

LITERARY FICTION

SPRING 2024



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Cover illustration © Olga Moreira / STOCKSY
from the novel *Root Rot* by Txani Rodríguez

LITERARY FICTION



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JESÚS CARRASCO'S first novel, *Out In the Open* (Seix Barral, 2013), consecrated him as one of the most stunning debut authors in the international literary panorama and won the Book of the Year Prize from the Madrid Book seller's Association, an English PEN Award, the Prix Ulysse for the Best Novel and was the finalist for the European Literature Prize in The Netherlands and the Prix Méditerranée Étranger in France. Book of the Year in *El País* for 2013 and chosen by *The Independent* as one of the best books translated into English in 2014, *Out In the Open* has been translated into twenty-eight languages and was adapted for cinema by Benito Zambrano. His second novel, *The Earth We Tread* (Seix Barral, 2016) won the European Union Literature Prize.

IN PRAISE OF HANDS

NATURE HANDCRAFTS FAMILY BONDS

CELEBRATION OF LIFE RURAL LIFESTYLE

A novel as extraordinary as the life journey of its protagonists, a story in which there is room for adventure, reflection and memory

In 2011, the narrator of this novel and his family arrived, by chance, to a ruinous house located in a small town in the south of Spain. An agreement with the owner would allow them to make use of it while he found financing to build apartments there. It was only a matter of time before the house would be demolished. However, during the following years, they spent long periods in it, repairing it with their own hands, transforming it into a cozy meeting and a place for celebration.

There they welcomed neighbors and friends, with whom they shared food, music, work and laughter. There the family came to live with a dozen chickens, several horses and donkeys, two dogs and a few mice. They never lost sight of the fact that the bulldozers would eventually arrive, which turned the time spent in the house into an eloquent metaphor for life: we give ourselves to it, even knowing that it will end.

OPTION PUBLISHERS: Eichborn (Germany), Meulenhoff (Holland), Ponte Alle Grazie (Italy), Goga (Slovenia), Akropolis (Czech Republic).



SEIX BARRAL • 259,000 WORDS • 320 PAGES • MARCH 2024
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"A healing and luminous novel that narrates the process of restoring a house in the countryside, ultimately redeeming the family that inhabits it. A beautiful human parable about the importance of manual labor as the ultimate origin of art."

BIBLIOTECA BREVE JURY

OUT IN THE OPEN

WESTERN STYLE DEVASTATED COUNTRY

SUSPENSE

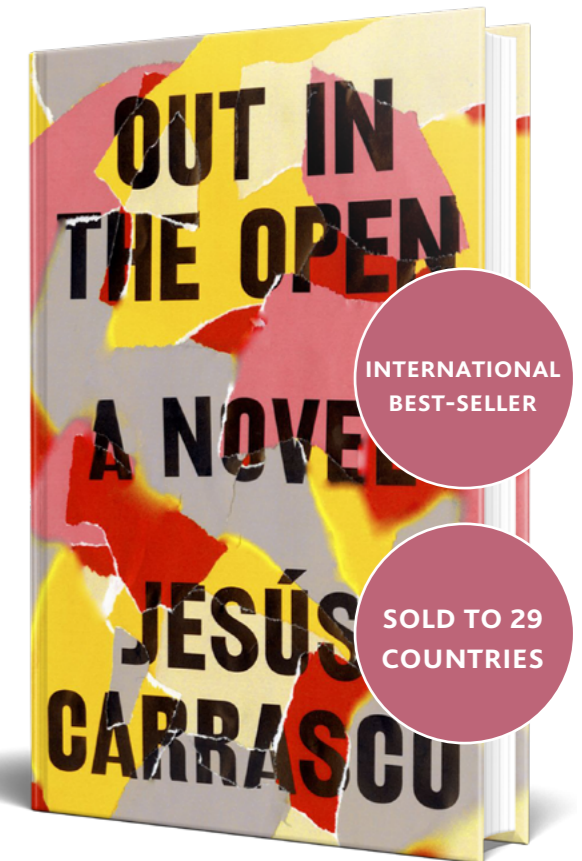
The flight of a child through a drought-stricken country ruled by violence

Aboy that has escaped from home hears, crouched at the bottom of its cache, the screams of the men who seek him. But when the game goes, what is before him is an infinite and arid plain that he must cross if he wants to move away forever from what made him flee. One night, his footsteps meet the ones of an old shepherd. From that moment nothing will be the same for neither of them.

A closed world, without names or dates, where morale has escaped down the same drain that took the water. In such a scenario, the child, not yet quite ill-fated, will have opportunity to learn the painful rudiments of judgement or, conversely, exercise forever the violence with which he grew up.

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Harvill Secker (UK), Riverhead (US), Robert Laffont (France), Salani (Italy), Klett-Cotta (Germany), Meulenhoff (The Netherlands), Cappelen Damm (Norway), Am Oved (Israel), Bertrand (Brazil), Marcador (Portugal), Nexus (Korea), Magveto (Hungary), Delidolu (Turkey), Crown (Taiwan), Shanghai 99 (China), Swiat Ksiazki (Poland), Tiderne Skifter (Denmark), Natur & Kultur (Sweden), Akropolis (Czech Rep.), Hayakawa (Japan), Goga (Slovenia), Fan Noli (Albania), Uniscorp (Bulgaria), Heliks (Serbia), Calvaria (Ukraine), Tri Publishing Centre (Macedonia), Greece (Antipodes Publications), Fabriikki Kustannus (Finland), Takween Publishing (Kuwait).

AUDIOVISUAL RIGHTS: Feature film produced by Morena Films and released in 2019.



SEIX BARRAL • 52,404 WORDS • 224 PAGES • JANUARY 2013
• COMPLETE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

"[A] terrifying, and violent tale told in sparse, taut prose reminiscent of Cormac McCarthy... [...] Passages of lovely writing coupled with the jaw-clenching tension and moments of hope make this a welcome introduction a new voice."

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY



TXANI RODRÍGUEZ is a journalist, scriptwriter and writer. She has published *What Will Become Of Us* (2008), *August* (2013), and *If You Want, You Can Stay Here* (2016). Moreover, she has published the short story collection *The Planes' Heart* (2008) and some comics translated in different languages. She is part of the radio team of *Radio Euskadi*, and she collaborates with different press media as *El Correo*, where she publishes an opinion column. She is a professor of creative writing at the Escola d'Espectura de l'Ateneu Barcelonès, at the ALEA Literary Association and at the University of Deusto.

ROOT ROT

MOTHER-DAUGHTER DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT
ECO-FICTION RURAL LIFE PIERCING PROSE
CULTURAL HERITAGE

A compelling story which masterfully weaves poetic parallels between the effects of the climate crisis in rural Spain and one woman's turbulent emotional world

Ever since she was a child, Nuria has spent her summers in a small village within a protected natural park in southern Spain, a community reliant on harvesting cork from the oak trees that grow there. On returning there one year, she bears witness to a burgeoning conflict between two groups of people with opposing ways of envisioning the village's future. On one side, the locals strive to safeguard their livelihoods against the advance of root rot, a disease killing the cork oaks, while on the other, summer tourists from the city battle to preserve the natural landscape.

