

## Silvia Bastos Literary Agency

# London 2023

#### about the agency

Since 2000, Silvia Bastos Literary Agency has represented, around the world, authors from Spain and Latin America writing in the Spanish and Catalan languages, as well as foreign agencies and publishing houses in Spain, Portugal and Brazil.

As the authors we represent tackle all literary genres and forms, we manage works of literary, historical, and commercial fiction, as well as works of non-fiction, from history to self-help to philosophical essays.

We have the privilege of representing some of the best-selling authors in Spain, both in fiction and non-fiction, some of whom have received the most important literary prizes, both Spanish and Catalan, and many of whom are also critically acclaimed.

#### contact us

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# FOREIGN RIGHTS LONDON 2023

### authors included:

#### literary fiction

Emili Bayo Ada Castells Pep Coll Antonio Fontana Marta Grau Mayte López Inés Martín Rodrigo Mercè Mascaró Álvaro Pombo Yolanda Regidor Elisenda Roca

#### commercial fiction

Laura Anguera Yeyo Balbás Roger Bastida José Calvo Poyato Lola Ferrández Pazos Salvador Gutiérrez Solís Emilio Lara Jesús Maeso de la Torre Manuel Martín Ferreras Máximo Pradera Sebastián Roa Sònia Valiente María Solar María Soto Óscar Soto

#### non-fiction

Nacho Ares Tània Balló José Enrique Campillo Carmen Domingo Juan Eslava Galán Juan Fueyo Ian Gibson Lola López Mondéjar Santiago de Molina Jordi Soler

#### others

Daniel Hernández Chambers (YAlit) Mariola Esteban (Parenting) Chloé Sucrée (Cookbook) SILVIA BASTOS Agencia Literaria

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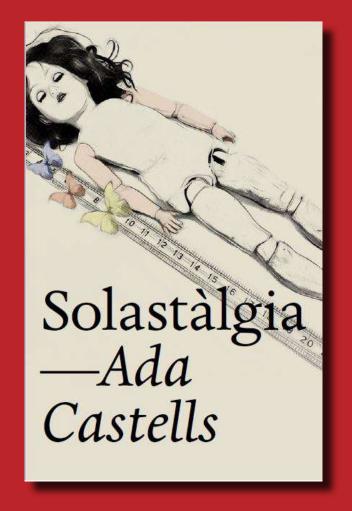
Catalan – La Magrana, 2023 272 pages

Literary fiction, contemporary novel, political background, memory, Barcelona, country getaway.

**Emili Bayo** (Lleida, 1961) published his first novel in 1997, *Traïdors i covards*, which was followed by *La resta del món* (Premi Ciutat de Mollerussa), *Projecte de felicitas* (Premi Projectes Fundació Enciclopèdia Catalana 2010) and *L'edat de les paraules* (Premi Llorenç Villalonga 2016). Also an author of short stories, in 2015 he won the Premi Crims de Tinta with *Puta pasta*, and has written the young adults novels *Premonicions* (2013, *Premoniciones*, 2020) and *Prop de les bombes* (Premi Grand Angular 2019). In Spanish he has published the detective novels *Tan tuyo como tu muerte* (2017) and *El mañana sin mí* (Premio Valencia de Narrativa 2019 Alfons el Magnànim). *Després de la tempesta* (2023) is his new novel for adults.

### **After the Storm** Després de la tempesta

In the post-Spanish Civil War, two cousins forge their destiny growing up as brothers until student movements take over the streets of Barcelona and certain tragic events mark their lives, which will take opposite directions. Three stories flow, just like a river, metaphoric and literally, into the Ebro river delta, an area that has been badly shaken by storm Glòria. A house that holds the memory of a happy past. An old misanthrope at odds with society, a journalist on the run from an abuser and a teenager in conflict with the world. All three seek to recalibrate from the storm that has uprooted their lives. A story full of family secrets, with a political background that unleashes a storm of emotions.



Catalan – L'Altra Editorial, 2023 208 pages

Literary fiction, contemporary novel, climate change, nature, powerful female character.

Ada Castells (Barcelona, 1968) began her career with a novel about her protestant ancestors, *El dit de l'àngel*. She has also published *Mirada*, a novel against the dictatorship of the image; *Tota la vida*, where she narrates the life of the German painter Caspar David Friedrich, and *Pura sang*, with which she won the Sant Joan Unnim Award in 2012. With *Mare* (2019) Castells confirmed that she is one of the most important Catalan-language authors of recent years, something also proved by her latest *Solastàlgia*.

### **Solastalgia** Solastàlgia

Sara is a Quixote, obsessed with apocalyptic interpretations and, following extreme floods in Barcelona, decides to flee to the Empordà. She is accompanied on the expedition by a husband who exports chickens to Brazil, a teenage daughter who wants a dog and an eccentric aunt who isn't her responsibility. The aim is to recreate the Middle Ages with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. In contact with nature, Sara learns to come to terms with the threat but first she has to overcome deep remorse, a philosophical overdose, fights with her daughter and solastalgia. Love and accepting your own fragility are the only ways out to survive and rebuild bonds with others.

«Just as the violent nature of Friedrich's paintings was an externalization of the tribulations of the romantic soul, the world that seems to drown in front of Sara is also a reflection of the soul of a woman who must faced with a past that haunts her, a guilt from which she cannot be freed and a lot of doubts that shake her relationship with her partner or with her teenage daughter. [...] Sara is a kind of romantic heroine, someone who needs to rediscover a place of belonging, a place to feel that not everything is lost, to rebuild and rebuild herself».

Anna Maria Iglesia Pagnotta, El País

«In *Solastàlgia*, Ada Castells addresses human fragility and climate change through characters who learn to survive and recover the bonds that hold them together».

Lídia Penelo, Público

«A novel that immerses us in an apocalyptic story, sprinkled with irony [...]. Although the novel has dystopian traces, Castells prefers to speak of utopia –she attacks catastrophist discourses and calls for change».

Montserrat Serra, VilaWeb

extra praise for Solastalgia





Catalan – Proa, 2023 Spain – Planeta, 2023 640 pages

Literary fiction with historical plot, Second World War, Pyrenees

**Pep Coll** (Pessonada, Pallars Jussà, 1949) is the author of the exceptional collection of legends *Muntanyes maleïdes* (1993), but he has excelled above all as a novelist, with titles such as *L'abominable crim de l'Alsina Graells* (1999), *El salvatge dels Pirineus* (2005), *Les senyoretes de Lourdes* (Sant Jordi Award 2007), *Dos taüts negres i dos de blancs* (2013, Premi Crexells de la Crítica, Premi El Setè Cel, Premi Amat-Piniella and Prix Pyrénéen 2016 in the French translation), *En el mateix riu d'Heràclit* (2018) and L'*any que va caure la roca* (2021).

### **God's Long Nap** La llarga migdiada de Déu

France, May 1940. Samuel Silverstein, a transporter of Jewish origin, finds himself trapped in the exodus of fugitives that Nazi troops are pushing towards the Midi. As a result of a Luftwaffe bombing raid, Silverstein loses everything and begins a new life as an agent for an underground organization working to save Jewish children by hiding them in rural areas. Working as a travelling salesman makes it easy for him to move around the villages and farmhouses of the Ariège valleys. He will soon discover a ruined monastery where dozens of children and adolescents are surviving, under the constant threat of gendarmes under the orders of the Vichy government. While Nazi barbarism devastates Europe and the Jews wait for Yahweh to wake up once and for all, crossing the Pyrenees seems the only escape option. With an energetic and emotional storyline, Pep Coll weaves a novel that, unfortunately, touches us all too closely.

### The odyssey of a group of teenagers to escape Nazi barbarism through the Pyrenees.

«The author of books such as *Les senyoretes de Lourdes* (Proa, 2008) and *Dos taüts negres i dos de blancs* (Proa, 2013), builds a novel with an atmosphere of adventure that explores survival, the transition to adulthood and the role of faith and religion in one of the most tragic periods of humanity».

#### Núria Juanico Llumà, Diari Ara

«A chronological and choral novel that reconstructs the Jewish exodus during World War II through different characters, focusing on the south of France and the flight over the Pyrenees and the networks that anonymous citizens established to protect and save Jewish children and young people. While barbarism devastated Europe, the Jews waited for Yahweh to wake up once and for all from the longest nap».

Núria Mora, Onda Cero

Full interview on RTVE RADIO, De boca a orella

Complete interview in VilaWeb

Complete report on TV3, Telenotícies vespre



#### UNA MUJER FURIOSA Antonio Fontana

Siruela Nuevos Tiempos



Spain – Siruela, 2023 320 pages

Literary fiction, contemporary novel.

**Antonio Fontana** (Málaga, 1964) is a novelist. With a bachelor's and a master's degree in journalism, his professional career has been linked to the *ABC* newspaper for thirty years, nineteen as coordinator of the books section of the *ABC Cultural* supplement, where he has published literary criticism, interviews and articles. He is the author of the novels *De hombre a hombre* (1997), *Hostal Parisién* (2011), *El perdón de los pecados* (finalist of the Café Gijón Prize 2003), *Plano detallado del infierno* (2007), *Sol poniente* (Málaga Novel Prize 2017), *Hasta aquí hemos llegado* (2021, Café Gijón Prize 2020), and his most recent *Una mujer furiosa* (2023).

#### A Furious Woman

#### Una mujer furiosa

"So, this is a ghost story. Or, more than of ghosts, perhaps it is a story of disappearances." Santi Alarcón does not know where to start telling us about his childhood. From the day he swallowed a fly or from the day his mother asphyxiated a rat with insecticide? Whichever moment he chooses to unravel the thread of his memory, the result is a double portrait; on the one hand, that of a Spain that is gradually opening up to democracy, and, on the other, that of an unhappy family: parents who can hardly stand each other, a sullen and violent grandfather, a bullying brother more interested in boxing than in studying ... And as a backdrop the dazzling first emotions, the role of women in 20<sup>th</sup> century society, silent homosexuality. And the biggest enigma of all: what pushed Martina, Santi's mother, to run away with a child?

The new novel by Antonio Fontana immerses us in a plot in which the light of the endless summer vacations of childhood gives way to the darkness of remorse and guilt without guilt.



Catalan – La Magrana, 2022 272 pages

Literary fiction, contemporary novel, motherhood, family relationships, countryside.

