



Négar

Djavadi

The Arena

*Paris in the age of viral videos, in a time of riots. The flashpoint behind it all is an improbable but banal series of events. A series producer, one of those new media moguls, could well be the spark that lit a fire, then fueled by the marginalized. A great, gripping, realistic panorama.*

A telephone stolen in a bar in Belleville. A kid in a tracksuit who jostles the customers. A series producer distraught by the loss of his portable. A policewoman responding to an incident filmed by a rebellious high-school student. A secretly filmed video that does the rounds of social media showing the lifeless body of a teenager at the foot of the Louis-Blanc Bridge. Benjamin Grossmann, shaman of the new fiction, and Camille Karvel, the rogue thief of clandestine images, each in their own way, impact on the Belleville-Jaurès-Buttes-Chaumont neighborhood and light the spark that will set eastern Paris ablaze. A long chain-reaction of events from which no one will emerge unscathed: neither the youths in the tower blocks, nor the cops, nor the mothers, nor the Chinese illegal workers, nor the tele-evangelist, nor the candidate campaigning for the mayoralty. They're all captives of «the arena,» that of a new explosive series.

The reader is carried along by Négar Djavadi's fast-paced plot. Anchored in the complexities of our times, it unfolds in life-sized fiction: Paris, a city overtaken by fear, uncertainty, and absurd violence.



**Négar Djavadi** is a novelist and screenwriter. Born in Teheran in 1969, she grew up in Paris. Following cinema studies in Brussels, she started out behind the camera as an assistant operator. For ten years, she collaborated in the filming of numerous movies. Her first award-winning screenplay decided her to devote herself to writing. TV films and series followed one after the other. In 2016, she published her first novel, *Disoriental*, to critical acclaim and real success in the bookshops, now translated in a dozen languages.



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Optioned publishers

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#### The Press--*Disoriental*

"A voice that enchants and embraces us." *Le Monde*

"A master stroke." *Psychologie magazine*

"Terrific. One of the strongest novels of the new season." *La Grande Librairie, France 5*