After becoming one of the surprise hits of 2020 and winning the Premio Euskadi de la Literatura with *The Last Romantics*, Txani Rodríguez returns with *Root Rot*. A novel that shimmers with a gradually building tension, its feisty protagonist is haunted by her own bad luck, her relationship with her mother, and the memories of an old summer romance.

A powerfully evocative book which intertwines the changing state of a landscape with the emotional growth of its main character.

OPTION PUBLISHERS: Arkadia (Italy), Dergah (Turkey), Plamar (Bulgaria).

"A fresh and original voice that she has made her own."

PREMIO EUSKADI JURY



SEIX BARRAL • 52,707 WORDS • 272 PAGES • JANUARY 2024
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"Txani Rodríguez's suggestive and carefully composed prose is crystal clear and laced with moments of poetry – she's certainly one to watch."

ELENA COSTA, EL CULTURAL

"A piercing style that really lands home; the reader hardly knows what has hit them before they find themselves in the middle of a passionate whirlwind."

ADOLFO GARCÍA ORTEGA

THE LAST ROMANTICS

INCISIVE PROSE SECOND CHANCES INTIMATE

A novel about how twists and turns in life sometimes give us a second chance. A novel to help you believe in life

Irune's life takes place between her home and the paper factory where she works in an industrial town close to Bilbao. This insecure, somewhat manic hypochondriac manages to face the world when she feels she needs to, and she tries to live in accordance with values society seems to have forgotten. Her circle of friends and acquaintances is reduced to her coworkers, her neighbor, and a train conductor she calls on the sly to ask the timetables of trains she never takes.

When a conflict comes up at the factory, without really knowing how, Irune ends up taking a side. From then on, her life takes an unexpected turn and she finds an opportunity that was awaiting her even though she didn't realize it.

***The Last Romantics* is a hauntingly intimate book written with an elegant style about the dreams that move us to act and the quiet but meaningful life of the inconspicuous among us.**

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Plamar (Bulgaria), Arkadia (Italy), Dergah (Turkey).

AUDIOVISUAL RIGHTS SOLD TO: La Claqueta that is developing a feature film.



SEIX BARRAL • 31,176 WORDS • 192 PAGES • JUNE 2020
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"Incisive prose that gets its hooks into you without your knowing, then you find out you are passionately wrapped up in it".

ADOLFO GARCÍA ORTEGA

"Txani Rodríguez always makes the earth move. She has written a luminous novel, delicate and calm as an earthquake".

MANUEL JABOIS



ANTONIO ITURBE is a renowned cultural journalist, writer and professor. Author of *Rectos torcidos* (2005), *Días de sal* (2008), *The Librarian of Auschwitz* (2012), *A cielo abierto* (2017, Biblioteca Breve Prize), and *The Infinite Beach* (2021). As a cultural journalist, he has worked for magazines such as *Fantastic Magazine* and *El Periódico*, and has contributed to various newspapers, radios, and magazines. For nineteen years, he was part of the editorial team of *Qué Leer*, serving as director for the last seven. Currently, he directs the book magazine *Librújula*, contributes to media outlets such as *La Vanguardia*, *Heraldo de Aragón*, or *RAC1*, and teaches in the master's program in publishing at the Autonomous University of Madrid and several courses in creative writing at Ateneu Barcelones.

MUSIC IN THE DARK

EVERYDAY HERO THE POWER OF MUSIC

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

WAR-TIME RESILIENCE

The orchestra that achieved the impossible. A moving novel that puts heroes of the everyday centre stage to emphasise the transformative power of art, even in times of war

In the winter of 1930, Joaquina and her husband Mariano, a clarinetist and tailor by trade, move to a small town in rural Spain. Mariano has been contracted to take charge of the lacklustre municipal orchestra there, made up mostly of farm workers without any musical education. Peasants with knotted fingers and nails blackened by soil who can't play a note. Nobody in the town wants to give them an easy ride. Even the small tailor's shop Mariano opens fails to garner business, and it's Joaquina – forced to get a job in a bakery and sell sandwiches at the station – who keeps them afloat.

As time passes, Mariano learns to trust the rough and ready locals and, in doing so, begins to earn their confidence. A firm believer in progressive ideals and bringing the country into the modern era through education and culture, his passion for music has a truly transformative effect on the lives of his neighbours. Yet despite his achievements, a local healer known as 'the witch' attempts to scupper his plans and drive the couple out of the community. Locked in a tussle between reason and magic, rejection and desire, tradition and renewal, their small drama plays out as the distant threat of civil war rumbles unstopably towards the town.



SEIX BARRAL • 108202 WORDS • 416 PAGES • APRIL 2024

Music in the Dark sees a return to the exceptional storytelling talent which Antonio Iturbe displayed in The Librarian of Auschwitz.

His talent for revitalizing overlooked historical events shines in this moving wartime story of resilience.

THE PRINCE OF THE SKIES

SAINT-EXUPÉRY REAL LIFE STORIES ADVENTURES

UNCONDITIONAL FRIENDSHIP FRENCH AVIATION

Three great friends change the history of aviation. One of them will also touch the lives of millions of readers with The Little Prince

France 1922, a young Saint-Exupéry meets fellow pilots Jean Mermoz and Henri Guillaumet, and they become pioneering aviators, opening up mail routes in North Africa and South America for Aeropostale. As the years pass, their paths cross and re-cross through crashes, rescues, deaths and enormous changes in aviation technology. Mermoz goes on to become the most famous pilot in France, and Saint-Exupéry a celebrated author. The one constant is their love of flying.

The Prince of the Skies portrays how exhilarating and dangerous the early years of civil aviation were for a handful of bold and intrepid pilots and also pays homage to the author of The Little Prince, an unforgettable writer who saw the world through a child's eyes.

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Pan Macmillan (UK), Henry Holt (USA), Flammarion (France), Planeta Manuscrito (Portugal), Akropolis (Czech Republic), RAO Books (Romania), Individuum (Russia), Iztok Zapad (Bulgaria), Baltos Lankos (Lithuania), Pegasus (Turkey).



SEIX BARRAL • 140,000 WORDS • 642 PAGES • MARCH 2017
• COMPLETE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

"Iturbe does a wonderful job of dramatizing how exhilarating and dangerous the early years of civil aviation were for a handful of bold and intrepid pilots. He also recreates in sparking fashion interwar French society. Saint-Ex, his colleagues, and their loves come to life in a novel that would do the author of The Little Prince proud."

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY



**BEST
HISPANO-
AMERICAN
AUTHOR
2023**

ELVIRA LINDO stands as a celebrated figure in the cornerstone of contemporary Spanish literature for over two decades. She studied journalism and, she began working at radio where she served as a scriptwriter, announcer, commentator, and presenter. She was awarded the National Prize for Children's and Youth Literature, and in 2005, she received the Biblioteca Breve Prize for the novel *A Word From You*. In addition, she was the Winner of the International Journalism Prize in 2015 and the Atlántida Prize from the Gremio de Editores de Cataluña in 2009. In addition to authoring numerous other successful books, including the international bestselling *Manolito Gafotas* series, she regularly contributes to the newspaper *El País*. In 2023, her latest novel, *In the Wolf's Den*, was released, and she was awarded the Premio Liber as the most influential narrative voice in the Hispano-American literary scene.