**Marta Grau Rafel** (Barcelona, 1981) is a screenwriter and writer. She is the author of several highly successful films and TV series, and as a writer she has published the essay *La mente narradora*, *la neurociència aplicada al arte de escribir guiones*, and the novels *Surt el sol i encara plou* and *Nits de guàrdia* 1 and 2. *Una casa on tornar* is her latest novel.

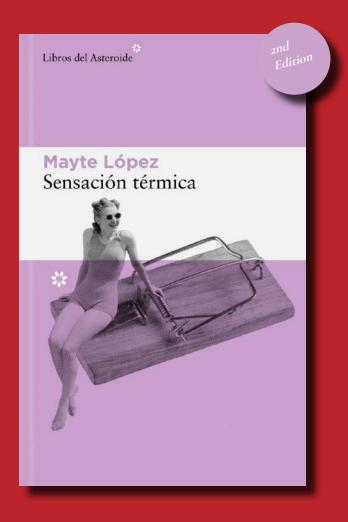
#### A House to Return to

Una casa on tornar

Ona has decided not to have children. But, all of a sudden, this whole life that she seemed to have under control collapses when she finds herself having to mother her partner's daughter. But she doesn't want the same thing to happen to her as happened to her grandmother and mother, who, in her opinion, stopped being women to become mothers. Ona finds refuge in the family farmhouse in the Catalan countryside to decide what direction she wants her future to take, because only she has the answers that she has always sought in others.

A novel about the pressure and anxieties many women feel about what is expected of them as women.





Spain – Libros de Asteroide, 2021 Audio – Scribd, 2022 Theater – K producciones, 2023 176 pages

Literary fiction, latinamerican fiction, abuse, domestic violence, Mexic, New York, sexism, contemporary novel, women friendship, coming of age, toxic relationship

**Mayte López** (New York, 1983) is a Mexican writer, academic and translator. She has a degree in Latin American Literature from the Ibero-American University, a Master of Arts from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, a Master's in Creative Writing from the University of New York and is a doctoral candidate in Latin American and Iberian Cultures at the University of the City of New York. She debuted with the novel *De la Catrina y la flaca* in 2016, and has collaborated with various publications, such as *Letras Libres, Los Bárbaros* and *ViceVersa*. She is currently a participating writer for the PEN/Faulkner Writers in Schools program and Spanish teacher at Lehman College (NYC).

#### Wind Chill

#### Sensación térmica

Lucía, a young Mexican woman, has left a violent home behind to live in a mouse-infested apartment in New York's East Village. At university she meets Juliana, a Colombian girl who dazzles her with her Caribbean joy and with whom she shares her amazement at the new city. But Juliana begins a stormy relationship with a teacher twenty years older than her, who reminds Lucía of her childhood abuse, just when she is forced to return to Mexico to take care of her father, who has suffered an accident, leaving Juliana alone at the teacher's mercy.

*Sensación térmica* is a novel about female friendship and domestic violence, which hides disguised as romance and explodes behind closed doors in any room of any house. This violence creeps and lurks in song lyrics, legends and children's stories. By journeying through Mexico, New York and the childhood and teenage memories of the main character, the reader accompanies Lucía in her attempt to free herself from an emotional education marked by fear of others. A shocking work that reveals the perverse mechanics that move relationships between irascible men and the women who love them.

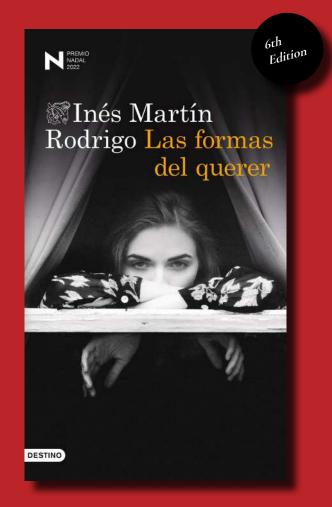
«Mayte López has her own voice, rhythmic, oral, absolutely contemporary and full of musical references. I connect deeply with her style».

Andrea Abreu, author of Dogs of Summer

«Her irony is lucid but also hearty. Her writing is as agile in the narrative as it is in the singular variations of the voices, (...). Joy and pain, isolation and companionship, desire to belong and desire to flee, (...) a world that by the end of the reading has become memorable and close to us». Andrea Muñoz Molina, author of *To walk alone in the crowd* 

extra praise for Sensación Térmica





Spain – Destino, 2022 Audio – Destino, 2022 Pocket – Booket, 2023 408 pages

#### Premio Nadal 2022

Literary fiction, contemporary novel, emotions, family relationships.

**Inés Martín Rodrigo** (Madrid, 1983) is a journalist and writer. Since 2008 she has worked for the culture section of the newspaper *ABC*, and is considered one of the leading arts journalists in Spain. She is the author of three books: the fictional biography *Azules son las horas* (2016), the anthology of interviews with writers *Una habitación compartida* (2020) and the children's story *Giselle* (2020), based on the ballet of the same name. She has prefaced works by authors such as David Foster Wallace, Virginia Woolf and Carmen Laforet. In 2019, she was selected by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) in the program 10 of 30, which each year recognizes the best Spanish writers under forty. Her novel *Las formas del querer* has been awarded the Premio Nadal 2022.

#### The Ways We Love

#### Las formas del querer

When life suddenly stops, it is time to remember. This is what Noray feels after the unexpected death of her grandparents Carmen and Tomás. After their funeral, unable to face the absence of those who taught her the many forms of love, she locks herself in the family home in the village where she grew up and was happy. There she takes refuge in words, and decides to tackle the novel that she has been putting off for years: the story of her own family, linked to that of a country that is too afraid to reconcile the past, from the civil war to the consolidation of democracy, to try to find out who it is. Through writing, Noray evokes the lives of those who made hers possible and deals with her worst fears and ghosts.

This story will arrive without her knowing it in the hands of Ismael, the love of her life, who will be reading, in a hospital room, the pages of this story whose end will forever mark the destiny of both of them.

«Inés's talent is perceived from the first page and hers is one of the most interesting literary voices of recent times».

Julia Navarro, Mujer Hoy

«Her spontaneity is what makes her most powerful and compelling».

J. A. Masoliver Ródenas, La Vanguardia

"A powerful and honest story in which the author bares herself, shows open wounds and moves with her narration».

Eva Cosculluela, Heraldo

«A formidable novel that shows the outstanding narrative capacity of its author».

J. M. Pozuelo Yvancos, ABC





#### Catalan – La Magrana, 2023 288 pages

Literary fiction, contemporary urban novel, motherhood, family.

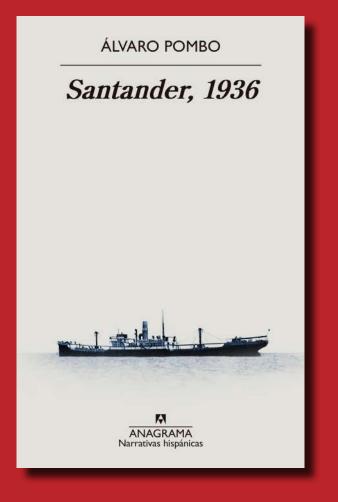
**Mercé Mascaró** (Barcelona, 1981) is an architect and studied pattern design. Under the label mercemascaro. com, she creates collections of sustainable clothing and undertakes commissions. After several literary courses and workshops, *Caure al bui*t is her first novel.

### **Fall into the Void** Caure al buit

Alma lost her father when she was eight years old, but she invented an imaginary one that has been with her ever since. She is a woman who does not make it easy for herself or others; her life is a continuous struggle against herself and, in a more painful way, also against her children and motherhood itself. One Tuesday she receives a call from the hospital to inform her of her mother's imminent death. From that moment on, the precarious stability she had achieved in her life collapses and she begins a fall into the void that only she can stop.

A minimalist story about the fragility and emptiness of contemporary urban life.





Spain – Anagrama, 2023 328 pages

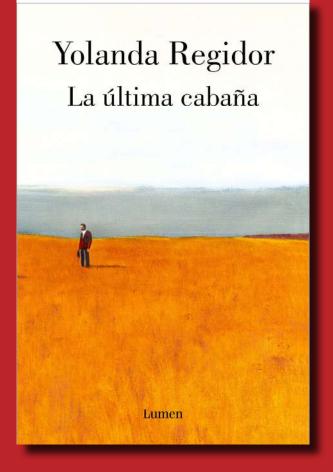
Literary fiction, 20th Century Spain, real facts, family past.

Alvaro Pombo (Santander, 1939) has a degree in Philosophy from the University of Madrid, a Bachelor of Arts from Birkbeck College in London and is a member of the Real Academia Española. He is one of the undisputed masters of contemporary Spanish literature, with titles as prominent as El héroe de las mansardas de Mansard (Premio Herralde 1983), El metro de platino iridiado (Premio de la Crítica 1990), Donde las mujeres (Premio Nacional de Narrativa 1997), La cuadratura del círculo (Premio Fastenrath from the Real Academia Española 2001), El cielo raso (Premio Fundación José Manuel Lara 2002), La fortuna de Matilda Turpin (Premio Planeta 2006) and El temblor del héroe (Premio Nadal 2012). He has also published collections of short stories and articles, and Protocolos (1973-2003), which includes his four collections of poems. His work has been translated into multiple languages: German, French, Dutch, Greek, English, Italian, Norwegian and Portuguese. His latest novel is Santander, 1936.

### **Santander, 1936** Santander, 1936

The main character in this novel, Álvaro Pombo Caller, uncle of the author Álvaro Pombo, was nineteen years old in 1936. As in all of Spain at that time, provincial Santander was alight with leftright confrontations, bitter intellectual debates and exalted political proclamations. Alvarín, with his youthful fervor and his admiration for José Antonio Primo de Rivera, joined the Spanish Falange in 1934. His father, Cayo Pombo Ybarra, an agnostic and Republican liberal, was an admirer of Manuel Azaña. Despite their political differences, father and son loved each other very much and got along very well. Alvarín's mother, Ana Caller Donesteve, the famous Ana de Pombo, highly successful in the Parisian fashion world of the time, has left her husband Cayo in Santander and has distributed her children to English and French boarding schools. There is an intense exchange of letters between Ana and her son Álvaro. The summers Alfonso XIII and his family spent in Santander are in the past as the royal family has left Spain after the proclamation of the Second Republic. The novel highlights the atmosphere of political and intellectual novelty of the Republic, as well as the great turmoil compared to the calmer monarchical times. The beginning of the Civil War will bring tragic consequences to Santander, as in the rest of Spain; also for Álvaro Pombo Caller, a front-line Falangist, who is arrested and imprisoned on the Alfonso Pérez prison ship.

