The Queen's Caprice—Jean Echenoz 2010-08-24 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 “Conjour 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

'14 Jean Echenoz 2015-01-22T00:00:00+01:00 Cuando, el 1º agosto 1914, le campane suonano a martello annunciando la mobilitazione, nemmeno il mito, smarrito Anthime riesce a sottrarsi all’esultanza generale, alle discussioni febbri, tutte risate senza fine sovrastate da inni e fanfare. E poi—lo dice anche Charles con la consueta sicurezza—è questione di quindici giorni al posto, sarà una guerra lampo. Un ultimo, antimocratico 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 indefinibile: anche quando si lancia curvo e goffo contro il nemico, preceduto dalla lama della baionetta che forza 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 incianchito a un pannello 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 minussola sarà diversa – inspettatamente, sorprendentemente diversa. Con una leggerezza e una convinzione 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 caduco e attonito, e facendo così di lui l’emblematica della sola qualità che consenta di attraversare indenni l’inaudita violenza della Storia: la sorridente, caparbia volontà di adattarsi.

Lightning—Jean Echenoz 2011-06-07 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 knows 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.

**Ravel**—Jean Echenoz 2011-05-10 “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


**The Paris Deadline**—Max Byrd 2013 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 automaton, 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-Patrick Manchette 2011-12-07 A New York Review Books Original Whether you call her a coldhearted gripper or the soul of modern capitalism, there’s no question that Aimée is a killer and 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 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

**I’m Off**—Jean Echenoz 2002 I’m off, says Felix Ferrer to his wife. ‘I’m leaving you’. And closing the door on their suburban home. Ferrer, a creature of appetite, impulse and habit, a man of our times, embarks on a journey to the extremes. Not weighing up every girl he sees. Not ignoring his doctor’s warnings to avoid the very hot and the very cold.

**Fear**—Gabriel Chevallier 2014-05-20 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 anything 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.

**Special Envoy**—Jean Echenoz 2017-11-07 “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 Carrié—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 intrinsically new world, 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 Objet 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. Objet 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 Objet’s cronies and spirited away into the lower depths of France’s intelligence bureaucracy where she is trained for her new mission: what follows is a 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.”

**French XX Bibliography** 65—Sheri K. Dion 2014-09
Running—Jean Echenoz 2009-12-08 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.

Viviane—Julia Deck 2016-11-15 Winner of the inaugural French Voices Award: “[A] masterfully conceived debut, ardentless tale, intricately and irresistibly told” (La Quinzaine Littéraire). Only once in a 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 publishing house 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 Elisabeth Fauville, these are not abstract questions to be left for philosophers; they will decide can we say that we are who we say we are? What determines our actions, and are we really responsible for them?

War Against War—Michael Kazin 2017-01-03 A dramatic account of the Americans who tried to stop their nation from fighting in the First World War—and came close to succeeding. In this “fascinating” (Los Angeles Times) narrative, Michael Kazin brings us into the ranks of one of the largest, most diverse, and most sophisticated peace coalitions in US history. The activists came from a variety of backgrounds: wealthy, middle, and working class; urban and rural; white and black; Christian and Jewish and atheist. They mounted street demonstrations and popular exhibitions, attracted prominent leaders from the labor and suffrage movements, ran peace candidates for local and federal office, met with President Woodrow Wilson to make their case, and founded new organizations that endured beyond the cause. For almost three years, they helped prevent Congress from authorizing a massive increase in the size of the US army—a step advocated by ex-president Theodore Roosevelt. When the Great War’s bitter legacy led to the next world war, the warnings of these peace activists turned into a tragic prophecy—and the beginning of a surveillance state that still endures today. Peopleed with unforgettable characters and written with riveting moral urgency, War Against War is a “fine, sorrowful history” (The New York Times) and “a timely reminder of how easily the will of the majority can be thwarted in even the mightiest of democracies” (The New York Times Book Review).

Double Jeopardy—Jean Echenoz 1994-01-01 “Double Jeopardy recounts the twin stories spanning two generations of two pairs of male buddies. . . . Transglobal gurnerunning, insurgency 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.

Free Day—Inês Cagnati 2019-08-27 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 Inês 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 pray 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.


Chopin’s Move—Jean Echenoz 2004 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 ensnared 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 characters. From the start, these elements are thrown into chaotic motion, and soon develop 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 grip on his fate.


Short Stories in French—Richard Coward 1999-09-30 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 Bolcagger, Cotonno, Le Clezio and Germain, this volume gives a fascinating insight into French culture and literature as well as providing an invaluable educational tool.
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.