IN THE WOLF'S DEN

CLASSIC TALE STYLE SORORITY OVERCOMING

MYSTERY

The stories we share have the power to reshape destinies

Julieta and her mother arrive at La Sabina to spend the holidays. At eleven years old, Julieta considers this lost village the best place to leave behind problems she doesn't know how to put a name to. During this eternal summer full of first times, she will discover that the town is built on secrets and memories; the edges of the forests on tales and legends; and the hearts of people on fear, hate, love and hope, the four feelings that nourish their dreams and also their worst nightmares.

Elvira Lindo returns to pure fiction creating her own literary world, the deserted Sabina and its forests, a setting in which reality and fable go hand in hand, just like in the classics. Readers are immersed in a magnificent novel of increasing intensity, before whose mystery they will only be able to respond with amazement and emotion.

AUDIOVISUAL RIGHTS: Optioned.

"Reminiscences of Carmen Laforet and Henry James [...] Elvira Lindo's new novel confirms a growth that makes her one of the most valuable names in Spanish literature today."

MIGUEL BARRERO, ZENDA



SEIX BARRAL • 60,451 WORDS • 272 PAGES • MARCH 2023
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"Between Mary Shelley and Miguel Delibes, with her own voice, giving a new twist to realism without abandoning it, Elvira Lindo builds a great fiction about the fear that assaults us around the corner."

EL PAÍS, QUADERN

OPEN HEART

AUTOFICTION FAMILY BONDS IDENTITY

The rise and fall of a great passion, the ferocious love of two great characters who seem to be conspiring against their own serenity

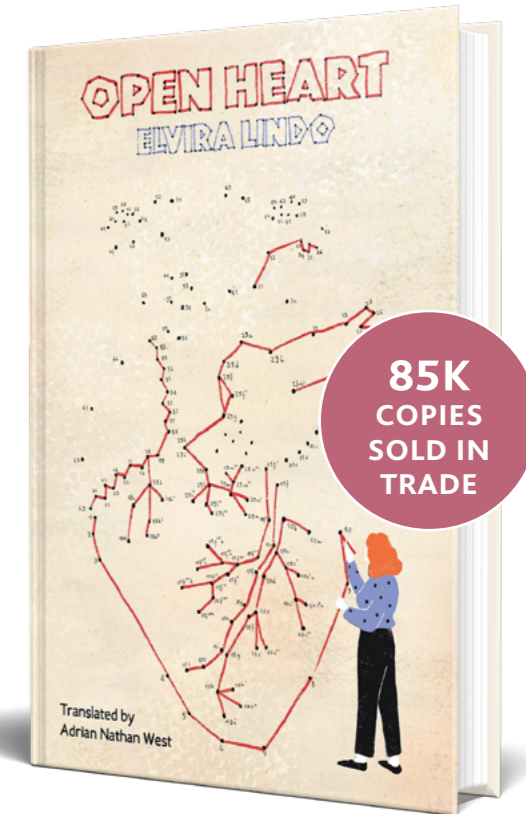
In *Open Heart*, Elvira Lindo tells the story of her parents, which is the story of an excessive love, a passionate and unstable love story forged through constant anger and reconciliation, with an entire family's mood dependent on it.

Her father's outsized personality, his caprices, his decisions mark the rhythms of a life characterized by drifting: after the wedding, Manuel's job in the Dredging and Construction Company obliges him to change cities time after time, preventing him, his wife, and their children from settling down roots. Places pass by while their love disintegrates and their children grow up in a family history marked by her father's character and the tragic illness and early death of her mother.

"Open Heart it is a long and emotional farewell for how it articulates reality and imagination, past and present, childhood and maturity. Memories, in their repetition and reiteration, generate ghosts, writes Elvira Lindo. Narrating weakens those ghosts, and if writing saves, it is because it opens the heart to our incredible capacity to love."

LIZA GINZBURG, AVVENIRE

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Ugo Guanda (Italy), Other Press (World English), Uitgeverij Signatuur (The Netherlands), Vulkan (Serbia).



SEIX BARRAL • 82,111 WORDS • 384 PAGES • MARCH 2020
• COMPLETE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

"Lindo's Open Heart is an exploration of the imperfect ways we love each other and how we forgive. She has given us a novel that is akin to a master sculptor's high relief, where we see pictures of one family at different stages, with enough unsparing yet loving detail to see each life individually in all its broken beauty."

RUBÉN DEGOLLADO, AUTHOR OF *THE FAMILY IZQUIERDO*

"Proust would have loved this tongue-in-cheek feminist Spanish novel."

JUIDITH GUREWICH, PUBLISHER AT OTHER PRESS



ROSARIO VILLAJOS dedicated her entire childhood to drawing, reading, and watching movies. Trained in Fine Arts, she has worked in the music, film, artistic and cultural industries. She is the author of the graphic novel *Face* (2017) and the novels *Ramona* (2019) and *Molar* (2021), a delusional story about loneliness and precariousness in today's society. She has lived in Córdoba, Seville, Granada, Barcelona, Montpellier and London. She currently resides in Madrid, where she combines writing with a job in IT.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ADOLESCENCE BODY CONSCIOUSNESS FEMINISM

BODY-SHAMING

A woman's greatest battles are fought with her own body

One afternoon at the end of August, Catalina, who has just turned sixteen, leaves her best friend's house on a suburban housing estate after an unpleasant accident. When she reaches the road, she decides that the only way to get back to her place is to hitchhike. Like any young woman her age, she's terrified of getting into a stranger's car, but not nearly as terrified as what she imagines she's in for if she doesn't abide by the strict curfew imposed by her parents.

Set in the early 1990s, *Physical Education* draws the portrait of an adolescent marked by a complicated relationship with her own body, and a resentment towards a world that is determined to make her feel guilty for being a woman, thus highlighting the stories on which the values of an entire generation are built.

Rosario Villajos has produced a literary and artistic oeuvre that focuses on the body, and with this magnificent novel, she brings the sentimental education with which Flaubert portrayed the lives and times of the young bourgeois in the 19th century to the field of the physical, writing of how the body is the field on which all of our battles are fought, where who we are is settled, and also where the fears, tensions and violence of each era are reflected.

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Ugo Guanda (Italy) in pre-empt, Alpina Publishing (Russia), Biuro Literackie (Poland).



SEIX BARRAL • 77,045 WORDS • 304 PAGES • MARCH 2023 •
ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"The young girl forges her personal rebellion against the world through the struggle not to give up her own freedom: freedom of movement, freedom to be and to show herself as she is, even if that means taking risks."

