

# THRILLER & NOIR

SPRING 2024



BOOK & FILM  
RIGHTS

Grupo Planeta

# BOOK & FILM RIGHTS

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Cover illustration © Planeta Realización  
from the book *Beneath Dry Soil* by César Pérez Gellida

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**CÉSAR PÉREZ GELLIDA** is one of the most established and widely read authors of crime novels in Spain. He has published thirteen novels which have been enjoyed by more than 300,000 readers so far. His novel *Memento mori* has recently been adapted into a TV series and his last work, *Beneath Dry Soil*, has won him the 2024 Nadal Award for best novel. In 2023, Netflix released the tv series adaptation of *Memento Mori*. He co-directs the Blackladolid literary festival with Dolores Redondo.

## BENEATH DRY SOIL

SPAGHETTI WESTERN ENIGMATIC CHARACTERS

FAST-PACED ACTION RURAL THRILLER

*A Tarantinesque rural thriller about an enigmatic and seductive widow who marked the fate of all those who crossed her path, leaving behind her a trail of passion, blood and soil*

Deep Spain, early 20th century. Antonia Monterroso, better known as the Widow, is the owner of one of the best haciendas in the region. She struggles to keep it going during a period of lean times that never seems to end and which particularly affects rural areas. However, a fire destroys everything she has worked so hard to build and, in its aftermath, she disappears.

Lieutenant Martín Gallardo travels to the scene of the fire accompanied by Sargent Pacheco to investigate the incident. Five days earlier, the Widow had filed a report against Jacinto Padilla, the foreman of her estate and former lover, who has been arrested in Zafra with a bag full of money and jewels. He swears he provoked the fire on orders from Antonia and that she gave him the bag to take with him because they were going to begin a new life far from there. During the interrogation, Padilla confesses to a series of macabre acts that leads to a radical twist in an investigation that will end up turning bloody. Gallardo, like everyone else who lives in the area, has heard of the enigmatic Widow, but what he doesn't know is that he will be taking on a case from which he won't escape unscathed.

**A fast-paced, meticulously arranged plot which masterfully transports the reader to the 20th century rural Spain to give life to characters whose strength and attitudes make them impossible to forget.**



DESTINO • 138,681 WORDS • 504 PAGES • FEBRUARY 2024

*A story in which ambition, inner strength and the fight for survival will all cross paths.*

*Illiteracy, hunger, social distances, local fiefdoms, the fight for survival by those who have nothing in the years of the Spanish Flu, political tensions and perennial economic hardships give the plot an intensity unusual in contemporary narrative.*



**LORENZO SILVA** is one of the greatest references of contemporary literature. In fact, his police and historical novels have conquered more than two million readers. He has written, among others, *Bolshevik's Weakness* (finalist of the Nadal Prize 1997), *Carte Blanche* (Primavera Prize 2004), *They Will Remember Your Name*, *Castilian* or the successful crime series starring officers Bevilacqua and Chamorro.

## FAR FROM THE HEART

DRUG TRAFFICKING CYBERCRIME BITCOINS

*Lorenzo Silva takes us to one of the hottest settings in contemporary Europe, the Strait of Gibraltar, to unravel a complicated cybercrime, against the backdrop of the underworld of drug trafficking and dark money*

In the hot zone of the Strait, where the difference in wealth between the north and the south is most remarkable, and where three different countries and jurisdictions are concentrated within a few kilometres, "tons of dark money" are generated that need to be laundered. That's where the washing machine in virtual currency (bitcoins) comes into play of the brilliant computer scientist whose kidnapping sets in motion the new delivery of the (now) lieutenant Vila and Sergeant Chamorro, whose relationship, marked by the inexorable passage of time, experiences here a disturbing point of inflection.

A twenty-five-year-old with a record for cybercrime disappears around Campo de Gibraltar. Witnesses say they saw a group of men attack him in the street and force him into a car. Not long after his disappearance, a ransom is issued, and his family pays it without complaint.

Afterwards, no one hears about him again. Lieutenant Bevilacqua and Sergeant Chamorro are ordered to find out what's happened. They travel to the Strait, finding a hidden world where the law is relative, dirty money flows like a river and there's always a need for someone to wash it. A place far from the heart of everything, where nothing belongs to anyone, and everything can be taken.



