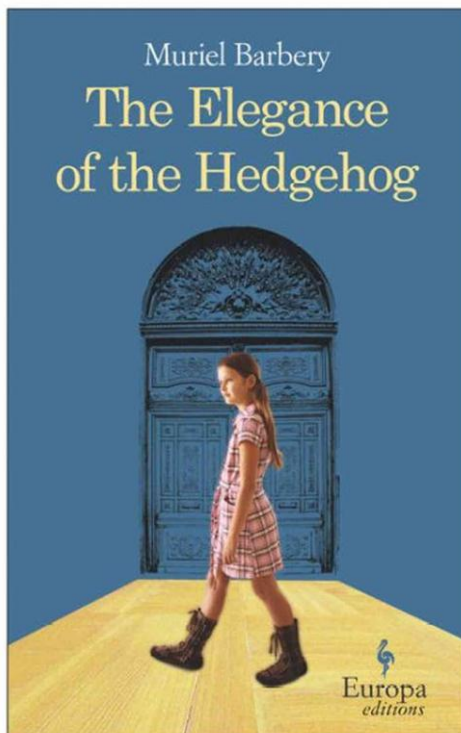


## THE EUROPEAN BOOK CLUB



### **The Elegance of the Hedgehog** by **Muriel Barbery** (France)

“The enthralling international bestseller”

**Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**6pm to 8 pm**

**Ottawa Public Library**  
**Succursale Sunnyside Branch**  
Program Room B  
1049 Bank street

We are in the center of Paris, in an elegant apartment building inhabited by bourgeois families. Renée, the concierge, is witness to the lavish but vacuous lives of her numerous employers. Outwardly she conforms to every stereotype of the concierge: fat, cantankerous, addicted to television. Yet, unbeknownst to her employers, Renée is a cultured autodidact who adores art, philosophy, music, and Japanese culture. With humor and intelligence she scrutinizes the lives of the building's tenants, who for their part are barely aware of her existence. Then there's Paloma, a twelve-year-old genius. She is the daughter of a tedious parliamentarian, a talented and startlingly lucid child who has decided to end her life on the sixteenth of June, her thirteenth birthday.

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