

Foreign Rights Catalogue Novels Spring 2016



¬ ntirely dedicated to children's books since 1965, l'école des loisirs' main ambitions are to make reading a pleasure for children and to create a home for our authors. We like to consider the authors' works as a whole rather than their latest title solely; that is why this catalogue attempts to present not only the upcoming books but also those which have already been published. You will probably notice that l'école des loisirs' authors write for a wide range of ages, including for adults.

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Marie Desplechin









Full-color illustrations by Aurore Callias 80 pages

Crazy Krol

Edgar likes sitting on a bench after school and staring at the ocean. At last a place where he can relax! One day, a bird lands near him and the two of them start talking. This bird isn't just anybody: he is a gannet named Krol.

Krol too enjoys the peace and quiet, and he likes to remain separate from his clan. Yet, he has a very important and very special favor to ask of Edgar. Is doing this weird bird a favor reasonable?





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Sigrid Baffert was born in 1972. As a student, alongside her film and theater studies, she wrote songs and stories for children. She held a thousand different jobs before moving to Paris and dedicating herself to writing novels and picture books, and creating musicals.



Aurore Callias studied illustration at École Estienne in Paris and stage design at La Cambre in Brussels.



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A documentarist and a journalist, **Marika Mathieu** has been friends with actress and author **Alice Butaud** since high school. The two of them share the same taste for the absurd, so after *The Zoozoos*, they decided to write another story together.



As for **Soledad Bravi**, she holds a degree in art and was an artistic director in advertising before returning to drawing. She now draws mostly for children and teens, and also for fashion magazines.





Full-color illustrations by Soledad Bravi 88 pages

The Three Hearts

Just as on earth, beneath the sea are schools and schoolchildren. At the request of their teacher, Ms. Grouper, Roger the goldfish, Toni the squid, and Eugénie the cuttlefish are on a mission to write a report on a vast subject: the heart. Eugénie, who secretly fears she was born without a heart, would like to interview a doctor. Toni prefers seeking advice from his grandmother, who seems a genuine tender heart. They also decided to meet a closed oyster and a hermit crab whose heart has purely gone missing. Their investigation is now in progress... But what they hadn't realized was that it could suddenly prove to be dangerous.



DUMB DOG SERIES (7 TITLES + A DELUXE EDITION)



Full-color illustrations by Marc Boutavant 72 pages

Mouche de l'école des loisirs

Dumb Dog at the Farm

Dumb Dog always dreamed of going to the countryside to roll in the mud, count chickens' teeth, and have fun with a laughing cow. But chance has led him to a farm run by a horrible green giant whose obsession is to lock animals up in boxes. Will Dumb Dog and his faithful companion Flat Cat ever see their beloved garbage can again?





Colas Gutman

invented a one-of-a-kind dog, a cross between a wet rag and a doormat: Dumb Dog. Thrilled with his discovery, he began writing a series starring this particularly dumb doggy along with the great illustrator Marc Boutavant.



Marc Boutavant

fell in love with Dumb Dog right from the start. He's always delighted to take up with these furry characters. As he enables them to evolve within a new framework, he feels like a little boy transporting his cowboys and Indians to an unusual world.



SERIES SOLD World Spanish English (North America)





The Basket

Introducing a mean, ugly, old witch, who doesn't care about anything or anyone. One day, she discovers a baby in a basket but she is so terrified by the baby's screams that she runs away. All of a sudden, she retraces her steps. What extraordinary powers can this baby well have to make a heartless witch so drastically change her mind?

The Witch, Her Daughter, and the Wolf

One day, the old witch who doesn't care about anyone or anything except her daughter comes accross an old, lone wolf, the former terror of the forest. In exchange for him sparing their lives, the witch agrees to prepare a meal for the wolf every day. Whenever the witch is busy cooking, her little girl enjoys the aging wolf's stories... to the point that the witch grows jealous, and the wolf feels more and more touched! Jean Leroy et Matthieu Maudet

La sorcière, sa fille et le loup

Mouche de l'école des loisirs





Mouche de l'école des loisirs

Illustrations by Matthieu Maudet 56 pages

SERIES SOLD Armenian

The Return of the Ogre

The witch and the wolf try hard to make their daughter a big villain, but Caralouva is not a good student: all she thinks about is helping others! And when she hears whining in the forest, she heads right for the cries... friend or enemy?