LA VANGUARDIA



GEMMA VENTURA is a primary school teacher specialising in music. Since 2015 she has been working on the digital magazine *Catorze* (winner of the National Culture Award) where she writes reflective texts and holds in-depth conversations with a wide range of people: from writers and psychologists to shepherds and musicians. She has collaborated with the Palau de la Música by writing lyrics to different songs, and also directs the poetry festival La Balconada. *The Law of Winter* (winner of the Josep Pla Prize 2023) is her first novel.

THE LAW OF WINTER

INTIMATE ATMOSPHERE OVERCOMING ABSENCES

SOLITUDE & RESILIENCE

A young woman watches over her grandfather. While she is immersed in the most absolute solitude, she feels she has two great companions: that of memory and that of imagination. As the cherry trees are stripped bare, the law of winter imposes itself, reminding us that in order to be reborn we must let go.

With an intimate and magical atmosphere, this novel makes the invisible visible: the people who are not physically present, but who continue to guide us, whispering in our ears; the love that we make exist when we need it to, and the ways we have of making up for absences.

A book starring a girl, who, next to the bed of her dying grandfather, Ricard, reflects on the fact of living and dying, in a house located in a small town inhabited by curious and sometimes magical characters, subjected to the rigorous winter and a repetitive life cycle.

"The Law of Winter is to learn to let go. Accepting that each person has their time: that what comes sooner or later will go, and it is beautiful, because it will mean that it has existed. This is what the cherry trees teach us now, in January: from the stripped branches, in a while, there will be some leaves that we don't yet know what they will look like, but they will be there. It is to see that winters have always existed and will exist, but there will never be another like this one."



DESTINO • 31,187 WORDS • 176 PAGES • FEBRUARY 2023 •
ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"A work endowed with an extraordinary lyricism."

LA VANGUARDIA

"A vindication of creativity, introspection and surprise before events that escape our control."

EL PAÍS ON *THE LAW OF WINTER*



RICARDO MENÉNDEZ SALMÓN is an acclaimed author of gripping fiction, celebrated for his thought-provoking narratives. Recognized for his literary prowess, Menéndez Salmón's work has garnered accolades such as the Juan Rulfo Award, Asturias Critics Awards, and the Casino de Mieres Award, among others. His diverse body of work includes the short story collections *The Blue Horses* (2005) and *Scream* (2007), as well as a series of novels ranging from the philosophical depth of *Philosophy in Winter* (1999) to the thrilling intensity of *The Proof Reader* (2009). Notable among his works is the acclaimed Trilogy of Evil, which comprises *The Offense* (2007), *Tremor* (2008), and *The Proof Reader* (2009), each honored with prestigious awards. His works were published in multiple languages.

THE WORLD'S FURNITURE

SHORT STORIES CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

PHILOSOPHY EXISTENTIALISM LOVE

HUMAN CONDITION

Menéndez Salmón returns to the genre in which he is an absolute master, the short story, with a collection of tales that span two decades of writing and that cover some of his great themes, treated with a philosophical foundation in the tradition of authors such as Borges, Onetti, Kafka or Saramago

On the way to Charles Mingus's funeral in Mexico with his jazz quartet, Peyton wakes up after a booze-filled bender with two crystal clear realisations: the woman he slept with last night has robbed him of his money, his suit and his harmonica; and his band have left him for dead and run off to a beach in Acapulco. A boy, trapped with a group of people dying of starvation in a closed train carriage, finds his only crumb of consolation peering through a small crack in the wood. Jaime, obsessed with data, believes every life can be reduced to numbers, including his own: 36 robberies, three murders, two properties, two children, one ex-wife, one Brazilian girlfriend and one Suzuki.



SEIX BARRAL • 49,133 WORDS • 272 PAGES • NOVEMBER 2023

Menéndez Salmón's writing always appears immersed in that conception of the world as a dark place with no possible way out, where literature, art, would have above all a soothing power, that of calming loss, the senselessness of existence.

HORDE

DYSTOPIAN CEREBRAL GRITTY

A brutal parable about a police state marked by the censorship of words and the tyranny of images

In a world where words have been perverted until they've lost their meaning, children have taken power and have instituted silence as a law. Along with this, they have created a religion of the image, encoded in a gigantic device that endlessly emits visual stimuli. Any verbal or written communication is persecuted. In this deaf and mute reality, someone called HIM (in this fable there are no proper names) tries to find the meaning in existence with three singular companions: a book, a monkey, and laughter.

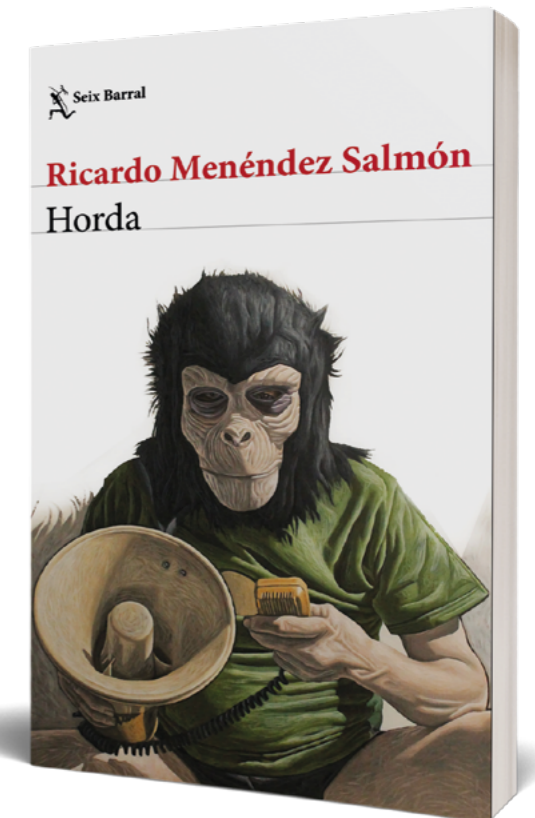
In this novel, Ricardo Menéndez Salmón focuses on the great themes that have marked his work through the years, such as the loss of meaning in collective discourse, the death of the word, the legacy we leave to those who outlive us, and the way technology transforms us into another species of human beings.

Intense, stimulating, and impeccably written, Horde is a parable that aspires to convey a moral lesson.

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Éditions DO (France), Marotta & Cafiero (Italy).

"Ricardo Menéndez Salmón has done it again: fulfill the only and true commitment of the writer: ask us questions, sow concerns among us."

FERNANDO MENÉNDEZ, LA NUEVA ESPAÑA



SEIX BARRAL • 17,384 WORDS • 128 PAGES • OCTOBER 2021
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"Ricardo Menéndez Salmón explores the limits of art in a clever and poetic way. An author that deserves to be discovered."

ROLLING STONE

Ricardo Menéndez Salmón draws a dystopian world in that the prohibition of the use of language and its substitution by images entails the extermination of joy and laughter."

DOMINGO RÓDENAS, EL PAÍS

"Beneath a style of distant coldness flows a story that moves and awe. This story of visionary imagery and apocalyptic assumptions invites us to reflect on a future that may have already begun."