Álvaro Pombo – the writer, not the character– returns to Santander, to the family universe and to the world of adolescence. He does it with a seductive coming-of-age novel about philosophical and sentimental growth.



Spanish – Lumen, 2022 264 pages

Literary contemporary fiction, solitude, country getaway.

**Yolanda Regidor** (Cáceres, 1970) is a writer. She graduated in law and then obtained a Master's in Psychosociology. She was an occupational trainer, before dedicating herself to literature, working as a legal advisor and teacher in social and labor insertion programs. She is the author of the novels *La piel del camaleón* (2012), *Ego y yo* (Premio de Novela Jaén 2014) and *La espina del gato* (2017), which was well received by readers and critics alike. Her stories have been published in several anthologies and she has collaborated on articles in magazines and various print media. La *última cabaña* is her most recent novel.

### **The Last Cabin** La última cabaña

They call him Escolta (Escort). Carrying the mark of Cain and with a broken heart, he settles in a cabin on the outskirts of a mountain village. His intention is to let himself go, meekly, until the end of his days. In a process of controlled self-destruction, he begins to use the books that had always kept him company as fuel, and with this he ignites a voice that screams all his possible rage, oneliness and despair. This is his diary: a few notebooks written over several months in which he stacks his ghosts up on a pyre and sets them on fire so as not to abandon them to the future. But above all it is the chronicle of a healing, of an instinctive search for happiness.

*La última cabaña* is a raw, naked story in its sincerity, narrated by a voice of overwhelming force. A novel about loneliness and wild living by the winner of Jaen Novel Award 2014.

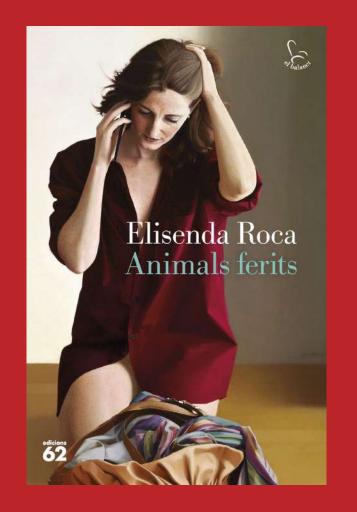
«With absolutely stunning writing, Yolanda Regidor tells us how to get out of the abyss word by word».

Rosa Montero

*«La última cabaña* is a novel full of intensity, mystery and abysses. A trip to the hiding places and enigmas of the past, where there is love and there is still throbbing violence. A story with quicksand, where a first-person voice reveals a way of living and feeling that will not leave the reader indifferent».

Manuel Vilas, author of international bestseller Ordesa

extra praise for La última cabaña



Catalan – Edicions 62, 2022 Spain – Planeta, 2022 240 pages

Contemporary fiction, divorce, toxic relatioship, mother-daughter relationship, strong female characters.

**Elisenda Roca** (Barcelona, 1963) is a journalist, writer and theatre director. She has published eight children's stories, an album illustrated by Guridi, two novels for young adults, two pop-up albums, one with Paula Bonet and one with Jordi Vila Delclòs, and an educational book on conception, pregnancy and postpartum with Dr. Carlota Basil. She has won numerous awards for her outstanding professional career, and now publishes her first novel for adults, *Animals ferits*.

### **Wounded Animals** Animals ferits

A group of strangers wounded by a weighty past. A life of second chances ahead. A farmhouse in the middle of the woods as a pause for reflection.

Along with her elderly mother, Nora faces a divorce after a long toxic marriage. With the help of her friends, she tries to rid herself of everything that has kept her trapped in a lie for fifteen years. Daniel and his children also have an irreversible and tragic loss to face. As does Anna, Nora's mother, who, disorientated, is facing the first serious symptoms of memory loss. A farmhouse in the middle of the woods, where Nora's mother was happy when she was young, becomes the refuge for the members of this strange new family, who will live together under the same roof for a few months.

During this coexistence, they share confidences and each in their own way, from the youngest to the oldest, try to reposition the past, and rebuild the energy that will allow them to get out of this impasse, find their direction and rebuild their lives.

Elisenda Roca's first adult novel. An intimate bestelling story about love, forgiveness and new beginnins.

«Roca's wounded animals are mirrors. Their conflicts are human and realistic, full of truth, but also of hope. Here is a novel that finds beauty in the characters' broken pieces and offers us the certainty that the more visible the scars are, the less painful. The past is a privilege, writes the author. We just have to decide when the first chapter begins...».

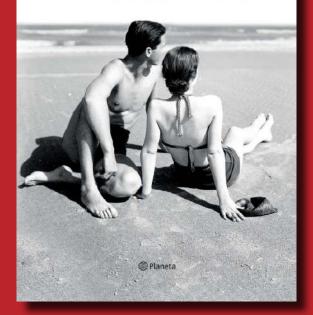
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SILVIA BASTOS Agencia Literaria

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### NADIE ME HABLÓ DE TI LAURA ANGUERA



Spain – Planeta, 2022 Catalan – Columna, 2022 656 pages

Upmarket women's fiction, contemporary novel, Barcelona 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Family secrets, Strong female characters, Generational saga, Costa Brava, Catalan bourgeoisie.

**Laura Anguera** (Barcelona, 1966) graduated in Law and completed an MBA at IESE. She has worked, among other positions, as the legal director of one of the most famous soccer clubs in the world, and is currently part of a well-known audio-visual group. Her personal experience when the housing bubble burst led her to write her literary debut, *BOOM*, which she now follows with the fascinating *Nadie me habló de ti*.

### **Nobody Told Me About You** Nadie me habló de ti

Carolina's life is no longer perfect: the divorce, the constant fights with her daughter, and now the inminent death of her father, the last representative of a saga of the Catalan upper bourgeoisie. Her mother abandoned them when Carolina was a child, and the only thing she knows about her is her absence. But an unexpected discovery leads her to Gabriel, her mother's lover and perhaps her murderer too. Through him she will learn about that indomitable young woman who resisted becoming an irreproachable bourgeois wife –an encounter that will make Carolina rethink her own life.

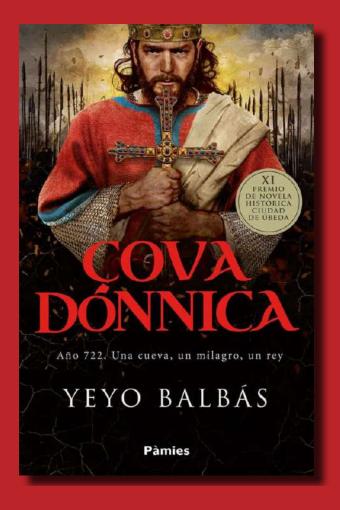
A portrait of the 1960s where the last gala balls and the first rock concerts converge, settled in from a breath-taking Costa Brava, to a unknown Barceloneta. a beautiful scenario touched by the rigidity of the upper class and the dreams of the working-class neighborhoods, and in which characters like Liz Taylor, the Sírex and Simone de Beauvoir pop up.

Three generations of beautifully well-outlined female characters that struggle to find their place in a transitional world.

«Nadie me habló de ti, the second novel by Laura Anguera, offers an intimate and historical journey in the form of a retrospective: from present-day Barcelona we travel to the city in the sixties, to S'Agaró and other areas of the Catalan coast; we discover the visits of movie stars and the musical explosion, the growth of newspapers and publishing houses or the opening of mythical places in a city that wanted to open up to the world. [...] Laura Anguera does so through the character of Carolina, but above all, through the generation before and after her: her missing mother, Elena, and her rebellious daughter, Ariana. The desire to be authentic, to not have to follow the rules, to be free, to be able to think and feel for themselves, collides against what people will say, the rigidity of the family, of a husband who controls you, of a mother or father who decides for you».

La Vanguardia





Spain – Pàmies, 2022 416 pages

#### Premio Novela Histórica Ciudad de Úbeda 2022

Historical fiction, Spain Middle Ages, Al-Andalus.

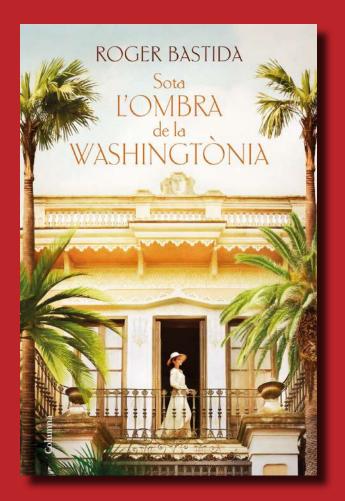
**Yeyo Balbás** (Torrelavega, 1972) published his first novel, *Pax Romana*, in 2011, after which came *Pan y circo* (2013). In 2019 he published *El reino imposible*, set in the Middle Ages. He has been a regular contributor to the prestigious history magazine *Desperta Ferro*, where he also has published the non-fiction history title *Espada*, *hambre y cautiverio*. For his latest novel, *Cova Dónnica*, he has been awarded the Premio de Novela Histórica Ciudad de Úbeda 2022.

### **Cova Donnica** Cova Dónnica

Year 717. Fruela, son of the Duke of Cantabria, goes to Cordoba as a hostage. There he meets Pelayo, another Visigoth nobleman, and between the two, they plan the rebellion of the north. Al-Hurr, the new governor of Al-Andalus, prepares to annihilate the last pockets of resistance in the Visigoth kingdom. The Muslim conquest is about to be consummated under the ruthless tutelage of Oppas, the Metropolitan Bishop of Toledo, and the main Hispano-Gothic lineages must send hostages to Corduba. Fruela, son of Pedro, the Duke of Cantabria, goes to the capital of al-Andalus to guarantee the loyalty of his people. However, his true purpose is to meet Pelayo, an Asturian nobleman, a former guardsman of King Rodrigo, to deliver a letter that will unleash a rebellion in the northern mountains.

At the same time, on the other side of the Mediterranean, the Byzantine Empire is fighting for its survival. The Saracens have assembled the largest army since Xerxes crossed the Hellespont to invade Greece twelve centuries before. Eighteen hundred warships and one hundred and twenty thousand muqātila advance, like a tide of fire, towards Constantinople, and nothing seems to stop them.