Deborah Denardo's debut novel, *Once a Runner*, is a humorous and spot-on tale of one individual's quest to become a champion. Viktor Cassidy, a competitive runner at fictional Southeastern University whose lifelong dream is to run a four-minute mile, is less than a second away when the turmoil of the Vietnam War era intrudes into the staid recesses of a six-year-old. Defying the regulations, Max struggles to retrieve pieces of his former life, and although followed by watchers from ‘the hotel’ he feels livelier than he did when he was alive. PIANO can be read as a metaphor of life and death, of heaven and hell. The question is: Which is which?

Narrative Unreliability in the Twentieth-Century First-Person Novel—Elke D'hoker 2008-12-10 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, Ansvar 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.

Fields of Famine—Jean Ziegler 2013-08-06 Few know that world hunger was very nearly eradicated in our lifetimes. In the past five years, however, widespread starvation has suddenly reappeared, and chronic hunger is a major issue on every continent. In an extensive investigation of this disturbing shift, Jean Ziegler—one of the world’s leading food experts—lays out in clear and accessible terms the complex global causes of the new hunger crisis. Ziegler’s wide-ranging and fascinating examination focuses on how the new sustainable revolution in energy production has diverted millions of acres of corn, soy, wheat, and other grain crops from food to fuel. The results, he shows, have been sudden and startling, with declining food reserves sending prices to record highs and a new global commodities market in ethanol and other biofuels gobbling up arable lands in nearly every continent on earth. Like Raj Patel’s pathbreaking Stuffed and Starved, Betting on Famine will enlighten the millions of Americans concerned about the politics of food at home—and about the forces that prevent us from feeding the world’s children.

Lake—Jean Echenoz 1998 Frank Chopin is not a typical secret agent. Officially an entomologist specializing in the corresponding disorder. The work of a lifetime.” It is in the midst of this comedy of daily life that the melancholy subtext of three generations slowly emerges: the stories of the two young men who were casualties of the Fields of Famine and the family that remains to remember them.


Once a Runner—John L. Parker 2009-04-07 The undisputed classic of running novels and one of the most beloved sports books ever published, *Once a Runner* tells the story of an athlete’s dreams amid the turmoil of the 60s and the Vietnam war. Inspired by the author’s experience as a collegiate champion, the novel follows Quinton Cassidy, a competitive runner at fictional Southeastern University whose lifelong dream is to run a four-minute mile. He is less than a second away when the turmoil of the Vietnam War era intrudes into the staid recesses of his school’s athletic department. After he becomes involved in an athletes’ protest, Cassidy is suspended from his track team. Under the tutelage of his friend and mentor, Bruce Forrest, a graduate student and former Olympic gold medalist, Cassidy gives up his scholarship, his girlfriend, and possibly his future to withdraw to a monastic retreat in the countryside and begin training for the race of his life against the greatest miler in history. A rare insider’s account of the incredibly intense lives of elite distance runners, *Once a Runner* is an inspiring, funny, and spot-on tale of one individual’s quest to become a champion.

Plano—Jean Echenoz 2005 He awakes in a hotel that might be a hospital or might be something else much more mysterious. His nurses bear an uncanny resemblance to Dean Martin and Peggy Lee and explain to him that there are certain rules to be obeyed on his return to Paris—the most important being that he must lose his old identity entirely. Defying the regulations, Max struggles to retrieve pieces of his former life, and although followed by watchers from ‘the hotel’ he feels livelier than he did when he was alive. PIANO can be read as a metaphor of life and death, of heaven and hell. The question is: Which is which?

Subject Catalog—Library of Congress 1979

Betting on Famine—Jean Ziegler 2013-08-06 Few know that world hunger was very nearly eradicated in our lifetimes. In the past five years, however, widespread starvation has suddenly reappeared, and chronic hunger is a major issue on every continent. In an extensive investigation of this disturbing shift, Jean Ziegler—one of the world’s leading food experts—lays out in clear and accessible terms the complex global causes of the new hunger crisis. Ziegler’s wide-ranging and fascinating examination focuses on how the new sustainable revolution in energy production has diverted millions of acres of corn, soy, wheat, and other grain crops from food to fuel. The results, he shows, have been sudden and startling, with declining food reserves sending prices to record highs and a new global commodities market in ethanol and other biofuels gobbling up arable lands in nearly every continent on earth. Like Raj Patel’s pathbreaking Stuffed and Starved, Betting on Famine will enlighten the millions of Americans concerned about the politics of food at home—and about the forces that prevent us from feeding the world’s children.