JESÚS FERRER, LA RAZÓN



JUAN MANUEL GIL

is a writer and a teacher. His first book, *Useless Guide to a Shipwreck* (2004), earned him the Andalusian Young Poet's Award. Since then he has focused on novels: *Inopia* (2008); *The Vertebrate Islands* (2017) and *A Man Underwater* (2019). He is also the author of two unclassifiable books: *My Father and I: A Western* (2012), winner of the Argaria Prize, and *Hipstamatic 100*, a collection of texts that combine life and current events.

FEATHERING

HILARIOUS MADCAP ADVENTURES

OBSESSION

Juan Manuel Gil's first novel after winning the Biblioteca Breve Award

This is the work of a writer willing to do anything to find the subject of his next novel. Or so it seems. After winning a major literary prize, he begins to investigate what lies behind the one very short scene he's managed to write: while a man cries, depressed, an ambulance helps a person at the gate to the garden of an old house.

After this, the reader will accompany the narrator on what seems at first to be an extravagant journey in search of inspiration. But life and literature will soon combine to take him from one place to another: from an uncertain present to a past that isn't his, from a crumbling relationship to the discovery of new ways of expressing love, the unassailable happiness of writing, and the devastating bitterness of loss.

This is a story where everything comes together, just as it sometimes does in life: beginnings and endings, mourning and humor, reality and fiction. Maybe because that's the best way to put in words the love and pain that always abide in those we care about most.



SEIX BARRAL • 87,681 WORDS • 416 PAGES • JANUARY 2023
ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

A portrait of those authors who take themselves too seriously. Juan Manuel Gil, with his exquisite humor, reveals the hidden side of the writer after achieving success.

THE SALT OF THE EARTH

TEENAGE FRIENDSHIP

HUMOUR

BOOK LOVE

NOSTALGIC

CLEVER

UNRELIABLE NARRATOR

A mesmerising homage to literature, reading, and the work of telling stories

The narrator of this story is playing a soccer game when he hops over a fence and takes off along an airport runway, just as a plane is about to land. It happens in summertime, as he's approaching adolescence, and his friends cheer him on as he desperately chases a ball that the east wind wants to steal from him. Long after that frantic incident that will change their lives, when the facts seem to be already neatly folded and stored away in their distant memories, the narrator gets an unexpected, and unnerving, message. Simón, one of his best friends back in the day, who he hasn't heard from in more than twenty-five years, sends him an email with a proposal: Why don't you write about us? In a later message Simón regrets his request. From that moment on, the narrator, compelled by his obsession with finding the seed of his next book, insists on tracking down Simón and finding out why he no longer wants him to write their story.

"Literature full of humor and humanity."

JESÚS MORILLO, ABC

"The Salt of the Earth is written by someone who throws himself into the water fully aware of all the potential dangers, a castaway whose life raft is precisely his prose."

J. A. MASOLIVER RÓDENAS, CULTURA/S,
LA VANGUARDIA

"A lively and intelligent declaration of love for literature, of those books that are branded into our skin and activate our desire to tell stories."

RAMÓN ROZAS, DIARIO DE PONTEVEDRA



SEIX BARRAL • 85,002 WORDS • 392 PAGES • MARCH 2021
ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"He vindicates the novel, since Cervantes, as a genre whose only limits are the imagination itself."

RAMÓN CRESPO, LA VOZ DE ALMERÍA

"A story filled with humor that blurs the boundaries between genres and is a lovely homage to the art of reading and writing."

EVA COSCULLUELA, HERALDO DE ARAGÓN

"Carefree humor, which evokes the best Mendoza, a meta-narrative discourse that pays homage to the classics, and complex inner structure."

ÍÑIGO URRUTIA, DIARIO VASCO



ISAAC ROSA has published the novels *Another Damn Novel about the Spanish Civil War!* (2007), originally published in 1999, titled *La malamemoria*; *The Futile Yesterday* (2004), which won the 2005 Rómulo Gallegos Prize, the Ojo Crítico Award and the Andalusian Critics Award; *Country of Fear* (2008), recognized with the J.M. Lara Foundation Award as the best novel of the year; *The Invisible Hand* (2011); *The Dark Room* (2013), winner of the Cálamo Prize; and *Happy Ending* (2018). In 2022 he won the Biblioteca Breve Prize for *Safe Place*. His work has been translated into several languages and his works were brought to the big screen three times.

SAFE PLACE

GRITTY DYSTOPIAN

FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP PROVOCATIVE

A masterful novel that shows how fear is gradually permeating our everyday lives

Segismundo García is a salesman convinced he's hit on the perfect business: selling low-cost bunkers to the humblest classes, a promise of salvation for all in the face of the dreaded global collapse. But Segismundo is not in his finest moment, personally or economically, and has a troubled relationship with both his son and his father. They are three generations of social-climbing scoundrels, destined to fail again and again.

Safe Place takes place over twenty-four hours in which we accompany Segismundo on his sales visits and his search for a treasure that could solve his family problems. Along the way, his pessimistic and sarcastic view will lead him to butt heads with those who act in accordance with their belief that a better world is possible.

Isaac Rosa offers us a funny, giddy and charming novel that takes the arguments we use to assuage our contemporary anxiety and puts them in check.

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Christian Bourgois (France), Liebeskind (Germany), Polyandria (Russia).



SEIX BARRAL • 67,385 WORDS • 312 PAGES • MARCH 2022
COMPLETE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

"The best Biblioteca Breve Prize that has been awarded so far in the millennium. So demanding, so opportune, so refreshing, so full of strength [...] tenderness, stupidity and greed constitute fundamental reasons."

MANUEL RODRÍGUEZ RIVERO, BABELIA, EL PAÍS

HAPPY ENDING

ACID HUMOR IRREVERENT BORNOUT SOLITUDE

MENTAL HEALTH JOB INSECURITY

Love is a luxury we can't always afford

This novel reconstructs a great love story beginning with its end, the story of a couple who, like so many others, fell in love, lived a dream, had children and fought against everything – against themselves and against the elements, uncertainty, precariousness, jealousy–, they struggled not to give up, and fell several times. When love ends, the question arises: where did it all go wrong, how did we end up like this?

A relentless autopsy of the desires, expectations and mistakes of a loving relationship, in which rooted resentments and lies emerge, but also happy moments.

Isaac Rosa addresses in this novel a universal theme: love, from the many factors that currently hinder it: precariousness and uncertainty, vital dissatisfaction, the interference of desire, the imaginary of love in fiction...

It's possible that love, as it was told to us, is a luxury we can't always afford.

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Christian Bourgois (France), Liebeskind (Germany), Einaudi (Italy), Toledo Kirjastus OÜ (Estonia).

AUDIOVISUAL RIGHTS: Lamia Producciones who is developing a feature film.



SEIX BARRAL • 80,577 WORDS • 344 PAGES • OCTOBER 2018
ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"A sophisticated novel with mature themes, delivering an emotionally searing reading experience. An important novel that will stand with other powerful testaments from the Holocaust era."

BOOKLIST, STARRED REVIEW

"A sophisticated novel with mature themes, delivering an emotionally searing reading experience. An important novel that will stand with other powerful testaments from the Holocaust era."

