

## Violaine Huisman

Violaine Huisman was born in Paris, where she completed her education at EABJM, a French-English bilingual school in the 15<sup>th</sup> arrondissement and the Lycée Henri IV, followed by the Université de La Sorbonne. She wrote a *maitrise* on Francis Ponge under Professor Michel Collot, while pursuing a career in publishing.

Violaine started working as an intern at the French Publishers Agency in the summer of 1998, followed by Viking Penguin, where she served in the editorial department under Barbara Grossman and Jane von Mehren. At Seven Stories Press, from 1999-2005, she was an associated editor before creating the company's rights department in 2002. From 2001 to 2003, she edited the literary journal *Autodafé* with the International Parliament of Writers, a nonprofit organization whose mission was to provide shelter to writers in exile. *Autodafé* included essays and stories by celebrity writers (Salman Rushdie, Russell Banks, Jacques Derrida, Wole Soyinka, Elfriede Jelinek) as well as unknown voices from over a dozen languages; it came out simultaneously in eight languages around the world. In 2003, she created the V.O. Literary Agency, in order to represent French writers and publishers in the U.S., and American authors worldwide. In that capacity, she was responsible for the publication of *The House of Scorta* by Laurent Gaudé (Prix Goncourt 2004; MacAdam/Cage, 2005), *Yann Andrea Steiner* by Marguerite Duras (Archipelago Books, 2006), Grégoire Bouillier's *The Mystery Guest* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006) and *Report on Myself* (Prix de Flore 2002; Houghton Mifflin, 2008), to highlight only a few of her projects.

In 2005, she joined the Charlotte Sheedy Literary Agency where she handles translation rights in addition to building her own list of authors. The Charlotte Sheedy agency now represents a distinguished list of authors and among them are Diane McWhorter (2002 Pulitzer Prize recipient), Mark Kurlansky, Eve Ensler, Marilyn French, Laurie Garrett (1996 Pulitzer Prize recipient), (Estate of) Audre Lorde, Daniel Handler and Vivian Gornick, to name a few from her list of 125 writers for the adult market. Her agency also has had great success in the children's book market with authors such as Lemony Snicket, Jacqueline Woodson, Maira Kalman and many others. Within the agency, Violaine currently represents Assia Djebar *de l'Académie Française*, French marketing guru Marc Gobé, and more.

Her publications have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *World Literature Today*, the *Brooklyn Rail* and *Context Magazine*. She is on the advisory board of Dalkey Archive Press, Archipelago Books and Seven Stories Press. Violaine is an active member of PEN.