

MORE ABOUT PASCAL GARNIER AT ZULMA

THE AUTHOR

Pascal Garnier was born on July 4, 1949, in Paris and left school when he was 15, « in common agreement with the French state education system » and six month later, he found himself alone in Istanbul on the first stopping place of a journey which would last almost ten years. With little means, he went off to explore new countries, in North Africa, Asia, or the Middle-East. Because he left school at an early age, and was hopeless with spelling and conjugations, nothing destined him to become the short story and novel writer that he is today, except for his irrepensible need to tell what he sees and write about it. Back in France, he tried a music career, in rock'n roll, and began by writing songs. Words lead to words and he started to write a short story, then two, then three, until he published a collection of short stories (POL) in the middle of the eighties. The harm was done. Pascal Garnier got a taste for writing and from that time on he hasn't stopped publishing his works.

He has written about fifty books and is as atypical as he is prolific. He alternates between grim books and books for young people. He has succeeded in winning over a large public of readers from 8 to 78, thanks to a simple and uncluttered style, saluted for its originality.

He was awarded several prizes and notably received the 2001 prize from the « Polar dans la ville » Festival for *Nul n'est à l'abri du succès*, the Grand prix des Gens de Lettres for *Chambre 12* the following year and the prize for the black humour in 2005 for *Flux*.

After the success of *La Théorie du panda* (Zulma) in 2008, Pascal Garnier has just published another novel, *Lune captive dans un œil mort*.

PASCAL GARNIER'S BOOKS AT ZULMA SINCE 1999

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> *Les Insulaires*
et autres romans (noirs)
(THE ISLANDERS
AND OTHER (NOIR) NOVELS)

Anthology of three novels

May 2010, 528 pages

3 cult novels back in print at last!

These three novels are masterpieces of *noir* humour, full of unexpected and outlandish developments. All the tender, cruel universe of Pascal Garnier is there: people whose lives suddenly veer off the rails, noir humour and serial murders ...

In *La Place du mort*, Fabien learns that his wife has been killed in a car accident. At the same time he finds out she had a lover who was also killed in the accident. Completely adrift, Fabien moves in with his best friend and sinks into depression. Drink, smoking pot, and very soon one obsession: to find out all about his wife's lover. So he meets the widow, Martine, and decides to seduce her...

Les Insulaires tells of the unexpected reunion of two teenage lovers. Olivier, in Versailles for his mother's funeral, runs into Jeanne, a teenage sweetheart. In an instant, their lives capsize. They decide to abandon their present existence and plunge into the whirlpool of their sudden passion... At last, the island of their dreams is within their reach! But Olivier's drinking, Jeanne's bothersome brother and the corpse of a tramp in the bathtub leave little time for building a paradise...

Lastly, in *Trop près du bord*, we meet Eliette, 64; a pretty widow with a pretty ordinary life, Eliette is living her retirement in the country. Everything appears to be hunky dory... but Eliette could do with a man in her life. When she meets Etienne, she's all-a-flutter. When he helps her change a wheel in the pouring rain, she invites him to come home and dry off... Eliette thinks fate has smiled on her... Etienne thinks he has a few days out of the heat to find a cache and sell off two kilos of cocaine he's just stolen...



> *Le Grand Loin*

(*Far, Far Away*)

January 2010, about 160 pages

In his latest novel, Pascal Garnier invites us once again into his deliciously noir (and irresistibly scandalous!) universe....

Mark, in his sixties, has everything it takes to make a man happy. A devoted wife, a house, a little money in the bank... But he dreams of far-away places. Far doesn't mean Budapest, where Chloé, his wife, would like to spend a few days with him. Far is a notion he can't even define, but 'far-away' is one that surreptitiously attracts him. One day he goes to visit his daughter, Anne, who has been placed in a psychiatric hospital. He invites her to go to the seaside. Telling no one, they run away together to enjoy a few days of freedom. On the grey beaches of northern France, Mark and Anne seem to be happy. Yet their presence provokes strange events. First, Anne comes back with a bizarre African statue and Mark cuts his finger when simply lifting it up. There follows a succession of disappearing objects and fires. The atmosphere becomes heavy with tension – a sure sign that they should move on.

Mark decides to head south and takes Anne with him. Swapping his saloon for a camping-car, he feels ready for anything. But their flight, little by little, becomes a frantic escape as their path is strewn by corpses, their money runs out, Mark loses a finger... Desperate, he allows Anne to take the lead. But Anne, who has no desire to go back to the mental hospital, has made up her mind to go far, far away...

In his last novel, Garnier leads us, once again, along the paths of everyday folly.

Xavier Houssin, *LE MONDE*

Garnier is a conjuror of surprise; the unexpected that strikes you out of the blue, like a comet.

André Rollin, *LE CANARD ENCHAÎNÉ*

Specially gifted for short texts, Pascal Garnier observes without ever losing a twinkle of humour. Never cynical or cruel, merely despairing.

Christine Ferniot, *TÉLÉRAMA*

Rights sold to Italy



> *Lune captive dans un œil mort*

(*Moon in a Dead Eye*)
January 2009, 160 pages

5 people, content to spend their retirement in a high-security residence in the sun, allow their deepest neuroses to take over in this cruel and acerbic huis clos.

Martial and Odette let themselves be talked into it by an estate agent who specialises in senior citizens. After leaving their grey suburb for a made-to-measure paradise in the south of France, they find themselves pioneers in 'Conviviality', a perpetual holiday camp of identical villas where the most essential of comforts is guaranteed: security and protection from the outside world.