DESTINO • 102,525 WORDS • 384 PAGES • MAY 2018  
COMPLETE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

*Far from the Heart, a mature work from the famous series by researchers Bevilacqua and Chamorro, is a peak book both in the trajectory of the author and that of the characters.*



**MARIA ORUÑA** is the best-selling author of *Hidden Harbour Series*, which has been translated into German, French, Italian, Russian, Polish, Russian, Greek, Portuguese, Catalan and Galician. This first title, *Hidden Harbour* (2015), is followed by *A Place to Go* (2017), *Where We Were Invincible* (2018), *What the Tide Conceals* (2021), *The Path of Fire* (2022) and *The Innocents* (2023). With more than 1,000,000 readers, the Lieutenant Valentina Redondo adventure and mystery novels have made their author, María Oruña, an authentic literary phenomenon.

## HIDDEN HARBOUR

### HIDDEN HARBOUR SERIES 1

SUSPENSE SERVANTS & MASTERS FAMILY SECRETS

*A thriller inspired by a real murder that took place in Cantabria in 1953*

Oliver, a young Londoner with a strange family situation, inherits a colonial home, Villa Marina, on the beach in the small coastal town of Suances in Cantabria. His plan is to remodel it and convert it into a small country inn but they have to stop work when they discover a mummified skeleton in the walls. Do these remains date back to the Civil War? The clues lead Lieutenant Valentina Redondo, to an old, rich widow who gave Villa Marina to its overseers, an intriguing woman of very humble origins. When the murders in the area begin to come together, the police realizes that their initial discovery has stirred up ghosts from the past that someone wants to keep asleep at all costs.

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Actes Sud (France), Blanvalet (Germany), Ponte Alle Grazie (Italy), Dioptra (Greece), WAM (Poland), Phantom Press (Russia).



250K COPIES SOLD

DESTINO • 126,447 WORDS • 432 PAGES  
• SEPTEMBER 2015 • ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

## A PLACE TO GO

### HIDDEN HARBOUR SERIES 2

ARCHAEOLOGY SUSPENSE SERIAL KILLER CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

*A crime novel assembled like a game: investigation, adventure, intelligence, and reflections on people's motives in life*

In the tranquil and picturesque village of Suances, the corpse of a Nordic-looking girl appears in medieval dress in La Motade Trespalacios, the remote location of medieval ruins built over foundations stretching back three thousand years. In her hands is a medieval coin, and this leads Lieutenant Valentina Redondo and her team of detectives to think first, that this is the murderer's signature, and second, that they are dealing with a serial killer.

Meanwhile, Oliver Gordon, who is now running Villa Marina as a countryside hotel, is still looking for his brother Guillermo, who vanished two years and left no traces.

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Ponte Alle Grazie (Italy), Phantom Press (Russia).



150K COPIES SOLD

DESTINO • 133,303 WORDS • 520 PAGES  
• FEBRUARY 2017

## WHERE WE WERE INVINCIBLE

### HIDDEN HARBOUR SERIES 3

GHOSTS OCCULTISM ATMOSPHERIC

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

*An homage to the Gothic novels of the early twentieth century in the style of Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier*

Something strange happens in the center of the picturesque and precious village of Suances: the gardener of the old and elegant Palacio del Amo shows up dead. The palace is one of the most historic residences in the region, and after sitting empty a long time, it passed down to the American writer Carlos Green, who has decided to move temporarily to write his new novel, a fictionalized version of his memoirs. But the peace is shattered by the terrible event, and although everything indicates the death was natural, someone seems to have touched the body and Carlos confessed that he's been noticing unexplained presences for several days: a woman who appears in a secret garden, lights that turn on alone, creaking sounds coming from the ground at night...

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Ponte Alle Grazie (Italy)



120K COPIES SOLD

DESTINO • 105,323 WORDS • 416 PAGES • APRIL 2018



130K COPIES SOLD

DESTINO • 105,323 WORDS • 416 PAGES • JUNE 2021  
• COMPLETE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

## WHAT THE TIDE CONCEALS

### HIDDEN HARBOUR SERIES 4

LOCKEDROOM MISTERY SUSPENSE WHITE-COLLAR MURDER

OVERCOMING

*An homage to the mysteries of locked rooms, perfect crimes*

The president of Santander's Royal Tennis Club, one of the most powerful women in the city, shows up dead in a cabin of an elegant schooner that was sailing the waters of the Bay of Santander at sundown.