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In 2005, **Jean** Leroy – then still a teacher – discovered the work of Matthieu Maudet, and a dynamic duo was born! The two of them have imagined many stories together, but Jean has also worked with other illustrators,



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As a child, Matthieu Maudet loved

drawing in the margins of his schoolbooks. He now illustrates comic books and books for children.



Christian Oster's tales are inhabited by wolves, ogres, princesses, various types of foods, and everyday objects from the 21st century. He is also a well-known author for adults.



Jean-Luc Englebert always wanted to draw. He has written and illustrated a dozen picture books for young children. Jean-Luc lives and works in Brussels.



Full-color illustrations by Jean-Luc Englebert 40 pages

The Chicken Who Laid a Cow

Uh, what?! The chickens are flabbergasted. Denise the hen hasn't laid an egg, but a cow! That's right: a *cow*.

How and why did this ever happen? In order to solve this mystery, the chickens decide to comb the countryside and lead an investigation.









SOLD German Nominated for the Jugendliteratur Preis 2014



Full-color illustrations by Charline Collette 72 pages

The Little Insect Fixer

Whenever flies and beetles have a damaged wing or a broken leg, they really need the help of the Insect Fixer. His silver needle truly works wonders! But the Fixer has decided to retire, and his son Noc must succeed him. For that is the tradition: the profession of insect fixer is passed down from father to son. But there is one problem: the silver needle seems to want nothing to do with Noc's hesitant hand. Worse, the boy is terrified of insects! Who will ever be able to take care of them?





Nastasia Rugani was born in 1987. As a child, she loved big novels and big insects. Her dream when she grew up was to become a neurologist in order to erase nightmares. That was before she discovered one can live with them by putting them on paper. So she went on to studying literature and became a writer.



Charline Collette studied engraving in Paris, the art of comics in Angoulême, and illustration in Strasbourg. She was finally awarded a master's degree in cultural policy and management and published her first picture book in 2015



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SOLD German World English



While Alice de Poncheville's son

is a big fan of Pokémons, she herself has it in for them. The Tokémones, who invade the Dreamy Forest and turn its inhabitants into groupies against their own will, resemble the Pokémons quite a bit. With her usual knack for fantasy, Alice demonstrates that there are a thousand ways to create with one's imagination.



Charles Castella is a scriptwriter and

he began illustrating books for children, which he sees as "making little films on paper."





Full-color illustrations by Charles Castella 104 pages

The Tokémones

When the Tokémones first invaded the Dreamy Forest, the inhabitants thought they were fabulous. With their bright colors, funny eyes, and their "water," "grass," or "wind" powers, these creatures were like no other. The animals of the forest were so fascinated, they forgot about eating, drinking, attending to their occupations, and even sleeping! They all seemed to have been bewitched. Every single one of them?

No. Painter and a few others manage to resist the powers of these new invaders. But they do worry. How will they free the Dreamy Forest from the grip of the Tokémones?





180 pages

Leo Indian Heart

There are plenty of words in Leo's head. Words like "jump seat" or "carabiner," fun words that sweep him away. And there are plenty of people all around Leo in the subway. His mom in her red coat. A girl who might have hair on her back. A gentleman who smells citrus flambé. And a bunch of children speeding ahead like breaded fish on conveyor belts. That's how Leo lost track of his mom and found himself lost alone in the crowd. What now? An old woman with a strange voice offers some help. Her name is Calamitee-Djain. She has horse lips, a harmonica, and a dog called Dostoyevsky. And that's only the beginning...

Leo will have a lot to tell his mom... if he ever finds her!



With Leo Indian Heart, **Anne-Gaëlle** Balpe wanted to echo a "unique voice," that of a young boy who doesn't see things exactly like everyone else. It was her encounter with a young man - also unique - in the Paris métro, that inspired the rest of the book and took it from short story to novel. Leo Indian Heart is her first book published by l'école des loisirs.



