

LIVRE PARIS 2019



SANDRINE ALEXIE

L'APPEL DES QUARANTE – LA ROSE DE DJAM

SYLVIE DENIS

HAUTE-ECOLE

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L'ENSORCELEUR DES CHOSES MENUES



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352 pages

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Book 1:

Call from the Forty Saints

Book 2:

***Dragon's Cave* – where Sibyl
snatches the Rose of Jam.**

Book 3:

***Pole of the World* – where
Sibyl becomes a Dervish.**

SANDRINE ALEXIE

L'APPEL DES QUARANTE (CALL FROM THE FORTY SAINTS)

Livre 1 : LA ROSE DE DJAM (Book 1 : THE ROSE OF JAM)

During the Crusades nearly ten centuries ago, in the Middle East. The quest for a sacred chalice purporting to hold all the secrets of the universe - the Iranian version of the Christian Holy Grail.

The story takes place in 1186 of the Christian era... the Frankish lands – Jerusalem, Tripoli and Antioch – are in their last throes of existence, under attack by Saladin who reigns over Cairo and Muslim Syria. Turks and Kurds are fighting over the lands of Syria, Iraq and Kurdistan. But while Muslims and Christians fight for the control of a few holy places, another battle is raging to defend a power that is not quite of this world, but is the bedrock and protector of its equilibrium. This “Pole of the World”, as it is nicknamed, vanishes over time and is born again in various forms, eras and places. For Muslim people it is a prophet they call Khidr, the “Green One”; it is Elijah for the Jews and the Christians and for the latter sometimes also St George. But all that is just speculation because its face is known only to the Seven Horsemen, its most faithful servants, recruited from the Forty Saints of the world, who roam the lands, sometimes visible, sometimes invisible. As their vision carries both into past and future and they can easily perceive all aspects of events, their behaviour seems to be very erratic to the average mortal.

The story of the Rose of Jam, or how the chalice containing all the secrets of the universe was lost and found again, is an episode in this long history of the Forty Saints. It began in a Syrian castle held by Norman lords, where lived the most improbable of earthly creatures to which the Pole of the world could possibly confer this mission: Sibyl of Terra Nuova.



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Born in 1965, **Sandrine Alexie** studied Islamic Art at the Louvre School, and also Kurdish language and culture at the National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilisations.

As a novelist, she has written *Kawa le kurde* (*Kawa the Kurd*), 2005, L'Harmattan. She has also translated two Kurdish literary classics, *Mem et Zin*, by Ahmedê Khani (2001, L'Harmattan) and *Us et coutumes des Kurdes* (*Habits and Customs of the Kurd*), by Mahmoud Bayazidi (2015, Geuthner-L'Asiathèque).

Sandrine Alexie lives in Paris.



544 pages
ISBN 978-284172-898-5

SYLVIE DENIS

HAUTE-ÉCOLE (HIGH-SCHOOL)

Beneath the great walls of Brume in the Outer Kingdom, children gifted with magic powers are taken away from their families to be taught at the High-School and then forced to serve the Kingdom and its privileged few.

Those magicians who are still free hide in the villages. Only Madge Mayfield, a dressmaker by trade, lives in the capital where she spies on the castle with some of her protégés. One of these is Arik Renshaw, the heir to the throne's favourite, the most powerful magus of his generation and the sworn enemy of Herus Tork, the man with the limpid-grey eyes, who, as principal of the High-School, governs by means of the politics of terror.

Court intrigues, magicians with unheard of powers, rebels committed to fighting for a better world, *Haute-Ecole* is a thrilling, action-packed novel.

Haute-École is not one of those weighty Heroic-Fantasy novels spiced up with blood, sex and rock'n'roll, but well and truly Fantasy in the most noble and magic sense of the term. Without recourse to overlengthy passages and infused with a delightful social cynicism, the work in its most profound developments brings to mind Silverberg in the late 60s (nothing less than that!) It is certainly no mean thing to say that Sylvie Denis' first novel is one of the best surprises of this year and we are already looking forward to her next.

Arkady Knight, *Le Cafard Cosmique*



Sylvie Denis, a former English teacher, was born in 1963 and lives in Auch in the French South-West.

A short story writer, novelist, essayist, anthologist, editor in chief of *Cyberdreams* magazine, she is also a translator of science fiction and of fantasy authors, namely Greg Ewan, Stephen Baxter and Alastair Reynolds, among others. With so many strings to her bow, Sylvie is often considered as the “**Grande Dame of French science fiction**”!

Her novels and short stories (awarded the Solaris and Rosny Aîné prizes) are clearly written with emphasis given to the theme of new technology and its impact on human society. After *Jardins virtuels* (*Virtual gardens*) (Folio SF), published in 2003, L'Atalante published *Haute-École* (*High-School*), awarded the 2004 Julia Verlanger prize, followed by *La Saison des Singes* (*Monkey Season*) in 2007 and *L'empire du sommeil* (*Empire of sleep*) in 2012.

In its collection “Autres Mondes” Mango has also published two young adult novels: *Les Îles dans le ciel* and *Phénix Futur*.

She also likes to draw and creates digital collages and illustrations under the name of Magmaplasma.



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480 pages
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REGIS GODDYN

L'ENSORCELEUR DES CHOSES MENUES (THE ENCHANTER OF SMALL THINGS)

In a land of lakes and mountains where no-one is supposed to know what lies on the other side, lived Barnabéüs, an enchanter of small things. His shop didn't look much, but by dint of hard work he had forged a good reputation in the neighbourhood. He would be called out to cast a locking spell or to reverse the flow of a spring, so that the water went upstairs. It had been three months since he had taken retirement and had started to write his memoirs. To this end he had acquired a writing desk; the first real luxury he had ever possessed.

Raised in the upper echelons of society, the eldest son of an intractable magus, Barnabéüs had been prepared one day to go on a voyage to Agraam-Dilith - the white city, the city of the magi, the secret city that no-one could find unless he were a magus himself. Proud and handsomely dressed young people leave to go there, wearing capes in their family colours. Months later, they return, having grown up in everyone's eyes. Now they can eat at their parents' table while their younger siblings remain sitting apart.

A dramatic turn of events: at the end of Barnabéüs's adolescence, he should have been going there with his mother, but instead she takes his brother Palpoternim...

Just when he is about to start on his memoirs, Barnabéüs is diverted from his task by Prune, a young girl who asks for his help to find her betrothed, who had left with his father for Agraam-Dilith many months ago. Barnabéüs refuses categorically to do so. However one morning, as he is going out to buy some vegetables, he sees Prune being mistreated in the street; so with a wicker basket on his arm, he gets on board a boat to protect her...

There are no swords and no horses in this fantasy. Régis Goddyn examines the bonds of transmission between generations and imagines a society where the desire to live knows no bounds. Would one commit infanticide if it were a pathway to eternity?



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