The murder is reminiscent of the novels about "locked rooms" from the beginning of the past century. Her cabin was locked from within, the strange wound on the woman's body and the mysterious method employed are inexplicable, and all the guests at the party seem to have some motive for getting rid of the victim. No one could have entered or left the boat to commit the crime or escape. Who killed Judith Pombo? How? And why?

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Ponte Alle Grazie (Italy)

## THE PATH OF FIRE

HIDDEN HARBOUR SERIES 5

SCOTLAND LITERARY MYSTERY SUSPENSE ATMOSPHERIC

*A domestic noir that pays tribute to the great figures of English romanticism*

Lieutenant Valentina Redondo goes on vacation to Scotland with her partner, Oliver Gordon. Arthur, Oliver's father, during the renovations of a seventeenth century castle, they find a secret room where are documents that hint that Lord Byron's lost memoirs may still be intact somewhere within its walls.

Soon events take an unexpected turn: that very night, a fire breaks out in the castle, and the next day, a corpse appears in the secret room. The Scottish police launch an investigation, and as it progresses, Valentina and Oliver get caught up in it. Following the trail of Byron's memoirs, they learn that in the middle of the 19th century, Jules Berlioz and Mary MacLeod, a young woman from a well-to-do Scottish family, shared a forbidden love that culminated in a crime which mysteries are unresolved to the present day. In the midst of preparations, they are surprised by the news of a massive attack a famous spa resort. Everything points to the massacre.



DESTINO • 109,305 WORDS • 400 PAGES • MAY 2022  
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

## THE INNOCENTS

HIDDEN HARBOUR SERIES 6

CHEMICAL WEAPONS MASSIVE ATTACK SUSPENSE

POLICE INVESTIGATION

*Danger is a racing pulse that never dies down*

There are two weeks left until Lieutenant Valentina Redondo and Oliver Gordon's wedding. In the midst of preparations, they are surprised by the news of a massive attack a famous spa resort. Everything points to the massacre being perpetrated with a highly dangerous chemical weapon. Valentina will have to cooperate with the army and a UCO team to solve the crime.

Soon, they will discover that a cunning and cruel mastermind has set in motion an infallible machinery, executing each of their moves with extraordinary coldness, clearly challenging the intelligence and deductive skills of Valentina and the reader alike. Lieutenant Redondo will start to doubt the steps she must take because suspicions will soon fall upon someone she has never seen, but deep down, feels she knows.

DESTINO • 109,305 WORDS • 464 PAGES • SEPTEMBER 2023 •  
ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE



**LUIS GARCÍA-REY** is a television journalist, who has presented the weekend edition of *Deportes Cuatro* for more than a decade. His voice can also be heard at night on *Partidazo de COPE*. In addition, he directs the master's degree in Sports Journalism at the Villanueva University. *Axel* is his first novel.