Claire Castillon as always kept a vivid memory of one evening from her childhood, very similar to her heroine Armande's misadventure. "I must have been ten years old, and my mother went to a parent-teacher conference. I found the apartment terrifying, with its bends and corners and potential hideouts for assailants. I precisely recall how each of my gestures and movements where fueled by fear. It is experiences like this one that have led me to become a writer."





162 pages

Scared at Home

Armande is alone at home and she is terrified. She feels the presence of invisible intruders behind each door. Armande is thirteen, and for the first time she's without a babysitter. She was determined not to be afraid, but she cannot help assessing the number of seconds it would take to reach the telephone. That's when her big sister Esther calls and begs her to steal their mom's pretty pouch for her. It's probably hidden in that suitcase their mother keeps under her bed. Armande makes her way slowly toward the bedroom. She reaches for the suitcase only to find it contains nothing but letters. However she does recognize the handwriting of her father, who vanished eight years ago. Weirder still: the last letter is from the day before yesterday. The phone starts to ring again. And now Armande is afraid of a ghost ...



© Cover illustration by Gabriel Schemoul

162 pages

Mr. Wai's Devil

Kin and Jen lived happily on their little island of Yun. They watched the sunset, played on the beach and explored every nook and cranny. The ocean was the edge of their world.

But the day came when their parents no longer had the means to feed them. They decided to leave Kin and Jen with Mr. Wai, a rich merchant and owner of a boat. The children were to be his employees and to live far away, in a city on the continent. However, Kin and Jen had no interest in leaving the island. Especially since they realized how mean their new master was: he turned out to be frightening and bad-tempered. He would dismiss people sharply and saw devils everywhere, in a whale for instance or in a storm. But why then is Mr. Wai so obsessed with devils?



Born in the Paris region in 1967, **Jean-François Chabas** now lives in Provence. He held several jobs before devoting his time exclusively to writing. He has published over thirty books with *l'école des loisirs*, and there are many more to come. His previous novel, *Le lutin du cabinet noir*, earned critical acclaim.





l'école des loisirs SPRING 2016



I Don't Like Mondays Lucien, age thirteen, knows that the real problems begin when you start middle school and that they never stop. Middle school is also where Lucien meets Fatou and falls in love with her, after debating on "the things you hate the most in the world".



Terrible Tuesday

This Tuesday is when Lucien's life turns upside down. First of all, Fatou is really upset with him. Then Lucien's grandma goes crazy and he fights with his best friend Crouton. Hang in there, Lucien. You have five days to overcome this curse!



Nice Wednesday On Wednesday, Lucien, the always grumpy teenager who doesn't like much in life, except Fatou, his girl friend, and Crouton his best friend decides to learn all about kindness. How challenging!



"Jérôme Lambert has a talent for humorously and elegantly recounting the torments of adolescence, the embarrassment with oneself and one's body, and the constant feeling of being a fly in a bowl of milk. His protagonist, thirteen-year-old Lucien Lemeur, has a sharp eye and an irresistible sense of self-mockery."

Michel Abescat, Télérama



120 pages

SERIES SOLD Spanish (EU), Catalan

The Return of Thursday

"Next Thursday is the school trip to the Château de Versailles with a bunch of morons of my age and Aymeric Pichu as our tour guide. He's a nineteen-year-old semi-god with hairy forearms and every single girl falls madly in love with him, including my own sixty-nine-year-old grandmother dressed up as Marie-Antoinette! Apart from getting my appendix removed or sabotaging the tour bus, I don't really see what I can do..."

Lucien thought he had made it through the worst days of his life, a Monday, a Tuesday, and a Wednesday, but he is going to have to confront his first black Thursday and overcome his panes of jealousy.



Lucien hates Mondays, curses Tuesdays, and tries to be nice on Wednesdays.

Jérôme Lambert thought

Cover illustration by Soledad Bravi

he would write only one novel about this grumpy vet sensitive and endearing middleschooler, but we're already on volume four! If you ask him for how long it will go on, he replies: "I'm not the one who decides! It's all up to Lucien!"



Cover illustration by Cati Baur

88 pages

The Rain Club at the Boarding School of Mysteries

When Rose enters Black Rock boarding school, she has no idea what awaits her. She meets Nadget with her ravishing smile, Ambroise, the school supervisor's son, and his dog Clipper. One rainy day, while taking a tour of the school, they notice help messages thrown from the tower. Who has been sending those messages? Here's a mystery for the Rain Club, as they call themselves, to solve!

