

# UN JOUR, UN LIVRE CERCLE DE LECTURE



| TERM D 2016 |

Friday 19 August | 6.30-7.30pm

**FREE FOR MEMBERS**  
(AF Students and AF members)

**Advanced B1, Superior B2 and  
Expert C1 Levels**

**book @ S\$10 (available online  
on Alliance française extranet  
or from AF bookshop)**

**Register in person at reception desk  
(limited to 12 participants)**

**Conductor: Guillaume Hamelin,  
teacher at Alliance française**

## **BELLE DE JOUR** **JOSEPH KESSEL**

**J**oin our Cercle de lecture to share your pleasure of reading in French, to improve your French language skills and to discuss French literary works in a variety of genres. Every last Friday of a session of class, just before French Friday social event, meet a teacher, an author, or a staff member eager to share about a novel she/he particularly likes/wrote and that you have read prior to attending.

The third edition of our Cercle de lecture is dedicated to *Belle de jour* written by Joseph Kessel.

In 1926, Séverine is a young, beautiful housewife. Life seems perfect although Séverine find it difficult to fulfil her sexual desires with her husband, Pierre Sérizy. They deeply love each other, but physical intimacy is a problem, which frustrates them both.

When Monsieur Husson mentions an acquaintance who works at a local brothel, Séverine becomes curious about prostitution as a means of satisfying her desires. She uses the pseudonym "Belle de Jour" (Beauty of Day), as she works from two to five o'clock each day, returning to her unaware husband in the evening. But then comes the drama...

*Belle de jour* is a startling and ground-breaking novel that inspired Luis Buñuel's film by the same name (starring Catherine Deneuve). In a world that blurs the lines between feminism and female sexuality, *Belle de Jour* remains as vital and controversial today as it was in its debut.

*« Ce que je trouve fascinant dans ce roman, c'est la modernité avec laquelle Kessel aborde le thème, tabou à l'époque, de la sexualité féminine et la frontière entre amour et plaisir charnel, quelquefois incompatibles. »*

Guillaume Hamelin