## AXEL

TESTOSTERONE FAST-PACED ACTION

MODERN POLICE THRILLER DRUG TRAFFICKING

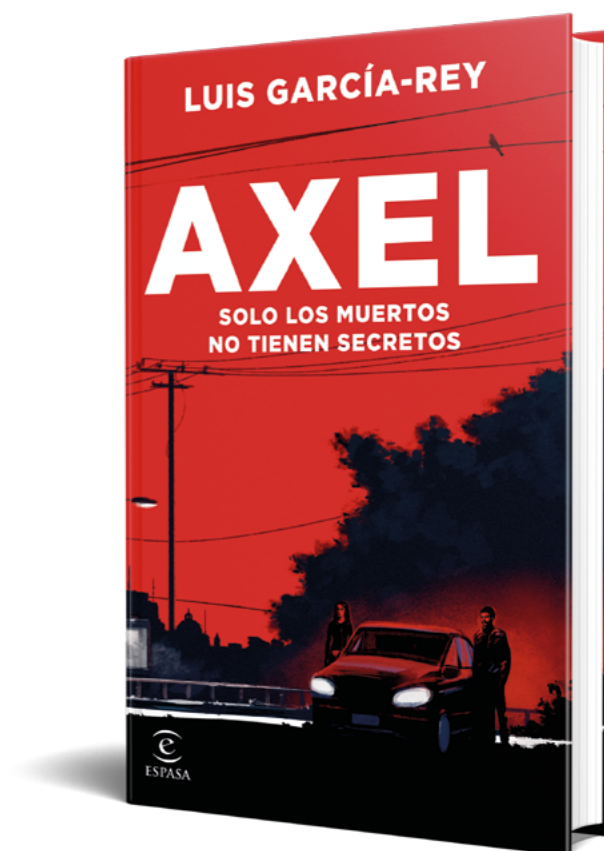
SWINGER CLUBS CORRUPTION

*An explosive and unputdownable debut novel*

Madrid, March 13, 2019. The judicial police agent Axel Nash left his native Vigo in search of more action in Madrid. Nash cannot stand boredom, lucky for him, as one morning he receives a call from his new partner, Loor Galván, whom he barely knows, but with whom, surprisingly, he connects. Galván tells him that Marcos Goya, a radio presenter on a late-night program, has just appeared stabbed to death in a dirty brothel, and with signs of having been assaulted.

Meanwhile in Vigo, Omar Pombo and his friend Javier Grande, Jarvis, who, like many other young people from the Rías Baixas, have ended up dealing for drug traffickers, have just gotten into a huge mess: they have lost a shipment and the consequences are, as can be predicted, not good.

**García Rey immerses us in a world with characters who are far too attached to the power and the vices of big businessmen. We read of modern slavery, prostitution, drug trafficking, a lot of cinema and a lot of music in two perfectly intertwined plots, with masterful twists and two unforgettable protagonists. The narrative debut of the journalist Luis García-Rey is all of this, and much more.**



ESPASA • 159,214 WORDS • 576 PAGES • JANUARY 2023  
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

*Axel pays tribute to movies like Seven or TV series like True Detective. Wild and rough. Its unstoppable rhythm and the strength of its characters snare the reader from start to finish.*



**HENAR ÁLVAREZ** is one of the most interesting voices in current comedy. She co-directs the podcast *El olimpo de las diosas* with Judith Trial, and collaborates in one of the most popular podcasts in Spain: *Estirando el chicle*. In 2023, Forbes awarded her the prize for best podcaster as a content creator. Her speech and strong defense of women's rights, along with her irreverent sense of humor, have propelled her to the top of the cultural entertainment scene. In 2020, she published the graphic novel *La mala leche* (Planeta), illustrated by Ana Müshell, which was a resounding success.

## EAGERNESS

FEMALE PLEASURE

DESIRE

INFIDELITIES METALITERATURE

FEMINIST

IRREVERENT

*An addictive thriller about desire and power relations with an intense dose of eroticism as a backdrop*

Natalia is an anxious woman whose life is dominated by her impulses; she seems condemned to rebellion and breaking all social norms and conventions. The day her lover leaves her, she finds herself lost and trapped in an unfulfilling married life. Far from being satisfied, Nat begins to unleash her lust and her deepest instincts. Her irrepressible sexual desire and a growing obsession with feeling young and desired will eventually control her life, but they will also serve as inspiration for *Eagerness*, the novel she is writing. Thus, fiction and reality merge in a fiery and explosive fable about dissatisfaction in love, and power relations.

**Written with the most defiant humour, this novel offers a lucid reflection on what it means to be a free, erratic and imperfect woman today, all whilst not being punished for her excesses or paying dearly for the price of her freedom.**

**Through this narrative, the author vindicates the struggle for women's liberation, somewhere between sexual dissemination and without taboos, in which themes such as anxiety, obsession, compulsion, psychic addiction and power relations converge.**



PLANETA • 59,551 WORDS • 256 PAGES • MARCH 2024

*A raw and unfiltered reflection on desire and dissatisfaction in love with raw eroticism as a backdrop.*



**INÉS PLANA** has collaborated with numerous print media outlets and curated numerous book series offering a popular look at history and art. *Fugitive* is her last novel.

## FUGITIVE

DOMESTIC NOIR

MOTHERHOOD

COURAGE

URBAN THRILLER

REVENGE

*A psychological thriller in the vein of Lost or The Girl on the Train*

Rosaura Castán has had little luck in life. A tragic accident, when she was just a teenager, took her away from her homeland and her family forever. She settled in Madrid from a very young age, and quickly learned how to earn a living and raise her son – the result of a sporadic relationship – alone. Adrián, a capable and intelligent boy, is her main source of joy and balance until one day he is murdered.

Rosaura, broken with grief, goes mad to the point that blind with rage, she runs over a troubled young man who is the presumed murderer of her son. This crime sees her sentenced to many years in prison, with the added suffering of discovering her mistake: the man she killed was innocent.