BOOKLIST, STARRED REVIEW



ELISA LEVI has fought with her body, taken Prozac, drunk, and smoked. She has written poetry and theater. She gave up a scholarship and changed her last name to take the reins of her identity. She would have liked to be Isabel I's lover, but she was born in the wrong era and instead decided to write about her generation. She studied Stage Arts and Cinema and is the author of the novels *Why Do Cities Cry* (Temas de Hoy, 2019) and *What Do I Know* (Temas de Hoy, 2021) as well as the poetry collection *Lost in a Bowl of Cereal* (Espasa, 2016).

WHAT DO I KNOW

FAMILY DYNAMICS

SMALL TOWN LIFE

POETIC STYLE

ONEIRIC LANGUAGE

An exquisite and magnetic prose of a youngster who, defenseless, reflects about her zest for life incompatible with the confining world of an isolated small town. A beautiful, tender and touching novel

Lea is 19 years old and thinks she's seen it all, even though she's never left the Small Town, a leafy Hamlet somewhere in the Country, halfway between the Big Town and the City. She has just met a stranger who lost his dog in the forest. In order to convince him to wait for the dog to return instead of entering the tangled bush to retrieve it, she begins to tell her story, which is the story of a great fear; a story set in 2012 when everyone was convinced that the world was ending. Lea has an airhead sister, a father who works from sunrise to sunset on lands that once belonged to the family and now belong to the town bigwigs, a mother who's also named Lea and who is the mirror of everything young Lea doesn't want to be. Lea has a boyfriend, Javier, with the eyes of a wolf, and a best friend, Catalina, who cries every day; she also has Marcos, a boy who leaves her presents on her doormat but only knows how to be clumsy and violent. Now Lea has some new neighbors, and she doesn't trust them because she knows that families only leave the City for the Small Town when someone has stopped loving them.

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Graywolf (USA), Daunt Books (UK), Alberdania (Basque), Trabanten Verlag (Germany), Metropolis Media Group (Hungary), Eksmo (Russia).

AUDIOVISUAL RIGHTS: Optioned



TEMAS DE HOY • 54,000 WORDS • 176 PAGES • SEPTEMBER 2021
ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"A suggestive plot, with echoes of Rulfo, Sara Mesa, and Delibes"

ELENA COSTA, EL CULTURAL

"A novel that evokes the magical realism of Gabriel García Márquez."

CLARA FERRER, ÚLTIMA HORA



ARIADNA CASTELLARNAU studied Spanish Language and Literature and Comparative Literature. From 2009 to 2016, she lived in Buenos Aires, where she worked as a cultural reporter for the country's main journalistic outlets. Her first novel, *Burn*, was published by Gog y Magog (Argentina) y Catedral (España). She won the Las Américas International Prize for the best Latin American Novel in 2015 and recently was awarded Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire 2023 for best foreign novella.

DARKNESS IS A PLACE

SHORT STORIES

DARK FANTASY

FAMILY DYNAMICS

IMAGINATIVE

A collection of disturbing stories halfway between real and fantastical, in vein of Mariana Enriquez, Shirley Jackson or Samanta Schweblin

In these eight tales, writer Ariadna Castellarnau enters the realm of fantasy to explore the strange and shadowy side of human relationships. A girl who takes refuge in the forest, running from her family, meets a feral teenager; two brothers, one of whose deformity turns him into an object of fascination, compete for the attention of their absent parents; a man who must leave a girl at a brothel will establish with her a bond for eternity; a couple on an island tries to find meaning in their life while they decide what to do with a mysterious baby that has appeared in front of their door; a girl hopes in vain to satisfy the expectations of her father by learning his profession.

These short stories are intense, mesmerizing and open ended, its characters move in an uncertain, twisting terrain.

Castellarnau is one of the most promising voices in contemporary Spanish prose. Her short story *The Water Man* was published by Words Without Borders and Marina Fun was featured in *The Dial*.

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Coffee House Press (World English Rights), Editions de l'Ogre (France), Jagiellonian University Press (Poland).



DESTINO • 34,509 WORDS • 160 PAGES • NOVEMBER 2020
ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"Ariadna Castellarnau knows these desperate beings so well that she can trace them out with austere strokes in her lean and at times beautiful prose... Castellarnau writes about the end as if she had witnessed it, like a witness who knows, intuits, and suffers, who rages against the dying of the light."

MARIANA ENRÍQUEZ



EDGAR CANTERO is a writer and cartoonist. His debut *Dormir amb Winona Ryder* (2007) won him the prestigious Joan Crexells award. His next novel was the punk dystopian thriller *Vallvi* (2011). He is a regular contributor to satirical magazine *El Jueves* since 2007. In English, he wrote the paranormal epistolary *The Supernatural Enhancements* (2014), the horror/action/comedy *Meddling Kids* (2017, New York Times bestseller), and the noir romp *This Body's Not Big Enough For Both of Us* (2018).

RADIO FREE CAMACO

POLITICAL THRILLER PLOT-DRIVEN ACTIONPACKED

FAMILY DRAMA MYSTERY ACID HUMOR

FANTASTICAL ELEMENTS

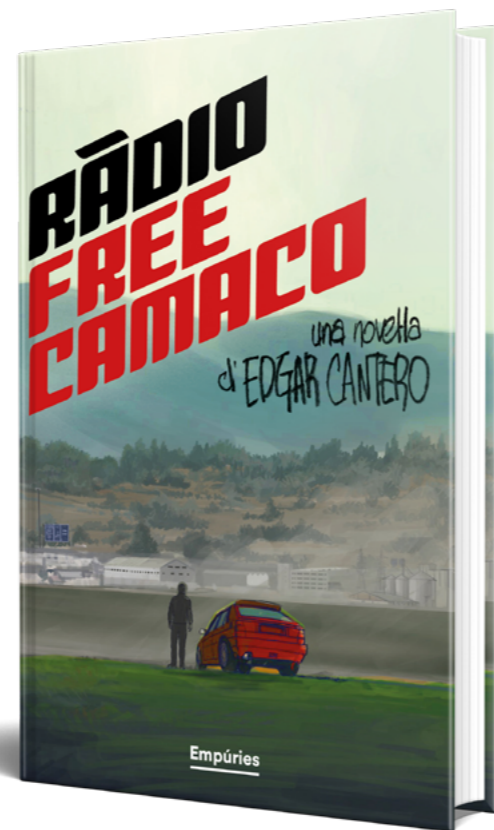
From the New York Time Best-seller author

The protagonist, recently released from prison after having served time for taking part in the bid for Catalan independence, finds himself implicated in a murder he is entirely innocent of.

Forced into hiding to escape the police, he sets about trying to discover who is behind the crime, aided solely by his son -still in the stage of trying out his pronouns-, the most foulmouthed shepherd in Catalonia and a local journalist in the dumps. A son who provides invaluable help, in a plot driven by the jockeying of third-tier politicians to establish themselves in local government or who harbor the ambition of ascending to the first division of Catalan politics, all of which is marked by a growing series of inexplicable events.

