BOOKS FRANCE

Gilles Clément

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Thomas and the Traveler

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A luminous novel by internationally renowned landscape designer Gilles Clément.

Design a global garden? Mad, unbridled folly, nigh impossible. Yet Thomas, a retired painter, walls himself in at his property in Saint-Sauveur to do just that. His friend the Traveler, in southern climes–Australia, the Chilean Andes–sends him data to interpret: topographies, horizons, observations of flora, fauna, and the heavens, nourishing their poetic and scholarly correspondence. Their project grows and expands. From these shimmering developments, a new vision of nature gradually emerges: a world in which man is no longer the center, but rather scribe and caretaker.