Also adapted into a graphic novel





SOLD Catalan German, Japanese Korean, Vietnamese





88 pages

The Rain Club Braves the Storm

It's the end of winter vacation in Saint-Malo, first time in two weeks the Rain Club doesn't have a mystery to dig into. But that is when Jeanne Eyrmont, the goddaughter of the principal, shows up at Black Rock boarding school, and she seems as frightened as if she had seen ghosts. Ghosts, really? Ambroise, Rose, Nadget and Milo simply have to get to the bottom of this!



Cover illustration by Cati Baur

198 pages

SERIES (3 TITLES)

The Rain Club and the Pirates of the Night

Ah, the month of May in Saint-Malo! Public holidays, blue skies, shopping in the ancient walled city, and games on the boulders! Sometimes you come across real finds here, like this mysterious man who looks like a pirate, with a patch on one eye and a limping gait. What a shame that Nadget left the Black Rock boarding school to go on vacation. For a while, Rose, Ambroise, and Milo are bored without her. But as luck would have it, Nadget isn't gone for long, and soon enough the Rain Club can get together and take action.



Although Malika Ferdjoukh's name

evokes the sun, she likes fog and wind. A lover of American detective novels. she combined her childhood reading memories with her experience as a teacher at a boarding school in order to create the Rain Club.





started drawing and playing rugby in nursery school. He later quit playing rugby but never stopped drawing. He has also played the baritone tuba, worked in a warehouse, sold furniture in Saint-Tropez and fries in Saint-Aygulf. He is now an author, and has written and illustrated many children books.



Rémi Chaurand is a graphic designer at Bayard Press. He also writes scripts for children comics. His house, is packed with piles of fabulous things, a wife, two children, and two somewhat stupid cats.

Passe à Beau!

Yvan Pommaux • Rémi Chaurand



Illustrations by Yvan Pommaux 160 pages 150 x 230 mm

Pass It to Beau!

Fourteen years old, Martin Bonfils wears the number 13 on the youth rugby team, just like his father and his grandfather before him. Martin wouldn't change a thing in his life: he has great friends, pretty Fabiola and his beloved rugby games. But then, a newcomer arrives, a Parisian boy named Antonin Beau.

Not only is he so handsome he drives every girl wild, he's also nice, funny, and kind. Yet he has one unforgivable flaw: he knows NOTHING about rugby. Martin will teach him the basics of the game and answer all his questions, especially the one about Seesaw, a mysterious former player. What happened to him? The two friends will try to find out.

This book talks about "rugby's core values" and explains the rules of this game that the fans like to describe as "manly but always respectful".







240 pages 148 x 218 mm

The Shadows of Kerohan

At age twelve, Viola has already been through a lot. She is sent to stay at her uncle's manor in Brittany with her brother Sebastian, should the sea air do her some good and the Kerohan manor is an ideal place to rest. Rest? Really? Certainly the park is immense, and Viola and Sebastian each have a bedroom, but there aren't many people around to take care of them or answer their questions about all the strange phenomena occuring at the manor...



N. M. Zimmermann

wrote her first fantasy story at the age of eight in a Donald notebook. A dozen novels later. her liking for the genre has not wavered. "I believe that horror fiction is an excellent way to dramatize, to exorcize, and to sublimate each and every one's terrors. I started writing horror stories because I am quite fearful myself and needed to put the bogey man on paper."





A researcher and teacher, Christian Poslaniec has

written numerous pedagogical works. He has also published many novels, picture books, detective stories, plays, digital creations, and short stories with l'école des loisirs. He is chairman of the Commission for Children's Books Selection at the Ministry of National Education since 2003.





162 pages

The Tenth White Rabbit

The best starting point to any invention is reality. That is the principle that gets Christie Spivac writing his detective novels. When he is invited to give a conference and lead a teen's writing workshop in Belley, all Spivac has to do is look around for inspiration: forests inhabited by wolves, creaking swings, a young girl who talks to hedgehogs, a red hood lying at the foot of a tree, and especially, white rabbits clearly on alert. Why is that? Without realizing it, Christie Spivac has already begun leading an investigation.