Yeyo Balbás immerses us in a fast-paced narrative set at a crucial moment in history. One in which only the courage and tenacity of a few managed to halt an empire that seemed unstoppable.



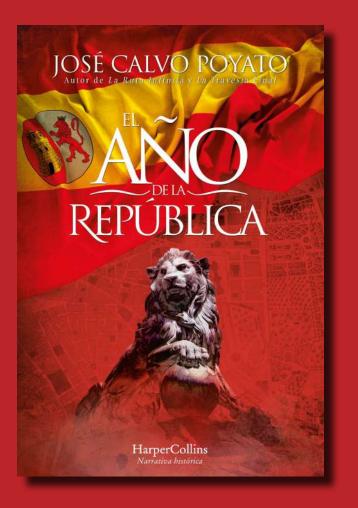
Catalan – Columna, 2023 352 pages

Historical fiction, commercial fiction, bourgeoisie, modernism, Barcelona 20<sup>th</sup> Century, family saga, textile industrial colony.

**Roger Bastida** (Hospitalet de Llobregat, 1990) is a graduate in History of Art and has a master's degree in Cultural Heritage Management and another in Teacher Training. He is the author of *La mirada de la sargantana* (2017), *La larga revetlla* (2020) and most recently *Sota l'ombra de la washingtònia* (2023).

### **Under the Shadow of the Washingtonia** Sota l'ombra de la washingtònia

Barcelona, 1920: according to the statistics, this was the year with the most assassination attempts on factory owners. The Arboix family, owners of a notable textile industrial colony, decided to retreat to their summer house in l'Hospitalet to escape the dangers of the big city. In this atmosphere, laden with family memories, Cecília, the daughter of the house, begins to investigate the secrets of her ancestors' home. A Modernist house, an exotic garden, a mystery to be solved. A captivating evocation of a bygone era and a striking reflection of the weight of a surname. A courageous and necessary game of mirrors between two dark episodes linked to the Catalan bourgeoisie: the gun violence of the early twenties and the Atlantic slave trade.



Spain – Harper Collins Ibérica, 2022 640 pages

Historical fiction, Spain 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Carlism, Cuban wars, mystery.

**José Calvo Poyato** (Cabra, 1951) is one of the bestknown and most acclaimed Spanish authors of historical novels, with more than 20 novels published – several of them translated– as well as other historical non-fiction books. With his thriller *La orden Negra* he was a finalist for the Premio de Novela Ciudad de Torrevieja, after which he wrote several historical fiction titles set in various periods, with which he became one of the most outstanding novelists of historical fiction in Spanish.

### **The Year of the Republic** El año de la República

Madrid, February 1873. King Amadeo abdicates and the Republic is proclaimed in Spain. In those days, Fernando Besora, director of the newspaper La Iberia, receives a mysterious young man, Alonso Figueroa, who proposes to investigate the disappearance of two valuable books from the National Library. His investigations will lead him on the trail of an enigmatic woman related to a subject who has appeared hanged in an attic on Calle de la Luna. The political life of Madrid is agitated by the threat of a coup d'état, the differences between the Republicans themselves and the news of the Carlist and Cuba wars. In the Congress of Deputies, Besora will be a witness to heated debates, splendid speeches and striking situations in which prominent personalities of the time participate. Thus, through these pages we also get to know the Madrid of tertulias or artistic salons in cafés, with writers such as Galdós, Valera, Zorrilla and Mesonero Romanos, with politicians such as Cánovas del Castillo and Morayta, and with painters such as Casado del Alisal.

With *El año de la República*, José Calvo Poyato returns to one of the most attractive and convulsive periods of the Spanish past with a powerful historical novel seasoned with detective intrigue, while immersing us in environments typical of the time such as bullfights, *tertulias*, taverns, spas, duels, society parties, train and coach trips, bookshops and street riots.







Commercial women's fiction, family saga, strong female characters.

**Lola Fernández Pazos** (Madrid, 1969) has a degree in information sciences and a Master's in Economic Information from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and has worked as an economics journalist for different media outlets. She has also been Director of Communication at the Spanish national market and competition commission on telecommunications and other agencies. *El pazo de Lourizán* is her first novel, inspired by the history of her own family.

### **The Manor House of Lourizán** El pazo de Lourizán

A majestic setting that hides the secret silenced for years by a powerful Galician industrial saga. A moving novel inspired by real events that unravels the difficulty of revealing the almost inexplicable. Lúa, a little six-year-old girl, watches how strange envelopes with red and blue borders arrive at her house every Christmas. She innocently asks where they come from, but her mother refuses to answer. Little by little, she realizes that her anodyne life, at the time of the Spanish transition, hides secrets that no one has ever revealed. Her father appears dressed in a suit in a photo with another woman who is not her mother. They call her grandmother "godmother". Her surnames do not match those of her cousins. When Lúa finds out, as an adult, that those envelopes come from London, she will end up reconstructing the mysterious family history, which goes back to a love story from the beginning of the 20th century in the manor house of Lourizán between the eldest son of the Carballo family, a wealthy and powerful local family, and Xoana, a fishmonger at the Marín fish market.



Spain – Almuzara, 2022 368 pages

Thriller, suspense, contemporary crime, female detective.

**Salvador Gutiérrez Solís** (Córdoba, 1968) published *La novela del novelista Malaleche* in 1999, which was finalist for the National Critics Award. In 2005 he published *El sentimiento cautivo*, shortlisted for the Fernando Lara Novel Prize and for the Andalusia of the Critic. He is also the author of the biography *Barnaby Conrad, una pasión española.* Among his novels, special mention can be made to *El orden de la memoria* (2009) or *El escalador congelado* (2012). In 2016 he published *Los amantes anónimos*, first title in the crime trilogy starring inspector Carmen Puerto, that closes with *Solo vive quien muere*.

#### Only Those Who Die Live

Solo vive quien muere

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. On the last day of lockdown for the Covid19 pandemic, inspector Carmen Puerto immerses herself, in the most unexpected and unwanted way, in a case that will mark her professional career. A spectral and silent Seville provides the unusual backdrop. A series of murders that tormented her years ago, and that she was unable to solve, suddenly return to the present. On this occasion, the inspector, accompanied by the inseparable Jaime Cuesta and Julia Núñez, stars in a story dominated by unforeseen turns and her reunion with her most feared past.

Solo vive quien muere closes a circle that began with Los amantes anónimos and continued with El lenguaje de las mareas, titles that are already classics in Hispanic noir genre. Carmen Puerto, faithful to her peculiar working methods, will have to face, in the most adverse conditions, the most ruthless and methodical assassin that she has ever known before.

«Noir novel of great quality».

ABC

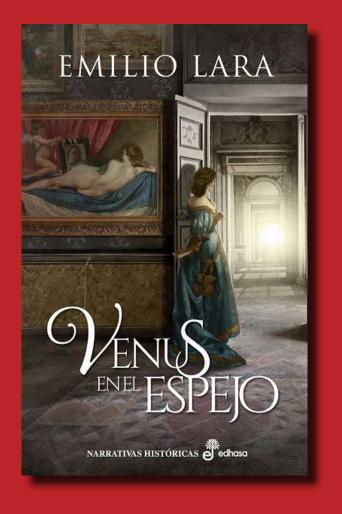
«A fast-paced thriller that stretches the limits of the genre».

Cuadernos del Sur

«A disturbing portrait of evil».

El Cultural





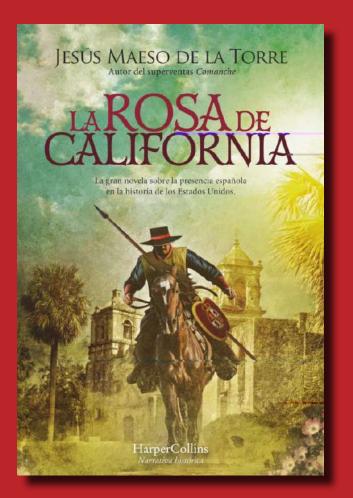
Spain – Edhasa, 2023 384 pages

Historical fiction, 17<sup>th</sup> Century, Olimpia Maidalchini, Velázquez, Philip the IV, intrigue, art, true events.

**Emilio Lara** (Jaén, 1968) is a doctor of anthropology and a professor of geography and history. He has published several history books and dozens of articles in university journals and research centers in Spain, Italy and France. He has participated in the creation of the **Royal Academy of History's Spanish Biographical Dictionary**. He has also been recognized with several awards in literature, history and journalism. He is the author of the historical novels *La cofradía de la Armada Invencible* (2016), *El relojero de la Puerta del Sol* (2017), which won the Premio de la Crítica de Andalucía and the Premio de Novela Histórica Ciudad de Cartagena, *Tiempos de esperanza*, winner of the Premio Edhasa Narrativas Históricas (2019), *Centinela de los sueños* (2021) and *Venus en el espejo* (2023).

### **Venus in the Mirror** Venus en el espejo

Contrary to the norms of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, intelligent and determined, Olimpia leaves the convent where she has been imprisoned against her will to take charge of her life - and govern the destiny of others. She achieves wealth and fame, and with them she protects poor women and prostitutes, commissions majestic works of art and even helps elect a Pope. In the Rome of the time, Olimpia Maidalchini pulls strings and seizes enormous power, controlling the Vatican and earning the enmity of the clergy. Diego de Velázquez travels to that same Rome as the ambassador of Felipe IV. He does so in search of great works of art for his monarch, and he also finds inspiration and love in the model of one of his most famous paintings. In the background, a popular revolution, carnival, luxurious parties and the art of Bernini, all under the canopy of an Eternal City that is living moments of splendor.