For Odette and Martial, a new life begins. Neighbours arrive, Maxime and Marlène, and life in Conviviality starts to take shape. The next arrival is a single retired woman. Conviviality is becoming more interesting; a female animator is recruited. But the little population turns out to be an explosive cocktail. The outside world, constantly held at bay, becomes a source of terror. Obsessions and scars that never healed begin to resurface. Until one angst-ridden night, when the moon's face is reflected in the guardian's right eye, eviscerated by a stray bullet.

Following *Comment va la douleur ?* and *La Théorie du panda*, *Lune captive dans un œil mort* confirms Pascal Garnier's talents for probing the flaws of contemporary society. His art of building a scenario and suspense, added to his diabolical virtuosity and the phlegm he has acquired in the noir genre, make him one of today's masters of the realist fable.

'An acidic tragi-comedy, Lune captive dans un œil mort is a delight of noir humour.'

LIVRES HEBDO

'The illegitimate son of Simenon and Westlake (...), Pascal Garnier says more about our world in his novels, as subtle and droll as they are dark and acerbic, than many a sociological thesis.'

20 MINUTES

Rights sold to Germany
Television rights sold



> *La Théorie du panda*
(*The Panda's Theory*)
January 2008, 176 pages

A stranger checks into a Brittany hotel. As the story progresses, his sombre past unfolds, becoming more and more disturbing...

One Sunday evening, a stranger arrives in a small French town in Brittany and checks into a hotel. His name is Gabriel. Apart from that, no one knows anything about the man; who he is or where he comes from.

Thanks to his genuine cooking skills and nonchalant though charismatic personality, he befriends some of the town's inhabitants: Madeleine, the gorgeous receptionist of his hotel who seems to be bored and lonely; Jose, the owner of the Faro — a Portuguese restaurant — whose wife is in a coma at the hospital, leaving him alone with Maria and Gaël, his two young children to look after; and a couple, Rita and Marco, junkies waiting for Marco's father to die to get their hands on his money. Gabriel even shows a certain willingness to listen and cheer these people, who, in different ways, are going through a difficult time.

But as the story progresses, Gabriel's own sombre story unfolds, more and more disturbing, and his features come into focus. Why is Gabriel so secretive about his past? And what can he be so desperate to hide ?

'With La Théorie du panda, Pascal Garnier excels in humour and in noir (...). This Gabriel is a kind of philosopher of everyday life at its most banal.'

LE CANARD ENCHAÎNÉ

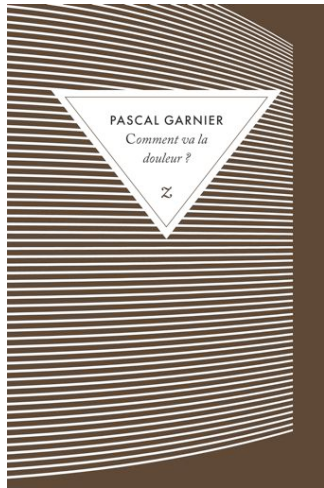
'A very fine novel.'

LIVRES-HEBDO

'Tremendously human.'

LIRE

Rights sold to Germany



> *Comment va la douleur ?*

(*How is the Pain Today?*)

September 2006, 192 pages

Broken lives and the banality of pain: when a gangster meets up with a homeless man

In a subtle, mesmerising tale, Pascal Garnier describes an improbable meeting between a homeless man and a gangster. Against all odds, each confers on the other's life new meaning. Bernard is 22, two fingers missing and never been very bright. Simon is a wealthy, cynical and elegant crook who knows his days are numbered. They meet on a park bench, in a dull little town. It soon becomes clear that the simpleton has been persuaded to act as the gangster's driver in a perilous mission, to get rid of a woman who has become a nuisance for her two-timing husband. Inevitably, things do not go as planned. There are many unexpected twists and turns, and not all of them pleasant, in this tense psychological drama. There is dark humour in this book, which evokes subjects like death, illness and even little miracles — such as life-changing encounters.

The style is uncluttered and pure, perfect for the sombre mood the author has succeeded in creating.

'Comment va la douleur? is like frost in the Tropics, or a sunny winter day. A novel packed with humanity, even if it is under the surface.'

LIVRES HEBDO

Rights sold to Italy
Television rights sold



> **L'A26**
(THE A26)

Reedition in March 2009, 116 pages

Somewhere between a thriller and a noir novel, Pascal Garnier brings us a gripping narrative where life is shady, tough, and short. 116 pages of suspenseful action leave us breathless when we close L'A26.

First there's Yolande, who had her head shaved at the Liberation for messing around with the occupant. Since then, she stays indoors, only peeping at the world through a keyhole. Then there's Bernard, her brother, a former railwayman. He's sacrificed his life to Yolande. Now he's struggling for freedom between his sister and the claws of cancer. The story takes place in the North, amid dark fields of mud, not far from where the A26 is still being built, already providing a cemetery of concrete graves for young girls who stray ...

'With nothing but meagre words, meagre lives, this writer lights up French literature with sincerity and generosity. I take off my hat to him!'

TELERAMA

'L'A26 is perhaps Pascal Garnier's most beautiful novel to date, written as we read it, in one breath.'

LE MONDE



> **La Solution esquimau**
(The Eskimo Solution)

October 2006, 160 pages

Louis, a kindly, lonely soul in his forties, decides to do his friends a favour by killing their parents. After all, isn't that what Eskimos do, for the benefit of the young? A gem of black humour.