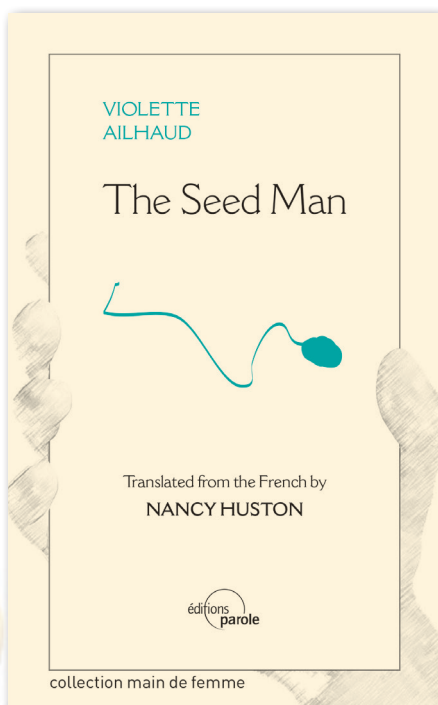


La version anglaise de « L'homme semence » traduit par Nancy Huston



# The Seed Man

VIOLETTE AILHAUD

translated from the French by  
**Nancy Huston**

In 1852, Violette Ailhaud was about to get married when the government's repression of the republican uprising of December 1851 suddenly wiped out all the men of her village in the Lower Alps. For two years, the women lived in total isolation. They promised each other that if a man came along some day he would be husband to them all, so that their wombs could bring forth the next generation.

*It came from the farthest depths of the valley. Long before it forded the river, long before its shadow interrupted the gleam of water between sandbars like a slow blink, we knew it was a man. Our empty, husbandless women's bodies had started thrumming in a way there was no mistaking. In unison, our exhausted arms left off stacking hay. Glancing at one another, each and all of us remembered our oath. We grasped hands, squeezing each other's hands so hard that our knuckles fairly snapped - our dream, icy with fear and burning with desire, had been set into motion.*

**With an Afterword by historian Jean-Marie Guillon, University of Provence, member of the 1851 Association.**

**"The Seed Man" has been adapted as theater, film, tale, dance, cartoon and engraving.**

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**L'auteurice : Violette Ailhaud**

Née en 1835, Violette Ailhaud est morte en 1925. L'homme semence est un récit écrit en 1919. Pour la seconde fois en 70 ans, son village vient de perdre tous ses hommes.

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*Rien d'autre que cette félicité* - Roman - janvier 2020.