

RENAUD DÉLY
Le grand saut



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The Jump

Author: Renaud Dély

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The rise and fall of Pierre Quinon, Olympic pole-vaulting champion, deftly woven into Renaud Dély's literary debut.

Los Angeles, August 8, 1984: the Summer Olympics. A young man with brown curls runs with small strides, pole in hand.

Miles away, in the middle of the night, a child is glued to his TV screen, watching as Pierre Quinon flies through the air, winning the gold medal in the pole vault. Quinon's feat makes him forget, for a moment, his mother's ragged breathing in the next room.

Despite a difficult childhood, the child builds a life for himself. Despite a promising youth, Pierre Quinon cuts his life short, jumping out of a window on August 17, 2011: a reverse image of the jump that made him an Olympian god.

Two paths, two lives, told through the memory of the heart.