Featuring an indefatigable protagonist who wins you over, action that is well-narrated and relentless, brilliant dialogues and large doses of humor, the novel plunges us into a glamourless hinterland of industrial parks and working-class housing developments, while also painting a scathing portrait of the wretchedness of local politics. An action-packed rollercoaster that will keep us glued to its pages on its wild ride.

Set in a depressed but still undefeated backcountry, Radio Free Camaco marks Edgar Cantero's return to Catalan after publishing three books in North America. His latest is a noir novel with fantastical touches and loads of humor that speaks of the oppressed, rebels and green shoots of hope emerging from the asphalt.



PROA • 259,000 WORDS • 232 PAGES • MARCH 2022

"Cantero's imagination is vivid, and the story, once it gains speed, continues at a breakneck, roller-coaster pace. He plays with form and style, which makes for an enjoyable romp. Fans of modern takes on Lovecraft and those that are nostalgic for the cartoons of their childhood will like this novel, which is also a sure bet for your Stranger Things-themed display."

BOOKLIST (STARRED REVIEW)



MARTA MARÍN-DÒMINE is a Catalan Canadian writer with a background in academia. She has lectured at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, where she led the Centre for Memory and Testimony Studies. She has directed documentaries; contributed to art projects, such as *The Vengeance of the Apple and Refugi*; and published notable works like *To Flee Was the Most Precious Thing We Had* and *They*, exploring the feminine love condition in Catalan Golden Age theatre. Currently, she heads the Born Culture and Memorial Centre in Barcelona.

I WILL SAY I MADE IT UP

MOTHERHOOD TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS MENTAL HEALTH

DISRUPTIVE AUTOFICTION

A brilliant and poignant way of addressing mother-daughter relationships, eluding clichés

What kind of daughter dares to speak the truth to her mother? It is required to turn to literature to do so, and also to question reality and, if necessary, to make it up. What could have turned out to be one of the happiest days in Marina's life, the day of birth of her only daughter, became the start of a relationship that was far from exemplary. United by their timeless, atavistic belonging and, at the same time by some inescapable, terrifying detachment, mother and daughter will never understand each other.

After she comes back to the same city and the same flat where she used to live with her late mum, dead for years, the daughter tries to pick up the pieces of their life together. A handful of photographs, some objects and, overall, her experience as a daughter would lay the ground for the emergence of a lonesome and gleaming woman, the daughter of French migrants, with a working class background and a bourgeoisie sense of taste, pricked out into the grey Barcelona of the 1950s, who would see crumble her dream of becoming an actress; a mother quite mentally unbalanced, vivacious and depressive, sometimes seductive, others just cruel.

It challenges the established notion of mother's love, a bond historically considered unquestionable. The result of it is both a private and universal tale of Gothic echoes, a clever essay on who we are, the things we conceal and about the limits of "truth" in writing.



EDICIONS 62 • 43.082 WORDS • 184 PAGES • AUGUST 2023
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

Winner of the BBVA Sant Joan Prize 2023 for the brilliant and incisive way of addressing mother-daughter relationships, avoiding clichés."



MARTÍ DOMÍNGUEZ holds a doctorate in biological sciences and is head of the research journal *Mètode* at the University of Valencia. He combines his research as a naturalist, which has led him to work in museums in Paris, Canberra and Washington, with writing novels and contributing as a journalist to the weekly *El Temps* and the daily newspapers *El País*, *Levante* and *Avui*. His debut novel, *The Secrets of the Duke of Buffoon* (1997), was very well received by critics and won several awards.

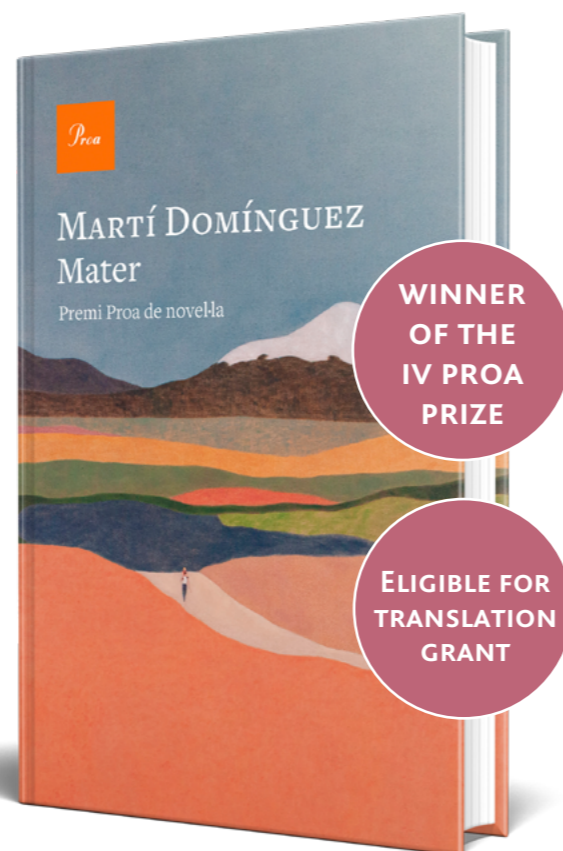
MATER

MOTHERHOOD DYSTOPIA PHYLOSOPHICAL NOVEL

An adventure in search of what makes us human

In a future society shaped by scientific and technological advancements, where gestation occurs outside the female body through artificial wombs, Zoe's unexpected pregnancy disrupts the meticulously controlled order. Faced with this anomaly, Zoe embarks on an adventure with her companion Charles, venturing beyond the confines of their comfortable lives into the wilderness, where human colonies resist the pervasive influence of technological progress.

Mater explores themes of genetic modification, societal perfectionism, and the loss of humanity in technology, offering a thought-provoking dystopian narrative that challenges the notion of progress and perfection.



PROA • 72,963 WORDS • 384 PAGES • NOVEMBER 2023

Mater, the novel by Martí Domínguez set in a near future where creatures are gestated in artificial wombs, falls into the monotony of turning every anecdote into a category of social, moral, or intellectual lesson.

PONÇ PUIGDEVALL, EL PAÍS

In this exciting, vital adventure, the author raises the central questions of human nature and intones a song of motherhood as the great origin of everything.

Martí Domínguez creates in his novels small verbal jewels of dazzling plasticity.



PERE ANTONI PONS has published two collections of poetry, a book of interviews with Joan Francesc Mira (2009), and the novels *Happiness during Sad Days* (2010), *All Demons Are Here* (2011) and *Against the World* (2023). He regularly contributes to various newspapers and magazines, including *Ara* and *Avenç*.

AGAINST THE WORLD

SPECULATIVE FICTION ENVIRONMENTAL DYSTOPIA

FABLE

A political novel in capital letters strewn with aphorisms and deep, inspiring landscapes

An inconceivable cataclysm wipes out the Tramuntana mountain range in Majorca. But life goes on, and despite the loss, so does most of the island population, which faces a restoration that will be both wild and chimerical. Without knowing if the events will bring the island to its irreversible end, three friends—a painter, a former hotel executive and an environmental activist—will witness how the aftermath will bring their lives and contradictions to the edge.