After serving her sentence, Rosaura leaves prison with everything against her: her victim's relatives persecute her, she cannot return to her old job, and her own family has abandoned her. Worst of all, her son's killer is still at large, and she will not be able to rest until she avenges Adrián's death.

**A gripping psychological and police thriller where the narrative wrestles with profound moral dilemmas.**



ESPASA • 162,488 WORDS • 496 PAGES • MARCH 2024  
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

*A heart-wrenching tale of a mother seeking justice for her murdered son.*



**ARO SÁINZ DE LA MAZA** combines his writing career with that of an editor and proofreader. He started the devastating series starring inspector Milo Malart with *The Barcelona Murders*, his first crime novel, which received a Special Mention of the RBA International Crime Novel Award. The outstanding popular reception and press reviews was reaffirmed with the publication of the novel in France *Le Bourreau de Gaudí*. Malart is already a classic of the genre, in the line of prestigious contemporary writers, such as Jo Nesbø and Philip Kerr.

**AUDIOVISUAL RIGHTS:** The rights of the entire series optioned to a major broadcaster.

## THE BARCELONA MURDERS

### ELEMENTS SERIES 1

POLITICAL CORRUPTION

GAUDI

SERIAL KILLER

ACTION-PACKED

FATE &amp; PUNISHMENT

*For every riddle that is solved, another, even more disturbing appears*

Inspector Milo Malart, again suspended from his duties in the homicide department of the Barcelona police because of his unconventional investigation techniques, returns to his post to investigate the gruesome murder of la Caixa executive Eduard Pinto, kidnapped, tortured and burned alive on a balcony of the Pedrera.

Milo, with the help of his colleagues Mercader and Crespo, will unravel the connection between this murder and the kidnappings of Barcelona's relevant authorities, in a series of disappearances that stretch back years, investigating schemes of corruption and power.

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Actes Sud (France), Crime Scene Press (Romania).



PLANETA • 99,664 WORDS • 400 PAGES  
• JANUARY 2020 • ENGLISH SAMPLE  
AVAILABLE

## THE BLIND SPOT

### ELEMENTS SERIES 2

GRUESOME MASSACRES

POLITICAL CORRUPTION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

*A pitch-dark crime novel that shows the best and the worst of a society drowned in its successes and frustrations*

In the middle of an economic crisis that is devastating the lives of the Spanish middle class, the lifeless body of Carolina Estrada, an apparently an exemplary young woman, appears in the mountain. Meanwhile, corpses of impaled dogs begin to appear. At first, they seem to be acts of hooliganism, but Malart knows that they are related to the murder of the young girl.

Although Malart and Mercader eventually discover the culprit(s), the threads of the plot extend beyond this to the highest echelons of power. Milo Malart has to tread carefully, threatened by dark and anonymous powers, as he fights against the family curse that has haunted him since he was a child: the mental illness that killed his father.

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Actes Sud (France), Crime Scene Press (Romania).



100K  
COPIES  
SOLD IN  
FRANCE

DESTINO • 162,000 WORDS • 704 PAGES  
• JANUARY 2020 • ENGLISH SAMPLE  
AVAILABLE

## DOCILE

### ELEMENTS SERIES 3

GRITTY

PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

CRIMINAL MINDS

*The detective Milo Malart faces a particularly cruel and complex case*

Milo Malart sets to work investigating the brutal murder of the Corona family. As he uncovers a complex web of lies, deceit and corruption, Inspector Malart eventually solves more than one case. Personally, he has to deal with his brother, who is in a psychiatric and ends up in a bad spell, perhaps the worst ever in his life.

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Actes Sud (France).

*"The literary depth, complexity, and the deep psychology of the characters, starting with the protagonist himself, combine to offer us an excellent novel."*

JUAN INFANTE, MOON MAGAZINE



DESTINO • 112,974 WORDS • 464 PAGES • APRIL 2023  
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE



DESTINO • 130,043 WORDS • 496 PAGES • JANUARY 2020  
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

## MALART

### ELEMENTS SERIES 4

NOIR

THRILLER

BARCELONA

MIND GAMES

BLUNT &amp; IRREVERENT

INJUSTICES &amp; INFAMIES

*Aro Sáinz de la Maza masterfully closes the circle of injustice and infamy with a new and sublime twist*

After his last case, Malart gets obsessed with the Gotha case. To run away of his personal life, he starts to investigate a suspicious couple: the multi-millionaires Ivo Parés and Mónica Morera. But one day, they are found dead on their luxury yacht, Malart disappears, and all the clues point to him as the main suspect.