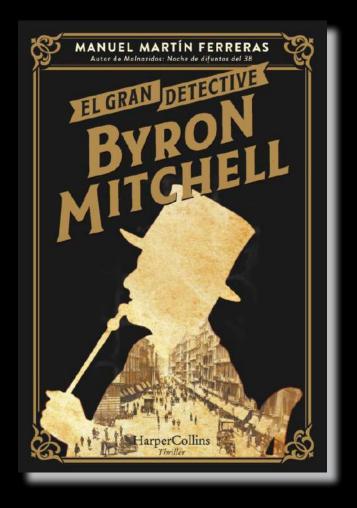
Spain – HarperCollins Ibérica, 2022 416 pages

Fiction: Historical novel, North American-Spanish History, New Mexico, California, 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Jesús Maeso de la Torre** (Úbeda, 1949) is one of the most outstanding authors of the Spanish historical narrative. He is the author of a vast work with classic titles such as *Al Gazal, el viajero de los dos orientes; El Papa Luna; Tartessos* or *El auriga de Hispania.* After *La profecía del Corán* and *El lazo purpura de Jerusalén,* he was the winner of the II Premio de Novela Caja Granada with *La cúpula del mundo,* after which followed several extraordinary historical novels, such as *Las lágrimas de Julio César, Comanche,* or *Teodora.* 

### **The California Rose** La rosa de California

After the great success of his novel Comanche, Jesús Maeso de la Torre returns to New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Montana, Mississippi and California, which belonged for three centuries to the Spanish Empire. He relives the dragoons' raids on the Indians, life in the missions and the great effort that the Spanish Crown made to maintain its influence in the southwestern United States. Year 1781, mission of San Gabriel, California. Father Prior, Fray Daniel Cepeda, alarmed by the wave of assaults by the Yuma Indians (whose unequivocal and cruel signature is to nail the remains of their victims with thorns from the bush known as "California rose"), writes to the governor and captain general don Felipe de Neve, requesting the protection of the dragoons of his majesty the king. The indomitable Yuma warriors, including the young Solitary Moon, are increasingly fearsome in their raids. If before their target had been the Comanches, now they are the whites and especially, the Hispanic missions. But now they must face the troops of the dragoon captain Martín de Arellano, known thanks to his many feats, throughout the Viceroyalty of New Spain as the Great Captain.





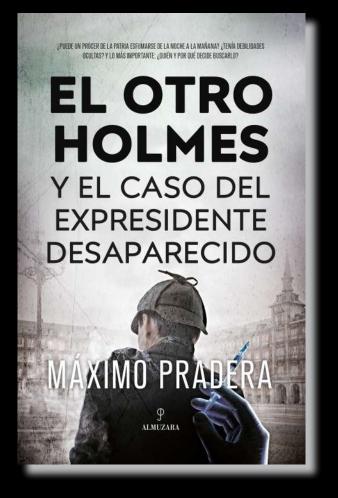
Fiction: Detective historical novel. Barcelona 19th Century.

**Manuel Martín Ferreras** (Zamora, 1973) grew up on the outskirts of Barcelona between novels, comics, movies and too much television. His fondness for history and subgenres of fiction led him to write his first novel about a zombie experiment in the Spanish Civil War, which has recently been made into a successful critically acclaimed film. His turn to detective stories in his second novel, El gran detective Byron Mitchell, is another step in his intention to rewrite all those stories that made him daydream during his childhood and adolescence.

### **The Great Detective Byron Mitchell** El gran detective Byron Mitchell

Barcelona, 1901. The great detective Byron Mitchell is forced to come out of retirement to investigate the murder of Ramón Calafell, the lawyer for the bourgeois family that rents him an apartment on the luxurious Paseo de Gracia. In bustling modernist Barcelona, Byron travels between businessmen with a dubious past, daughters of the bourgeoisie hiding enigmas, artists with no future and gunmen imported from the Far West. He navigates a labyrinth of lies and concealments while trying to keep his own secrets safe: those that could bring him the worst fate.

Manuel Martín Ferreras paid tribute in his first novel (*Noche de difuntos del 38*, adapted to the cinema with the title of *Malnazidos*) to the adventure and horror films that marked his childhood back in the 80s. Now he pays homage to another of his favorite genres: the plot of detectives and murders with a wide cast of suspects. The classic "Who done it?". With this in mind, he tells us about the adventures of Byron Mitchell, a detective student of a Hercule Poirot who pretends to be a Sherlock Holmes while, in reality, he investigates walking the streets like any Philip Marlowe.



Spain – Almuzara, 2023

224 pages

Fiction: Detective novel, mistery comedy, Sherlock Holmes parody.

Máximo Pradera (Madrid, 1958). After studying Philology and Journalism, he joined the early music group Atrium Musicae. Later, he founded the radio team LoQueYoTeDiga. He has been a scriptwriter for successful television shows, and for six years he presented the daily magazine Lo + Plus, which won the Ondas Award for the most innovative show in 1996. He has directed the classical music show, Ciclos, at Sinfo Radio for eight years. He has written, among others, the books Este burdel no es una ópera, Tócala otra vez, Bach and Madrid Confidencial. Under the pseudonym Joseph Gelinek, he has published the musical mystery thrillers El violín del diablo, La décima sinfonía, Morir a los 27 and Las dos muertes de Mozart. El hombre que fue Sherlock Holmes won the 2020 Jaén Novel Prize, and after Están tocando nuestra canción (2022), his most recent novel is *El otro Holmes y el caso del* expresidente desaparecido (2023).

### The Other Holmes and the Case of the Missing Former President El otro Holmes y el caso de expresidente desaparecido

A brilliant chemist, on sick leave due to depression, has lost his mind from reading the adventures of Sherlock Holmes so much and has convinced himself that he is the famous Victorian detective. One fine morning, the former mayor of Madrid, Ana Botella, contacts him to request his services: the former president Aznar has disappeared and she does not want to notify the police, for reasons that she will reveal to him in a private conversation. The "fake" Watson tries to convince the "fake" Holmes not to accept the assignment, as he defends that Aznar is a toxic figure in Spanish society and it is better that he has vanished forever. The case, however, seems tailor-made for the Spanish Holmes: it is apparently simple, but it is full of those details that put his deductive abilities to the test. But as he goes deeper into the investigation, the other Holmes finds himself faced with a mystery that challenges even his astonishing detective skills, forcing him to enlist the help of a mind even more enlightened than his own: that of his brother, Mycroft Holmes. The final outcome will leave the reader as stupefied as that of his first adventure, El hombre que fue Sherlock Holmes, awarded in 2020 with the Jaén Novel Prize.

«A sophisticated, imaginative and hilarious literary pastiche». Miqui Otero

«This book raises our self-esteem, smiling. It injects us with confidence even in the always delicate social relationships».

Jordi García Soler, El País

«Highly entertaining novel».

Jacinto Antón

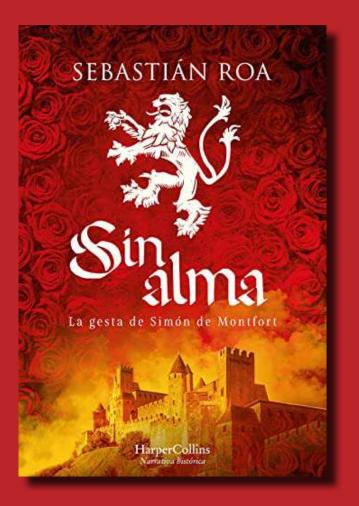
«I simply loved the novel by Máximo Pradera».

Nuria Torreblanca

«Magnificent novel by Max Pradera».

Círculo Homes





Spain – HarperCollins Ibérica, 2022 624 pages

Historical novel, Middle Ages, Simon de Montfort, true events.

**Sebastián Roa** (1968) combines his work in the public sector with writing. In 2010 he received the Hislibris Prize for the best Spanish author of historical novels. He is the author of the novels *Casus Belli, El caballero del alba, Venganza de sangre* (winner of the 2009 Comarca Cinca Medio Historical Novel Competition), *La loba de al-Ándalus, El ejército de Dios, Las cadenas del destino* (Cerros de Úbeda Prize in the International Historical Novel Competition for the best published novel), *Enemigos de Esparta* and *Nemesis. Sin alma* is his latest title.

#### Without Soul. The Deed of Simon de Montfort

Sin alma. La gesta de Simón de Montfort

1206. After three years in a Syrian desert dungeon, Simon de Montfort returns to Normandy. But the price for freedom was to renounce of his own soul, the commissioning of a horrible act whose consequences will haunt him. Back home, Simon navigates a changing and tempting world, until he is reunited with his chaste wife, Alix de Montmorency, and a home that no longer feels like his own. Bad fortune and his fall from grace at the gates of a war between France and England sink Simon and Alix deeper every day.

But his destiny is not to disappear from history, but to shine in the fight against heresy. Thus, the search for redemption will take them from Normandy to the south of France, to a land plagued by chaos, violence and religious rupture. To a divided society, sown with so much hatred that a bountiful harvest of pain and death is expected. To a war in which Simon de Montfort will even face a king.

Simon de Montfort is a medieval example of a great warrior and an effective commander, with a brilliant military career. Despite having been branded fanatical and bloodthirsty. Sebastián Roa wonders, however, who Simón de Montfort really was, what internal motivations there could have been for his reviled acts.





Galician – Xerais, 2022 Spain – Contraluz, 2023 Catalan – Contraluz, 2023 336 pages

#### Premio Xerais 2022

Contemporary fiction, women's fiction, intrigue, family secrets.

**María Solar** (Santiago de Compostela, 1970) is a writer and journalist. She is currently the arts coordinator at the Radio Television Corporation of Galicia, as well as the hostess of a successful arts programme on television. She is the author of various literary works for children and adults, originally written in Galician and translated into several languages, such as *A verdadera historia da mosca de tele* (2012), *As meigas de Lupa* (2012), *Teño uns pés perfectos* (2015) or *Os nenos da varíola* (2017). After publishing *As horas roubadas* with Xerais in 2016, in 2022, she was recognised with the Premio Xerais de Novela for *La culpa*, which has been translated in Spanish and Catalan.

#### The Guilt

La culpa

Every six months, on the dot, the employees of a small branch of a bank receive an unpleasant visit from a miserable-looking woman with an unbearable body stench, who controls her millionaire accounts down to the smallest detail. Amanda, a new employee in the office, attends to her only once. A month after that meeting, Mrs. Gondar passes away and Amanda inherits everything. This is how, together with her journalist boyfriend, Enric, Amanda decides to start an investigation into the identity of the old woman, discovering the life story that united for life two powerful women: the terrible secrets that devour them, the guilt that haunts them and the toxic relationship that culminates in a disturbing ending. Amanda has not only inherited a fortune, she has also inherited the guilt.







#### María Soto El ladrón de veranos



Spain – Destino, 2023 640 pages

Upmarket fiction, period crime novel. 1930s, escapism fiction.

**María Soto** (Madrid, 1973) studied Journalism at the Universidad Complutense and took a postgraduate degree in Modern History at the Universidad de Cádiz. She has worked as a journalist and literary translator, and in 2014 she published a collaborative work, *Corona de damas*, under a pseudonym, a thriller with a historical setting. *El ladrón de veranos* is her first solo novel.