© Cover photography by Laurie Iversen

256 pages

Nebula Alma

The day Alma kissed Robin for the first time, after two months of waiting, of false hopes, texts, and twenty-six nights spent sleeping with the phone glued to her ear, risking burning what was left of her neurons – already damaged by the lightning strike of love – that day she lost her best friend. How could she have guessed that sharing her brand-new happiness with Jade would settle the end of their friendship? And because of what? Indifference!

Jade got tired Alma, she finds her too childish, self-centered, and superficial. Alma had indeed never felt concerned with the plight of undocumented immigrants; she was no activist and she had never taken the time to read one single article about the war in Syria. But was that a reason to brush her off? There was bound to be another reason. Surely.





Luc Blanvillain

is a languages and literature teacher as well as the author of a dozen books for young readers. In his YA novels, he likes to tackle subjects such as moral issues, that reveal the world's depth and complexity. Books that make you think? Certainly, but always playfully, and through joyful and ferociously funny characters.



Shaïne Cassim was born in Madagascar but she has lived in France since the age of seven. She studied languages and literature, and became a children's books translator and a writer for young adults. She reckons that "you can talk about anything to teenagers," which she delightfully demonstrates in Comrades.





288 pages

Comrades

In a snowy forest in Russia, by minus thirty degrees, a young man succeeds in fleeing a penal colony. At the same moment, a young girl who has been badly beaten up falls unconscious on a street in Paris. In Normandy, another young girl takes an irreparable step and betrays her most loyal friend. A boy perched atop a tree in a little village in Wales obstinately refuses to come down. He realizes he has just taken control of his own life. Their names are Evgueni, Gisèle, Eulalie, and Eddie. All five are fifteen, and are alone in the world - or almost alone. Each one of them is hanging on by a fragile wire that destiny is holding out to them. It is 1870, and they all meet in Paris while war and revolution are rumbling.



256 pages

These Strange Dreams that Pass Through My Nights

"What are we going to do with you?" everyone keeps asking Robin.

He has just been expelled from middle school. His mother no longer wants to care for him. His father, busy with work and with his new lover, doesn't have much time for him either. Robin must wait until September to apply for a new course. And September is a long way off... Until then, Robin must find a way to keep busy. He often goes to the movies, and thinks up little rackets to earn some pocket money so he can have his meals at the Bosphorus, the kebab shop on the corner. That's where he notices a mysterious girl whose green eyes spark his imagination. Or is he merely fantasizing?



A compulsive reader as a child,

Stéphanie Leclerc held many

positions in her adult life until the age of thirtyeight, when writing all of a sudden appeared as a calling. She hasn't stopped since. She drew from her memories as a teenager - when she dropped out of school to conjure up Robin's character. Movies are undoubtedly the second protagonist of her latest book.



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"I am reluctant to claim that Savior is me, because my resemblance with a tall man from the French Antilles is not all that striking," says Marie-Aude Murail. "But I too am a curious observer, constantly interacting with teenagers. I too am perplexed by what is invading their lives: social media, YouTube, TV shows, and the cell phones stuck to them. But I remain interested and amused, and carry on searching without judging."

SOLD Catalan German, Hungarian Italian, Korean Lithuanian, Russian Solvenian, Turkish World Spanish, Thai Vietnamese



© Cover photography by Booboo/Megan Van der I



334 pages

Savior & Son, Season 1

When your name is Savior, how can you not feel predisposed to saving the whole world? Savior Saint-Yves, 1,90 meters and 80 kilograms of muscle, would like to save Margaux Carré, age 14, who cuts her arms, Ella Kuypens, age 12, who faints from fright before her Latin teacher, Cyrille Courtois, age 9, who still wets the bed, Gabin Poupard, age 16, who plays World of Warcraft all night and no longer goes to school, and the three Augagneur sisters, age 5, 14, and

SOLD German and the Italian, Korean

MARIE-AUDE MURAIL

MEACC

16, whose mother has just moved back in with a young woman...

Savior Saint-Yves is a clinical psychologist. But while he's always busy with other people's problems, Savior forgets his own. Why can't he talk to his son Lazare, who is 8, about his mom who died in an accident? Why has he never shown him their wedding picture?



