

LIBRARY



NUMÉRO DEUX

David Foenkinos (perhaps best known outside his native France for *The Mystery of Henri Pick*) turns his attention to the life of the also-ran. It is 1999 and casting has begun to find the young boy who will play Harry Potter and, in turn, become world famous: out of hundreds of hopefuls, two remain. This novel explores life for the one who was not chosen: can he ever stop asking himself why he lost out? What are the effects of rejection on the psyche? And how does he cope, growing up and eventually becoming an adult in a world where Harry Potter is everywhere?

BEST SELLERS

The top 10 books in France

- 1 **Les Douleurs fantômes**  
Mélicca Da Costa
- 2 **La Toute Petite Reine**  
Agnès Ledig
- 3 **Le Grand Monde**  
Pierre Lemaitre
- 4 **Jamais plus**  
Colleen Hoover
- 5 **Le Silence et la Colère**  
Pierre Lemaitre
- 6 **Captive, tome 2**  
Sarah Rivers
- 7 **À tout jamais**  
Colleen Hoover
- 8 **Les Promises**  
Jean-Christophe Grangé
- 9 **Kilomètre zéro**  
Maud Ankaoua
- 10 **Captive, tome 1**  
Sarah Rivers

TRAVELS WITH A BROMPTON  
In the Cévennes & other regions

Sue Birley  
£10.99 Corgi/Millner



"There were vultures circling above us and I was told to keep moving in case they thought I was dead..." - which just goes to show slow tourism is not without its excitement! This sparkling narrative about the adventures of an English couple and their folding bicycles over nearly 30 years of

exploring France is a wine-fuelled account of sweaty pedalling and hard-earned free-wheeling via cols, war memorials, lavender fields and vineyards. A travel guide for those who long for two-wheeled trips in France and a lively read for the armchair-traveller who chooses sofa over saddle, Birley's book really is a delightful celebration of cycling - and of France. "We are able to demonstrate the robust and compact nature of these folding bikes, and the comfort of the ride even if it is a bit slow. But who wants to be in a hurry in France?" she asks. Not us, that's for sure!

A JEWISH GIRL IN PARIS  
Melanie Levensohn, translated by Jamie Lee Searle

£9.99 Pan Macmillan



Inspired by a true family story, this novel takes us to Paris in 1940, a city under German occupation. A young Jewish girl, Judith, meets a young man, the son of a wealthy banker and Nazi sympathiser - his family will never approve of the girl he has fallen in love with. As the Germans impose more and more restrictions on Jewish Parisians, the couple secretly plan to flee the country. But before they can make their escape, Judith disappears... Fast forward to Washington DC in 2006, where Jacobina's search for an older half-sister she never knew has languished for 25 years. Then she meets Béatrice, a French woman who works for the World Bank. Spurred on by her younger friend, the two women soon discover a dark family secret, stretching over two continents and six decades, that will change their lives forever. This heart-breaking yet hopeful novel tells a story filled with love and new beginnings.

BOOKS

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE: The Story of Her Life

Monica Foggia, with illustrations by Valeria Quattrocchi £18.99 Prestel



Few artists' lives are as inspiring as that of Niki de Saint Phalle. Starting out as a fashion model, a subsequent breakdown led to her taking up painting as therapy. Entirely self-taught, Niki spent the rest of her years devoted to art that was based in emotional truth and a feminist point of view. This graphic novel follows her extraordinary career, from her early 'shooting pictures', in which she fired bullets at bags of paint, through her collaborations with her husband Jean Tinguely, her assemblage, performance art, installations, and her work in film, theatre, and architecture. It tells the story of a woman who fought for a fairer world and who made a name for herself in the male-dominated art world of the day to become one of our greatest artists.