Allegorical and realistic, tragic and sarcastic, intimate and universal, *Against the World* is the most ambitiously visionary novel of Pere Antoni i Pons: an account of upheaval lives that brims with vitality, and that is, at the same time, an unmerciful portrait of our times.

A chimeric and fun work that portrays the socioeconomics, environmental and idiomatic emergence of the new narratives of our current society.

"Breathtaking."

ANTONI BASSAS, ARA

"A political novel in capital letters."

ANNA PUNSODA, NÚVOL

"A deeply ambitious, daring and extreme novel."

PONÇ PUIGDEVALL, EL PAÍS



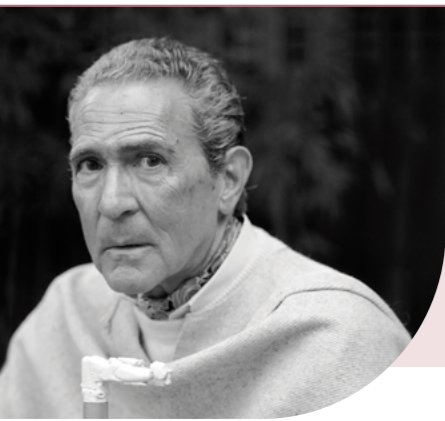
EMPÚRIES • 124,421 WORDS • 416 PAGES • FEBRUARY 2023

"Perhaps the most difficult novel to conceive and the most thrilling to read in recent times in our language."

GUILLEM FRONTERA, ÚLTIMA HORA

"Beyond how good it is, this is a novel that is also fair and thrilling."

MELCIOR COMES, ARA BALEARIS



ANTONIO GALA is a multifaceted artist, renowned as a dramatist, novelist, poet, and essayist, who past away in 2023. He gained acclaim by winning the Premio Planeta , *The Crimson Manuscript*. His literary repertoire includes acclaimed works such as *The Turkish Passion* and *Beyond the Garden*, both adapted into critically acclaimed films. Gala's diverse works also encompasses short story collections as well as poetry collections like *Enemigo íntimo* and *Testamento andaluz*, which won the Premio Adonais de Poesía. As a dramatist, Gala's career flourished with plays like *Los verdes campos del Edén* and *Petra regalada*. He has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Premio Nacional de Literatura, Premio Ciudad de Barcelona, and Premio Antena de Oro, among others.

THE TURKISH PASSION

INTENSE ROMANTIC DRAMA

REQUIRED READING

CLASSIC SPANISH LITERATURE

FORBIDDEN LOVE STORY

Intense and heart-trending romantic drama told in Antonio Gala's poetic style

Desideria Oliván, a young, unhappily married woman from a small town in the North of Spain, discovers consuming passion when, on a tourist trip to Turkey, she falls into Yamam's arms.

Although she knows nothing of him, she abandons everything to go and live with him in Istanbul. Time goes by, and the intensity of their love endures, although their relations become increasingly dramatic and sordid, until Desideria meets and old friend of hers who works for Interpol and reveals the true nature of Yamam's business activities.

The story, admirably told through the protagonist's supposedly intimate notebooks, is a bitter meditation on a love affair carried to its logical conclusion of physical and moral destruction, in the midst of a troubled climate – elements which Antonio Gala eloquently depicts with the irresistible force of his style.

AUDIOVISUAL RIGHTS: A TV series based on the novel will be released soon.

"Love is the poetry of our feelings. But there are some horrible poems."

ANTONIO GALA



PLANETA • 109,820 WORDS • 384 PAGES • OCTOBER 1993

"Making someone happy is perhaps the humblest way of approaching happiness."

ANTONIO GALA

"Happiness is realizing that nothing is too important."

ANTONIO GALA



FRANCISCO UMBRAL was a journalist and writer described as "the greatest Spanish author of the 20th century". His novel *A Mortal Spring* (1975) is considered to be a masterpiece of the late 20th century. His work earned him a range of awards including: the Mariano de Cavia Award, the González Ruano Award for Journalism, the Critic's Choice Award, the Nadal Prize for *The Nymphs*, the Prince of Asturias Award, the Víctor de la Serna Award, the Fernando Lara Novel Prize for *The Forging of a Thief*, The National Letters Award, and the highest accolade in Spanish literature, the Cervantes Award.

A MORTAL SPRING

ELEGY TO CHILDHOOD

REQUIRED READING

CLASSIC SPANISH LITERATURE

A 20th century masterpiece

A Mortal Spring represents the pinnacle of Francisco Umbral's writing career. Defined by the author as simultaneous memoir, the novel is considered by the literary community to be a 20th century masterpiece.

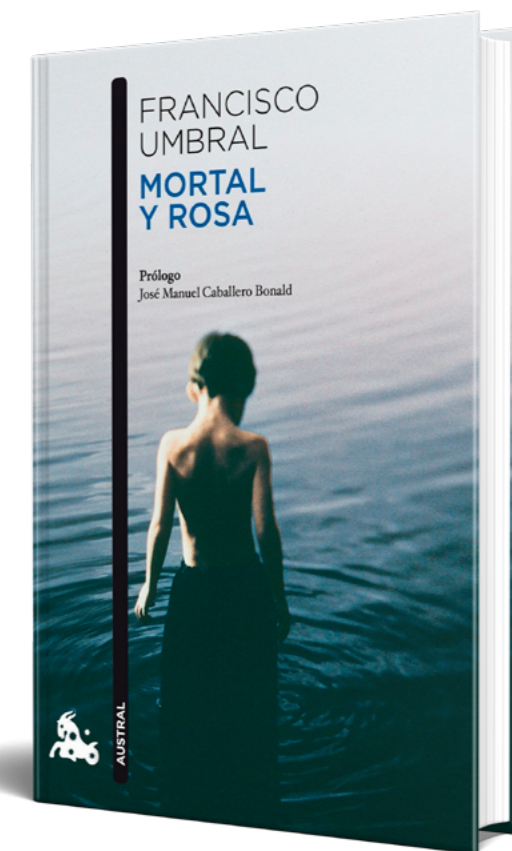
In poetic prose, Umbral captures the joy of a young child, a son, and the tragedy of his loss as a unique place of pain that the author alone can inhabit. His beautiful use of language creates a bittersweet contrast against the haunting sensation of happiness slipping through the reader's fingers with each turn of the page. A timeless piece of art.

At once tender and stone-hard, spirited and even-paced, *A Mortal Spring* is a heart-breaking novel about the pain of losing a child.

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Settecolori (Italy).

"I dare not look at myself in mirrors in case it's true that I don't have an ear, and I comb my hair to that side, to hide what I don't know if it exists."

FRANCISCO UMBRAL



AUSTRAL • 54,000 WORDS • 256 PAGES • NOVEMBER 1975
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

"Everything in the air is a bird."

FRANCISCO UMBRAL

"Writing is the deepest way of reading life."

FRANCISCO UMBRAL

BOOK & FILM
RIGHTS

Grupo Planeta