### **The Summer Thief** El ladrón de veranos

Summer 1935. Clara is eleven years old and has met the most fascinating man in the world: Roberto Montenegro, painter and aristocrat, who has just arrived in Deauville, the extravagant and frivolous capital of the Normandy coast where princes and millionaires meet. Little is known of his past and his fortune has uncertain origins, although rumors speak of stolen works of art and gamblers in casinos. The only one who knows his youthful secrets is Gabriel Caron, Clara's uncle, but he keeps them silent, faithful to a friendship pact established between the two men fifteen years earlier. However, when Clara finds the corpse of the painter, murdered during a party, everything Montenegro was hiding gradually begins to be revealed. The discovery of a highly valuable canvas by Velázquez, in which the Sevillian master portrayed his lover Flaminia Triunfi, may hide the key to what happened.

An addictive puzzle set on the glamorous French coast of the 1930s positions María Soto as the new master of escapist fiction.

### óscar soto colás ROJO VENECIANO



Spain – Espasa, 2023 584 pages

Historical novel, woman painter story, 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Óscar Soto** (Villamediana de Iregua, 1973) won the Premio Círculo de Lectores in 2017 with his first novel, *El Diablo en Florencia.* Translator from English and columnist on science, video games and technology, he published his second novel, *La sangre de la tierra*, in 2019. Founder and president of the Rioja Writers Association, his latest title is *Rojo veneciano*.

#### Venetian Red

Rojo Veneciano

Valladolid, 1620. Martin de Castro is a painter of saints whose wife dies giving birth to their beloved daughter, Juana. From a very young age, the girl demonstrates a prodigious talent for painting. As a teenager, two events occur that will change her previously placid life: Martín is seduced by an intriguing woman who ends up becoming her stepmother and she, in turn, begins an intense relationship with Francisco Peña, her father's best apprentice. This is how this intense, baroque and fascinating novel begins. In it, the author has unleashed his narrative talent to recreate the life of a woman who has to perform her art in hiding, thus refusing to accept a destiny imposed by others. A life full of rebellion and full of experiences that bring the fascinating seventeenth century to the present. From the Venice of the doges to the Rome of the popes, via the Madrid of the Habsburgs and the severe Valladolid, Juana will know first-hand the artistic environment of her time and historical figures such as Diego Velázquez himself and Felipe IV.

A superb portrait of the power of art, love and rebellion against imposed destiny.





Spain – Plaza & Janés, 2023

272 pages

Contemporary fiction, urban women's fiction.

**Sònia Valiente** (Valencia, 1975) is a journalist, graduated in Advertising and doctor cum laude in Communication. She has spent her career both in agencies and in the communication media, as well as being a columnist for *Las Provincias*. The author of several marketing and outreach books, *Veintitrés fotografías* is her first novel.

### **Twenty-three Photographs** Veintitrés fotografias

Sol is a 38-year-old publicist in the middle of a work and sentimental crisis. One day, on impulse, she buys an analogue camera in the Madrid flea market. When she develops the reel, she discovers twenty-three photographs showing a couple's wedding. Sensing a call from the past, she becomes obsessed with the newlyweds and a mysterious man who stands out among the guests. When she decides to investigate them further, several questions arise: Who are the people behind these those photos? Where are they now? Are they still alive? Sol still doesn't know that the story contained in those snapshots will completely explode her life.

An exiciting debut in which Sònia Valiente's skill and narrative talent have created an ensemble story that combines love and intrigue with a revealing message: the search for truth is the search for oneself.

«An ingenious and vibrant debut that pulses with life between your fingers and with which many people will feel identified».

Rosa Montero

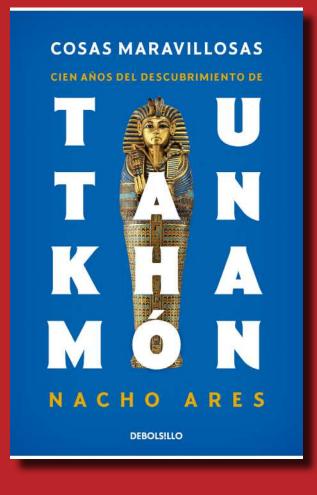
«All love stories should have a song, a movie and a book. And this one has them».

Máximo Huerta



SILVIA BASTOS Agencia Literaria

pontion of



Spain – Debolsillo, 2022 464 pages

Non-fiction, popular archaeology, Tutankhamun, ancient Egypt.

**Nacho Ares** (León, 1970) graduated in Ancient History at the Universidad de Valladolid, and has spent his time researching and popularizing historical enigmas related to ancient Egypt. He was the director of the prestigious magazine *Revista de Arquelogía* and SER Historia, and is the author of different titles about Egypt and other periods of History, both non-fiction titles and novels, such as *La tumba perdida* (2012) or *La hija del sol* (2017).

#### Marvellous Things: One Hundred Years since the Discovery of Tutankhamun

Cosas maravillosas: cien años del descubrimiento de Tutankhamon

Tutankhamun's treasure is one of the most fascinating topics in Egyptology, but the biography of those who brought to light the incredible world of ancient Egypt is not far behind. *Cosas maravillosas* not only talk about the Child Pharaoh and the context in which he lived, but also about the greatest archaeological enterprise of all time: the expedition that culminated in the discovery of his intact tomb on November 4th, 1922 thanks to Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon. At that time, the science of Egyptology was barely a century old, and faced a historical challenge of enormous complexity. Here we relive the incomparable adventure that combined political interests, problems of conscience and great scientific advances.

«Nacho Ares brilliantly brings us the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by the hand of Howard Carter, the best archaeologist of his time. The conservation work Carter did over ten years on Tutankhamun's tomb was extraordinary».

> Zahi Hawass, Egyptologist and former Egyptian Minister of Antiquities





Spain – Espasa, 2022 240 pages

Non-fiction, 20<sup>th</sup> Century history, women's history post-Spanish Civil War, exile.

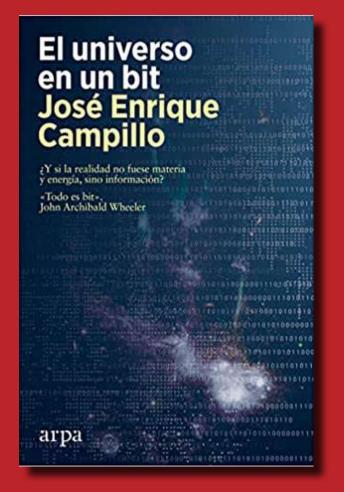
**Tània Balló** (Barcelona, 1977) is a film producer and director. In addition to a solid and recognized career as a filmmaker, she is the author of several books, including *Las Sinsombrero* (2016) and *Ocultas e impecables* (2018), a trilogy that she now completes with *No quiero olvidar* todo lo que sé.

### **I Don't Want to Forget Everything I Know** No quiero olvidar todo lo que sé

In her third book on "the Sinsombrero". Tània Balló explores the personal struggle and professional sacrifice that exile meant for this group of artists. The author proposes a different approach to that forced exile about which so much has been written, but almost always from a male perspective. Through six chapters, the book describes the common, physical and emotional spaces that this group of women inhabited during the long years of exile. We accompany them from their flight from Spain, in the throes of the Civil War; we witness their arrival in the countries that welcomed them and their establishment, always difficult, in foreign lands where a struggle for survival was imposed on them that, in many cases, cut off their artistic yearnings, but never their abilities or their longing for Spain. Last but not least, from a position of greater maturity as a researcher and writer, after several years dedicated to the Sinsombrero, Tània Balló includes in these pages the contemporary experience lived in relation to this entire project.







Spain – Arpa, 2022 240 pages

Non fiction, popular science, future challenges.

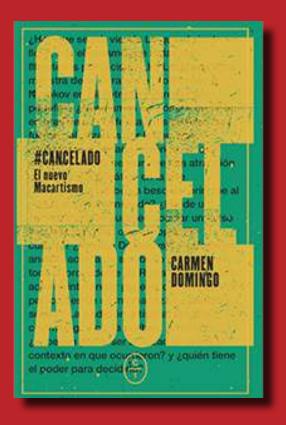
José Enrique Campillo (Cáceres, 1948) is a medical doctor specializing in nutrition and food. He received his doctorate in Medicine from the Universidad de Granada and has been Professor of Physiology at the Universidad de Extremadura. His research work has been developed through the study of various aspects related to diabetes, human nutrition and physical exercise. He received the National Research Award 1989 and is member of numerous Spanish and European scientific societies, such as the European Association for the Study of Diabetes. As a writer, he has published numerous books, including a novel, El elixir del fin del mundo (2010), and various essays that have made him a benchmark in the popularisation of science in Spanish, such as El mono obeso and El mono estresado, Comer sano para vivir más y mejor, Homo climaticus and La consciencia humana. El *universo en un bit* is his latest book.

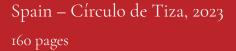
#### The Universe in a Bit

El universo en un bit

The primordial substance of the universe, the one that shapes everything we are and know and manifests itself through energy, matter, space and time, is nothing more than encoded information. Bits.

This book is an exciting introduction to that hidden language of reality. In it, José Enrique Campillo presents and develops, in an accessible way, the arguments that prove that information is the origin and the instruction manual of all the elements that make up reality, life and consciousness. Everything is information, or, as the eminent American theoretical physicist John Archibal Wheeler put it: "Everything is bit."





Non-fiction: Contemporary essay, cancellation culture, philosophical and social issues.

**Carmen Domingo** (Barcelona, 1970) has a degree in Hispanic Philology from the University of Barcelona and regularly collaborates with different media outlets, such as *El País*, as well as being a lecturer and teaching. Specialized in the study of feminist movements, her work is focused on different female roles throughout history. Some of the books she has written are *Con voz y voto*. *Mujer y política en España entre 1931 y 1945* (2004), *Nosotras también hicimos la guerra* (2006), *Los secretos de alcoba de las geishas* (2006), *Coser y cantar* (2007), *Mi querida hija Hildegart* (2008), *Conversaciones de alcoba* (2009), *La Fuga* (2011), *De Fukushima a Corfú* (2014), and *Gala – Dalí* (2016).

