fear of emptiness.”—The Silhouette Peacefully employed on an uninhabited island, a translator of comic strips (codename Teddy Bear) lives in the company of his dictionaries, his marauding cat, Matousalem, and his tennis ball machine (the Prince). Convinced that the translator's happiness is in jeopardy, his boss helicopters in a few solitude-seeking companions—the beautiful and elusive Marie with her flirtatious cat Moustache; the seductive nudist, Featherhead; Professor Moccasin, the half-deaf comic strip scholar; the moody and contradictory Author; the Ordinary Man; and the Organizer, sent to “sensitize the population.” As the spring tides drag ocean debris onto the shore, Teddy Bear and his companions seek out their own solitudes in this hilarious philosophical fable. Jacques Poulin's novels include Volkswagen Blues (a finalist for Canada Reads 2005) and La tournée d'automne (Autumn Rounds). Poulin received the 1978 Governor General's Award for Les Grandes Marées(Spring Tides) and the Molson Prize for lifetime artistic contribution in 1990 and 2000. He lives in Québec.

Sémantique littéraire de l'espace dans Volkswagen Blues de Jacques Poulin

"An original and significant writer, whose fiction can be as engaging as it is surprising." The Times Literary Supplement

Spring Tides

Unearth the enchanting origins of fantasy fiction with a collection of tales as vast as the tallest tower and as mysterious as the dark depths of the forest. Fantasy stories have always been with us. They illuminate the odd and the uncanny, the wondrous and the fantastic: all the things we know are lurking just out of sight—on the other side of the looking-glass, beyond the music of the impossibly haunting violin, through the twisted trees of the ancient woods. Other worlds, talking animals, fairies, goblins, demons, tricksters, and mystics: these are the elements that populate a rich literary tradition that spans the globe. A work composed both of careful scholarship and fantastic fun, *The Big Book of Classic Fantasy* is essential reading for anyone who's never forgotten the stories that first inspired feelings of astonishment and wonder. **INCLUDING:** *Stories by pillars of the genre like the Brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Andersen, Mary Shelley, Christina Rossetti, L. Frank Baum, Robert E. Howard, and J. R. R. Tolkien *Fantastical offerings from literary giants including Edith Wharton, Leo Tolstoy, Willa Cather, Zora Neale Hurston, Vladimir Nabokov, Hermann Hesse, and W.E.B. Du Bois *Rare treasures from Asian, Eastern European, Scandinavian, and Native American traditions *New translations, including fourteen stories never before in English **PLUS:** *Beautifully Bizarre Creatures! *Strange New Worlds Just Beyond the Garden Path! *Fairy Folk and Their Dark Mischief! *Seriously Be Careful—Do Not Trust Those Fairies!

Francophone Literatures

Marine Gravity

The Bathroom

"It's awful to think that there are nine of us here today at this table and in six months' time we may all be dead," said Miss Purbeck. "There were thousands killed last night, so the bus conductor told me." "You certainly are our little ray of sunshine," said Elsie scornfully. Marjorie Wilenski's only novel, as biting and funny as Barbara Pym at her crankiest, follows an office of women translators at the fictional Ministry of Foreign Intelligence in London as they bicker, manoeuvre, and shift allegiances just before and then in the thick of the London Blitz. Its two main characters are sharply contrasted--the clever, efficient but terminally bitter middle-aged Elsie Pearne and the cheerful, pretty young newcomer Anne Shepley-Rice, whose once affluent family has fallen on hard times. Their colleagues include a fresh air fanatic, a busybody, an inept supervisor and her trusty deputy, the dithering, chatty Mrs Jolly, and a former lady's companion who delights in bad news and disaster. The cast of Table Two are instantly recognizable to any office worker of today. But this portrayal of a 1940s office is a rare treasure for modern readers, showing, with vivid detail and dark humour, how a group of independent, capable women experienced some of the darkest days of World War II. 'The most striking novel about women war workers this war has produced' Elizabeth Bowen

Three Sisters

In a small village in China, the Wang family has produced seven sisters in its quest to have a boy; three of the sisters emerge as the lead characters in this remarkable novel. From the small-town treachery of the village to the slogans of the Cultural Revolution to the harried pace of city life, Bi Feiyu follows the women as they strive to change the course of their destinies and battle against an “infinite ocean of people” in a China that does not truly belong to them. Yumi will use her dignity, Yuxiu her powers of seduction, and Yuyang her ambition—all in an effort to take control of their world, their bodies, and their lives. Like Dai Sijie’s *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*, Arthur Golden’s *Memoirs of a Geisha*, and J.G. Ballard’s *Empire of the Sun*, *Three Sisters* transports us to and immerses us in a culture we think we know but will understand much more fully by the time we reach the end. Bi’s *Moon Opera* was praised by the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, and other publications. In one review Lisa See said: “I hope this is the first of many of Bi’s works to come to us.” *Three Sisters* fulfills that wish, with its irreplaceable portrait of contemporary Chinese life and indelible story of three tragic and sometimes triumphant heroines.

The Satan Bug

An exposé of bureaucratic corruption and systemic arson in Detroit traces the author's work with a local fire brigade and his investigations into the daily lives of politicians, police officials, and others who are working to save the troubled city.

Ourika

A sparkling, inventive debut novel inspired by Sir John Franklin's grand -- but ultimately failed -- quest to discover the Northwest Passage and by his extraordinary wife, Lady Jane. Originally published in Quebec as *Du bon usage des étoiles*, Dominique Fortier's debut *On the Proper Use of Stars* is as fresh and imaginative as anything published in recent years. It weaves together the voices of Francis Crozier, Sir John Franklin's second in command, who turns a sceptical eye on the grandiose ambitions and hubris of his leader, and of Lady Jane Franklin and her niece Sophia, both driven to uncommon actions by love and by frustration as months then years pass with no word from the expedition. Fortier skilfully accents the main narratives with overheard conversations and snippets from letters and documents that bring two entirely different worlds -- the frozen Arctic and busy Victorian London -- alive. From the Hardcover edition.

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