Mercader has to take over the investigation, she is convinced that someone is framing Malart. In race against the clock, she will have to learn to wear Milo's hat to discover the mole within her team and find Malart while clearing his name of all lies.

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Actes Sud (France).



**VICENTE VALLÉS** has been a journalist for more than three decades. He is also a political analyst in the written press and on the radio. He is the author of the books *Trump and the Fall of the Clinton Empire* and *The Trail of Dead Russians* (2019), where he displays his impressive knowledge of contemporary geopolitics. With his last espionage story *Kazan Operation*, he won the 2022 Primavera Prize for best novel.

## KAZAN OPERATION

COLD WAR SPIES ADVENTURE GEOPOLITICS  
SECRET CODES

*The birth of a child in New York in 1922 will change the history of the world a century later*

Soviet intelligence services craft a future for that baby: the boldest espionage plan ever imagined. A few years later, Lavrentiy Beria, the bloodthirsty head of the Bolshevik police, will present that plan to Stalin, who will appropriate the operation and turn it into a personal and extremely secret mission, warning the man charged with carrying it out that it must not escape his strict control. It will be the Kazan Operation.

Now in our present, an insatiable, reckless KGB agent comes to power in Moscow, and relaunches the Kazan Operation to sabotage the West and recover Russia's status as a superpower. But will it succeed? Will the Russian leader achieve his real goal of controlling the United States from the Kremlin? Will he fulfill Stalin's order or will the operation escape his control?

This novel begins with its roots in the 1917 Russian Revolution and leads all the way up to the American elections of the twenty-first century, inevitably affected by many events along the way: the horrors of World War II; the Normandy landings; the Cold War; the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989; the collapse of communist regimes in the 90s and the current Russian interference in Western democracies.



ESPASA • 138,000 WORDS • 424 PAGES • MARCH 2022  
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

*A sophisticated espionage novel that traces recent world history and geopolitics and offers a thrilling fictional plot that could very well be absolutely true.*

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Adriano Salani (Italy) in pre-empt.

**AUDIOVISUAL RIGHTS** optioned by Universal Studios UK, through an agreement with Avatar Entertainment.

**SUSANA LÓPEZ RUBIO** is the screenwriter of the TV adaptation of the novel *Time Between Stitches* by María Dueñas. She has also contributed to successful television series and writes short stories for adults and children. In 2005 she won the Pilar Miró Award for TV movie script and recently won the Relato Hiperbreve Award.

**JAVIER HOLGADO** has been working as a scriptwriter for years. Among others, he created the TV series *Los Misterios de Laura*, which was the first Spanish series to have a television adaptation in the United States. He is also the author of the novel *Laura y el Misterio de la Isla de las Gaviotas*.

## THE VIOLET CANDY KILLER

COSY CRIME MYSTERY INCIDENT  
INSPIRED BY REAL EVENTS DOMESTIC THRILLER  
POP CULTURE SPANISH THRILLER

*Nostalgia and suspense go hand in hand in the pages of this addictive mystery*

In the final years of Franco's dictatorship, Madrid is experiencing a wave of deaths that have been classified as suicides and accidents. All of them are young women, and apart from Lucio Garza, a shrewd medical examiner, no one has found a clear link between them. Garza, however, has uncovered the killer's terrible modus operandi, he sweetens death with violet candy.

But the unexpected killer is not the only enemy Lucio encounters in his investigations. He must also contend with the narrow-mindedness of the times, the misgivings of his superiors, and a suffocating authority that still does not conceive of the concept of a serial killer. Luckily, he is not alone: he has the help of Teresa, his intelligent wife, and their seven children, who are as eager as their parents to participate in the research. They are joined by an atypical colleague, Felix, a policeman from the criminal investigation brigade, who helps Lucio Garza in his investigations. The investigations they gather will bring to light a dark family secret that has its roots in the civil war.

**Inspired by real events and characters, the Violet Candy Killer is a fiction that, like the trendy, cosy mystery genre, has a peppy tone, making for a pleasant and light-hearted read that is sprinkled with real secondary characters alongside Lucio's adventures.**



ESPASA • 211,931 WORDS • 608 PAGES • FEBRUARY 2024

*Agatha Christie meets Cheaper by the Dozen.*



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