### **Cancelled. The New McCarthyism** Cancelado. El nuevo Macartismo

Questioning the right to express an opinion in the 21st century and assuming that one part of the population believes they have the right to silence another is dangerous. Dialogue, even between opposing positions, is the basis of any democratic coexistence, yet something that seems to be being forgotten in a social and cultural environment in which absolute truths abound. Can we continue to watch Gone with the Wind, or do we remove it from film libraries for being racist? Is Lolita a masterpiece or do we ban Nabokov for being a pedophile? Do we burn Tintin comics to show solidarity with those who were colonized? Does Dostoevsky's work deserve to be analyzed or do we censor everything that comes from Russia? Do we stop reading The Adventures of Tom Sawyer because it uses the word 'negro', despite the fact that Twain was an advocate of racial equality? Should artistic, literary and cinematographic traditions, politics, history... be analyzed in their context? And who has the power to decide? Choosing between freedom of expression, creativity and censorship is very risky. As is accepting who can establish the criteria, which are today managed by that nameless power of social networks.

«In this incisive essay, Carmen Domingo reviews the paths that have led us to change political reality for a sentimental mirage, and astutely detects the trap of the new moralism that threatens human creativity».

#### Carolina Sanín

«The most reactionary thoughts have been disguised as the most progressive thoughts and are imposing censorship and puritanism. Carmen Domingo removes the disguise in this book and reveals why we are heading towards a social dystopia and why it is necessary to say enough to the new tyrants of ideas».

José Errasti





Spain – Planeta, 2022 Pocket – Booket, 2023

384 pages

Non fiction, history of Spain in the Middle Ages.

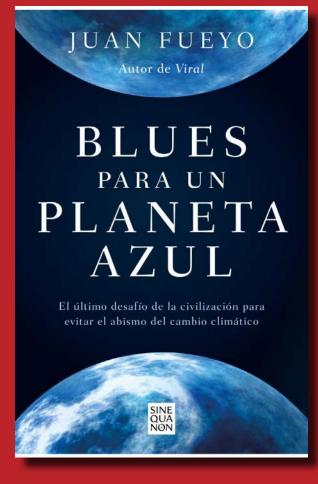
**Juan Eslava Galán** (Arjona, 1948) is one of the most celebrated Spanish authors of historical novels and essays with more than eighty books published, some of them already considered classics, including the novel *En busca del unicornio*, awarded the **Premio Planeta** in 1987, *El comedido hidalgo*, winner of the Premio Ateneo de Sevilla in 1994, or *Señorita*, which won the Premio Fernando Lara in 1998 and the Premio de la Crítica Andaluza in the same year. He is currently considered one of the most relevant writers of popular history in Spanish.

# **The Reconquista Told for Sceptics** La Reconquista contada para escépticos

Year 711 AD. Muslims cross the Straits of Gibraltar and enter the Iberian Peninsula. In only a few years, they conquer the entire territory, which had until then remained under the influence of the Visigoth Kingdom of Toledo. Was it conquest or conversion? How was the birth of the Christian kingdoms conceived? In the years that follow, rebellions break out in Damascus; an independent caliphate is established on the peninsula; Cordoba rises and falls; and, in the north, kingdoms unite and divide in a slow but inexorable advance. With the chronicles of the time in hand and his unparalleled irony, Juan Eslava Galán reveals a new perspective on the most important – perhaps also for this reason, the most unknown – period in Spain's past.

A journey through the medieval history of Spain from the hand of the great popularizer of history that is Juan Eslava Galán, winner of Planeta Award.







Non-fiction: Popular science. Climate change. Crossed culture and science.

Juan Fueyo (Oviedo, 1957) is a Spanish-American scientist, who for the last 27 years, has been manipulating viruses to generate new cancer treatments at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. He is a tenured professor in the Department of Neuro-Oncology, an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology and a world leader in oncolytic virus therapy for malignant brain tumors. Viruses developed in his laboratory have been tested in clinical trials in the US, Canada, and Europe. He has published more than one hundred scientific papers in the official organs of the of Neurology, Society for Neuro-Oncology, American Association for Cancer Research, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Cancer Research UK, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and journals of the Science and Nature groups. His work has been highlighted in journals of the Nature group, Science Daily, The Times, Forbes, CNN, BBC, HBO, on other international news networks, and many radio and local television stations in the United States and Spain. He is also author of the non-fiction titles Exilios y odiseas (2017), Te dirán que es imposible (2019) and the best-seller Viral

### **Blues for a Blue Planet** Blues por un planeta azul

In his new book, with the informative and humanistic tone that characterizes him, the author of *Viral*, provides a guiding vision of science, medicine, virology and ecology in relation to climate change.

Using scientific data, interviews and anecdotes, Blues for a Blue Planet explores the history of climate science, previous extinctions, the close relationship between climate change and pandemics, even foreshadowing the consequences of climate change as a true epidemic of cancer, which will become a more frequent and lethal disease.

The last challenge of civilization to avoid the abyss of climate change.

«We need an educated society that understands what is at stake. The consequences for our health are real. Taking swift and ambitious action to reverse the climate crisis will bring many benefits, including for health. Perhaps this is the ultimate argument for accelerating action on climate change issues. It is important that we "get along" with the planet. In this absurd fight, the losers will always be us».

> María Neira, Director of Public Health and Environment of the WHO



Spain – Tusquets, 2023 352 pages

#### XXXV Premio Comillas

Non fiction, memoirs.

**Ian Gibson** (Dublin, 1939) is an internationally recognized Hispanist and, since 1984, a Spanish citizen. His most outstanding books include essential classics such as *Federico García Lorca; La vida desaforada de Salvador Dalí; Ligero de equipaje. La vida de Antonio Machado; Lorca y el mundo gay; Luis Buñuel. La forja de un cineasta universal, 1900-1938, and the novel La berlina de Prim (Premio Fernando Lara 2012). In 2019 he published Los últimos caminos de Antonio Machado. De Collioure a Sevilla, and his most recent book, Un carmen en Granada, has been awarded the XXXV Premio Comillas.* 

### A Carmen in Granada. Memoirs of a Dubliner Hispanist

Un carmen en Granada. Memorias de un hispanista dublinés

This the magnificent life story of one of the great biographers of Spanish culture. The author describes with unusual sincerity the life of a middle-class Irish family and honestly recounts both their early affective difficulties and the family demons that encircled their intimate relationships for years: jealousy, disagreements between a bitter mother and a father riddled with complexes, mistrust and a frustrating repression due to the Methodist religion. But in this daring personal and family portrait, there are no shortage of illuminated moments: childhood friendships, inspiring teachers, initial erotic adventures and a pure love for nature and the world of birds. After adolescence, the young Gibson discovered the literature of authors such as Federico García Lorca and Antonio Machado on his first trips to Spain, as well as the drama of the Civil War and the postwar period. Having fulfilled his dream of spending a season living in a carmen, a traditional walled house with a garden in Granada, Gibson's research as a biographer of those figures and of Buñuel and Dalí brilliantly culminates in this exciting memorial exercise, a milestone for someone who specializes in recounting the lives of others.



Spain – Anagrama, 2022 360 pages

Non-fiction: Literary cultural essay, psychology, contemporary sociology.

**Lola López Mondéjar** is a psychoanalyst, essayist and writer. She is a guest lecturer at different universities and Spanish and foreign psychoanalytic associations, as well as having published several essays and works of fiction. Among the latter, the novels *Mi amor desgraciado* (2010, shortlisted for the XXII Premio de Narrativa Torrente Ballester), *La primera vez que no te quiero* (2013), *Cada noche, cada noche* (2016) and the collections of short stories *El pensamiento mudo de los peces* (2008), *Lazos de sangre* (2012) and *Qué mundo tan maravilloso* (2018). She regularly collaborates with opinion articles in different media, and since 2014 she has run a face-to-face and online creative writing workshop.

### Invulnerable and Invertebrate. Anthropological Mutations of the Contemporary Subject

Invulnerables e invertebrados. Mutaciones antropológicas del sujeto contemporáneo

Each era produces specific conditions that represent it. If the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the century of hysteria and obsessional neurosis, the pathologies that define our time are depression, addictions, anxiety, anorexia and bulimia, bipolar disorder and obesity.

In this essay, the psychoanalyst Lola López Mondéjar analyses the strategies that the individual uses to survive the growing uncertainty, the anthropological mutations that afflict us and the concerns that derive from them, based on what she defines as "the fantasy of invulnerability": a particular narcissistic illusion that allows, as a defense, to take refuge in omnipotence and to deny fragility.

This psychic dynamic will result in apparently invulnerable but profoundly invertebrate beings, lacking any form of moral axis. Psychoanalytic theory, sociology, philosophy, cinema and literature, together with her own clinical experience, weave an analysis with which the author investigates some of the contemporary symptoms. Obesity, compulsive actions, love and heartbreak in the days of Tinder or the desperate search for identity today are examples of a hollow personality lacking in reflexivity, which prevents men and women from accessing a critical and creative subjectivity.

A brave and profound essay that studies how the postmodern subject expresses themselves in the age of hyperconnectivity, disaffection and individualism.





Spain – Páginas de Espuma, 2023 208 pages

#### Premio Málaga de Ensayo

Non-Fiction, architecture, contemporary life, essay.

**Santiago de Molina** is an architect and currently director of the Institute of Technology at Universidad San Pablo CEU. He has been visiting professor at ETSAM, UAH, ETSAB, at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, among others. In 2016 he received the Golden Lion from the XV Venice Architecture Biennale as part of the scientific committee. He has published the books *Todas las escaleras del mundo* (2022, COAM Prize), *Arquitectos al margen, Múltiples estrategias de arquitectura, Hambre de Arquitectura* and Collage y Arquitectura and his latest, *Arquitectura de las pequeñas cosas*, which has earned him the Premio Málaga de Ensayo.

## **Architecture of Small Things** Arquitectura de las pequeñas cosas

If traditionally the house, our home, loaded with mortgages and rooms, has been the most immediate habitat of the human being, the dizzying changes to which it has been subjected in recent times endow it with new and profound existential dimensions. What can the house and its rooms teach us? Faced with every tremor in the world, with every slightest social movement, the house allows us to listen to the rumor of time like a real seismograph. As a "great repository" where the technical or cultural remains of each era end up abandoned, the house still fulfils its duty. When the house struggles to be the center from which to rebuild intimacy and daily life, any virulent cataclysm reveals that its capacity of shelter remains intact. This is how in the daily house our identity as subjects resides.