256 pages

The Heart Is a Fragile Muscle

Simon Peretti, fifteen, has had hundreds of friends on Facebook ever since he became the most popular guy in high school. He's the one who managed to win over the most mysterious girl in the neighborhood, and that girl is a legend. Now they have been seen together, and everyone is begging Simon for pictures and information. Especially Léonard and Nessim. Haven't they known Simon forever? Aren't the three of them like brothers? Simon refuses to say anything and protects the privacy of what belongs only to him and the girl he just met.

But it only takes one weekend for Simon Peretti's world to fall apart. Powerless, he witnesses his own digital lynching. Worse than ever: Léonard and Nessim don't do anything to stop it.

How did things ever come to that, on the very day Simon was going to introduce his friends to the girl he loves?



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Brigitte Smadja used to teach at a fine arts school in addition to writing and running the "Théâtre" collection at l'école des loisirs. It was a frenetic life. She remains a play editor and now finds the time to write novels and go to author talks.



SOLD Italian Korean



SOLD Simplified Chinese, Italian World. Spanish, Catalan

Our greatest YA classics...



208 pages

Bjorn the Morphir by Thomas Lavachery

The famous Nordic saga now in a revised and rewritten version.

"This is a quality fantasy novel! The writing is fluid and simple, and the suspense is skillfully arranged from chapter to chapter." – *Ricochet*

Series in seven volumes, 125,000 copies sold in France. Also adapted into a comic. SOLD Simplified Chinese



336 pages

Noé's Children by Jean Joubert

One family's survival in extreme climactic conditions.

"A futuristic novel, a narrative adventure, and an ecological tale, this book is a meditation on the fragility of the world in which we live, like a survival manual for the coming castaways of today's industrial society." – *Booknode*

315,000 copies sold in France. SOLD Korean, Greek



172 pages

The Devil's mark by Moka

Moka, the French Stephen King.

"Written in Moka's hallmark light and lively style, this narrative brings us face-to-face with numerous enigmas." – *Babelio*

50,000 copies sold in France.

now in paperback!



220,000 copies sold in France.

Aurore's Diary by Marie Desplechin

For three years now, during one of the most important periods in her life, Aurore has been writing about her traumatic experiences as a teenager: her first date, the time she tried to run away, math tutoring, camping trips, the start of her rock band...

"October 5th - If you hadn't noticed the lock that you have just picked open, let me remind you that this is my private diary. I curse in advance each and every one who looks at these pages. May that person be cursed forever, suffer from allergies and dandruff, and be forced to wear braces."

"Aurore is both charming and a nuisance. In short: teenagehood epitomized!" – Unidivers

On screen in October 2016 Awarded at the Berlin International Film Festival 2016

Adapted into a graphic novel by Rue de Sèvres illustrated by Cati Baur. SOLD Catalan, Hungarian, Norvegian, Russian, Ukranian.

"A road movie like book about two teenagers escaping from their troubled life. An ode to freedom."



"A poetic journey to imagination through seventeen

illustrated short stories."

SOLD Japan

OUR TEAM

Isabelle Darthy - idarthy@ecoledesloisirs.com For Germany, The Netherlands, Japan, Italy & Middle East countries.

Marija Gaudry - mgaudry@ecoledesloisirs.com For English worldwide, Korea, Scandinavia & Eastern European countries.

Alice Grégoire - agregoire@ecoledesloisirs.com For Spanish & Portuguese worldwide, Greece, Turkey, China, India & Southeast Asia.

BOLOGNA BOOK FAIR - Hall 30 A12 www.ecoledesloisirs.com

OUR REPRESENTATIVES

CHINA

Dakai Agency Beijing Ms. Solene Demigneux Ms. Li Yizhi +86 1326 1871 771 s.demigneux@dakai-agency.com lyz@dakai-agency.com GREECE Iris Literary Agency Athens Ms. Catherine Fragou Phone +30 21 02 43 24 73 irislit@otenet.gr

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE Torrubia Agency Barcelona Ms. Isabelle Torrubia Phone +34 93 218 78 67

isabelle@torrubia-agency.es

© Illustrations by Hervé Wallbecq