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WORLD ENGLISH

AT THE END OF THE SIDEWALKS

BAPTISTE THERY-GUILBERT

TRANSLATED BY TRASK ROBERTS

- The first English-language publication of an award-winning French writer.
- The novel won the Readers' Choice at the Prix du Roman Gay (Best Gay Novel) 2022
- A short novel exploring the gay scene of Marseilles.
- Prose with an intensity and openness that will appeal to the same TikTok world obsessed with Dostoyevsky's self-involved and intense narrator in *White Nights*.

Clément asks me how [the story] begins. I tell him: with your death.

Against the backdrop of seaside idyll Marseille, our unnamed narrator recounts the tale of his life from seventeen to nineteen, centring on his relationship with best friend turned lover Clément.

These years of discovery and desire take root in secret, and they eke out a precarious existence of emancipation, illness and danger. But leaving school, and grappling with their divergence from societal norms, neither boy escapes unscathed, and they find there's no looking back.

At heart a stirring and sensuous tale, a cry for acceptance pierces through. An extraordinary novel that has received international acclaim for its stirring originality, this is a powerful tale that resounds with passion and proclaims the strength of the will to exist.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Baptiste Thery-Guilbert was born in 1999 in Marseille and was raised primarily by women. His schooling was chaotic, and his job security was practically non-existent. He escaped this by sheer luck. Romantically attracted to men, he gradually adapted to this new reality, particularly through writing, which allowed him to express all the violence inflicted upon him by societal norms. This is why intimacy, the unhappy aspects of modernity, repression, LGBTQ+ phobias and their brutality are the themes he delves into, seeking to extract a piece of truth. *At the End of the Sidewalks* (*Là où les trottoirs s'arrêtent*) was his second published novel, appearing in French in 2022, following *Pas Dire* (2021). In 2023 *Lésions* was published, considered a 'distorting mirror' sequel to *At the End of the Sidewalks*.



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