The author delves into the space of the house and the everyday from its architecture, with an interdisciplinary, didactic and demystifying gaze, and explores the functions, limits and analysis of our most intimate scenery.



# JORDI SOLER LA RESQUEBRAJADURA

SIRUELA BIBLIOTECA DE ENSAVO

Spain – Siruela, 2023 176 pages

Non-fiction, literary essay.

Jordi Soler (Veracruz, Mexico, 1963) is one of the most important and prestigious Mexican authors of his generation, with novels such as Los rojos de ultramar (2004), the first title of his trilogy about the Spanish Civil War, followed by La última hora del último día (2007), La fiesta del oso (2009), El cuerpo eléctrico (2017) and Los rudimentos de la selva (2018). Translated into several languages, he is also the author of short stories, poems and essays such as his acclaimed and reissued Mapa secreto del bosque (2019). A well-known and respected radio broadcaster in his native country, he is a knight of the Order of the Finnegans, and a member of the National System of Art Creators of Mexico. After his unclassifiable essay La orilla celeste del agua (2021) and his incomparable novel Los hijos del volcán, he returns to the essay with La resquebrajadura (2023).

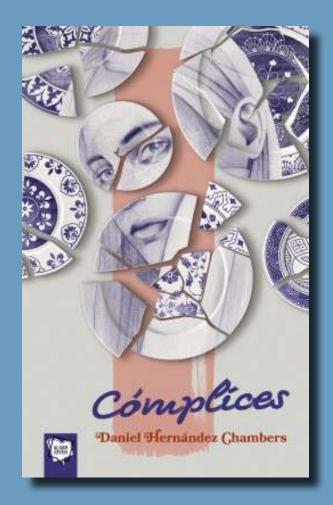
# **The Fissure** La resquebrajadura

"There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in," say the lyrics of a famous song. Perhaps, more than a crack, it is a chink, or even, a fissure, since that word suggests that something is broken without actually breaking; that this solid thing has a leak through which the darkness comes out so that a portion, even a minimal one, of light can enter. This Buddhist sounding idea that appears in the song "Anthem", by Leonard Cohen, tells us, on one hand, that total darkness does not exist and, on the other, that anything, no matter how solid it seems, always has a fissure through which it opens to the outside. This fissure that all things have, including people, serves as an entrance and an exit and, moreover, defines our imperfection. The perfection of a body would be imperceivable if it did not have a single counterpoint of imperfection. Just as darkness would be invisible without a particle of light.

The newest literary essay by Jordi Soler, author of Los hijos del volcán.

SILVIA BASTOS Agencia Literaria

aners



#### Accomplices

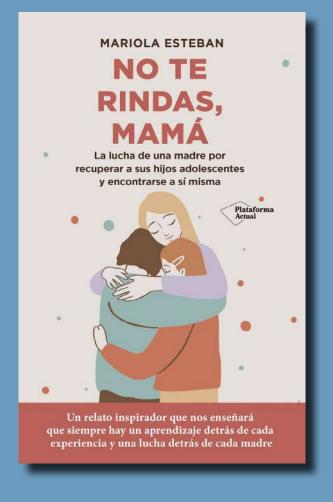
#### Cómplices

Everyone wonders about Sandra when she doesn't show up for class on Monday morning. Above all because Zeta doesn't go either, and his best friend, Yago, discovered them kissing the previous Saturday in the bar they used to frequent at weekends. Little by little, a shadow of doubt extends across Sandra's friends and family. Although at first Zeta does not respond to the messages, Yago finds a way to locate him and, thus, be able to face the truth of what has happened. With a lively, agile, and contemporary pace, this novel accurately reflects the difficulties experienced during adolescence and the ease with which we become accomplices in what we never wanted to happen.

Spain – Algar, 2022 132 pages

YA novel, contemporary suspense, high school relationships.

**Daniel Hernández Chambers** (Tenerife, 1972) graduated in English from the University of Alicante. He was a finalist for the Gran Angular Prize in 2006 with his first novel, *La ciudad gris*, and again the following year in the same contest with *El enigma Rosenthal*. In 2012 he won the Everest Prize with *Un fragmento de noche en un frasco*. These are just some of the various prizes that his extensive and well-known work dedicated to children and young people has earned, whose latest titles are *Historias de miedo en el faro* (finalist of the Edebé Prize 2022) and *Cómplices* (Algar, 2022).



#### Spain – Plataforma, 2022

232 pages

Non-Fiction, self-improvement, testimony, teenager parenting.

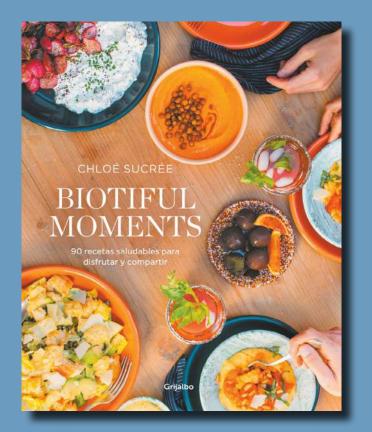
**Mariola Esteban** is a mother, worker, daughter, friend, sister and a lover of personal development, psychology and integral nutrition. She graduated in tourism and for 25 years dedicated herself to sales in the technology sector and to helping her children get ahead. They are her priority, her north, and those whom she considers her teachers. Her vocation is to help with the many sides of life and as a specialist in psycho-nutrition, to which she dedicates herself professionally. *No te rindas, mamá* is her first book.

# Don't Give Up, Mom

No te rindas, mamá

Mariola, a modern, educated, divorced mother with a good job, is active and self-confident. She embarks on what will be the greatest challenge of her life: getting her teenage children to regain their lost motivation and become owners of their lives and their decisions, after a crisis that takes them to the limit of their strength. What she doesn't know is that, from that exhausting struggle, she will also come out improved, renewed and much more aware of her motherhood, of herself and of her place in her world.

In *No te rindas, mamá*, Mariola Esteban opens up to encourage other mothers who are living similar experiences, in a courageous collective story, where her voice joins that of her children and their therapists. It teaches us how she has managed to overcome difficulties with a voice that is sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes humorous, revealing to us the complexities of raising two teenage children and how to help them grow and overcome their difficulties, while also finding the strength to grow as a person and learning to overcome problems together, to forgive, to laugh, to love and be loved.



Spanish - Grijalbo, 2022 256 pages

Cookbook, personal experience, healthy food, healthcare, lifestyle leisure, well-being, vegetarian food, kids' meals, family meals.

**Chloé** Sucrée is half Belgian and half Swiss. By profession a photographer, she founded the vegetarian cooking blog *Being Biotiful*. She studied psychology and has a Masters in branding and creative thinking. Her passion for healthy cooking started when she was very young and continued with her until it became her job. She currently shares her lifestyle and recipes through her blog, which has become a reference for many. In 2019 she published *Being Biotiful* which, based on the batch cooking method, offers homemade and healthy recipes. In 2020 Simply Biotiful was released. In 2021, her third book *Biotiful Kids* came out, with ideas and tips to inspire you when preparing daily meals for the whole family. *Biotiful moments* is her lastest book, relased in 2022.

#### **Biotiful Moments**

Discover how to prepare delicious, fast-making and healthy meals with Chloé Sucrée's Batch Cooking Method

With 122k followers in her Instagram page and more than 30.000 copies sold, Chloé runs also a podcast, an app and a Youtube channel.

Check her out on



This time, Chloé wants to help you to turn any moment around the table into something extraordinary and unique. To do so, it has chosen to biotiful moments: brunches, vermuts and BBQs with friends; feeling good; dinner for two; family parties; picnics; one-person menus; road trips; snacks with children; post-partum; and team teenager.

Because it is not the same to prepare a romantic dinner, to make yourself a nutritious broth when you need a cuddle or to wear something comfortable for a barbecue with friends.

#### Ask for the author's full dossier!



### authors: full list

Ahrenholz, Carsten Codes, María José Alló, Mariano Coll, Pep Colmena, Cristina Alonso, Javier Álvarez. Lola Conquero, Dolores Amkie. Lorena Cortès, Jordi Andyn (Ilustradora) Crowder. Matías Anguera, Laura Dalmau, Ángeles Ares. Nacho Díaz Conde, Edmundo Díaz Valladares, Francisco Balasch, Enric Balbás, Yeyo Domingo, Carmen Balló, Tània Domínguez, Mari Pau Durán, Antonio J. Barrufet, Jordi Bastida, Roger Eslava Galán, Juan Bayo, Emili Esteban, Mariola Benavides, Jorge Eduardo Braulio, Juanjo Fajardo, Julio Fernández Pazos, Lola Burgo, Arturo del Fontana. Antonio Calvo Poyato, José Fuentes, Norberto Campillo, José Enrique Fueyo, Juan Carlin, John Carmona del Barco, Miguel Ángel Gago, Nuria Carol. Màrius García-Albi, Inés Castells, Ada García-Herrera, Alicia Garí. Fernando Chávez, Juan Manuel Gassió, Xavier Cintora, Enrique

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Palomo, Quique (Ilustrador)	Sentmenat, Félix de	
Paniagua, Jesús	Solar, María	
Peramo, Carlos	Soler, Jordi	
Pérez Campos, Javier	Soto, María	
Pombo, Álvaro	Soto, Óscar	
Pomés, Leopoldo (1931-2019)	Suárez, Karla	
Pons, Joan	Sucrée, Chloé	
Pont, Jose María	Tabaaaa Class	
Pradera, Máximo	Tahoces, Clara	
	Tarín, Santiago	
Regidor, Yolanda	Tébar, Pablo	
Riaza, Maribel	Ternicier, Constanza	
Riera, Fèlix	Tola, Raúl	
Río, Alfonso del	Trelles Paz, Diego	
Ripoll, Maria	Urresti, Mariano F.	
Roa, Sebastián		
Roca, Elisenda	Valiente, Sònia	
Rodríguez, Julio	Valle, Ignacio del	
Romaní, Bernat	Valverde, Raquel	
Rosales, Guillermo (1946-1993)	Vázquez, Joan	
Rus, Rebeca	Vergés, Rosa	
Sénahan Dag Silata	Vila, Desirée	
Sánchez Rog, Silvia		
Sánchez Ruiz, Leticia	Yehya, Naief	
Sánchez Vidal, Agustín	Zamarro, Justo	
Santana, Eva		
Sebastián, Javier		



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