



2022

Galaxia Gutenberg

Fiction



Together with our authors

Galaxia Gutenberg is not only the selection of titles that are collected in the following catalog, but our most challenging and personal concerns, tastes and desires are represented in it. Sharing it means, in turn, ratifying the goal that moves us and that we also surely share with so many professionals in the sector: to continue publishing works of fiction and nonfiction of the highest literary caliber. It is part of our commitment to give space to the most diverse letters, Spanish and international, both from established and emerging writers.

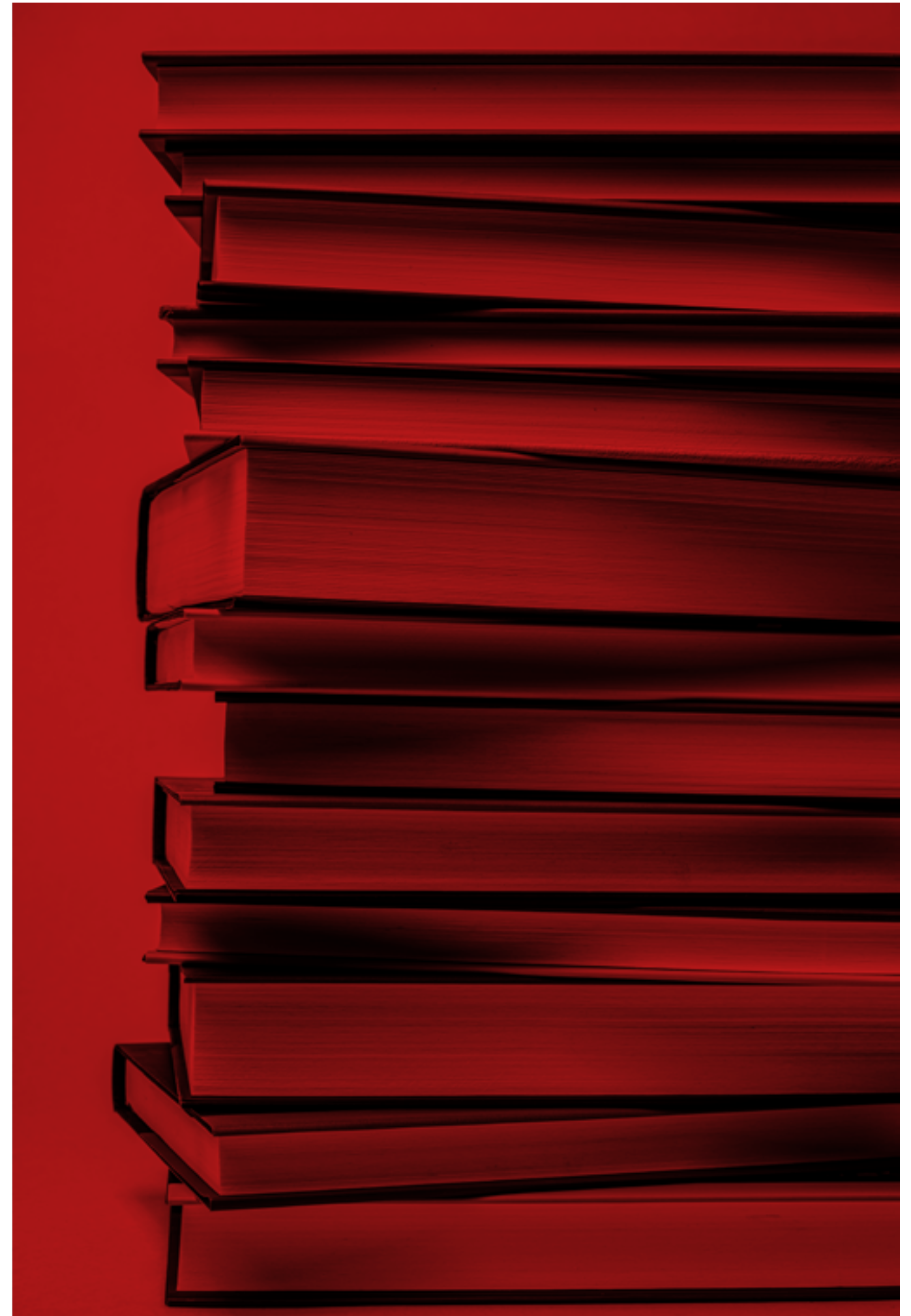
We believe that authors are at the heart of everything we do. Theodor Kallifatides, Pablo D’Ors, Monika Zgutova, Edurne Portela, Xavier Güell, Pilar Adón, among other great authors, make up our editorial fabric, as solid as it is plural and heterogeneous. We are honored to have you with us and to bring your voices to the world.

*Joan Tarrida*_Editorial Director

Galaxia Gutenberg

Fiction

Author by author





Theodor Kallifatides

With more than 40 titles that have been translated around the world and several literary genres to his credit, Theodor Kallifatides is a Greek-born Swedish virtuous writer of fiction, essay and poetry. Born in Greece in 1938, he emigrated to Sweden in 1964, where he consolidated his literary career and still resides. He has also translated great authors, such as Ingmar Bergman and August Strindberg from Swedish into Greek, or Giannis Ritsos or Mikis Theodorakis from Greek into Swedish. He has received the following awards, among others:

- * **Grand Prize of Novel 1982 - Sweden**
- * **Carl Eldh Prize, 1987**
- * **Stockholm City Honorary Scholarship, 1988**
- * **King's Medal, the 8th size in the Order of the Order of Seraphim, 1992.**
- * **Golden Cross in the Legion of Honor from the President of Greece, 1996**
- * **Appointed by the Swedish government as Professor "for great authorship", 2000**
- * **Awarded by the Swedish Academy with the Dobloug prize, 2017**
- * **Cálamo Extraordinario Award for the Spanish translation of *Otra vida por vivir***

LAST TITLES PUBLISHED AT GALAXIA GUTENBERG

- 2019 *Otra vida por vivir (Another Life)*
- 2020 *El asedio de Troya (The Siege of Troy)*
- 2020 *Madres e hijos (Mothers and Sons)*
- 2021 *Lo pasado no es un sueño (The Past is not a Dream)*

“I’ve been writing since I was 5 years old. Writing is my life. I have no other. The time that we live always gives me things to think about and discuss. My way of living is writing. Other people live playing, working, I live writing”.

_Kallifatides by Kallifatides.



* **Selected as one of the 10 best memoir books in Spain in 2021 by La Vanguardia**

Complete book available in Spanish, English, Greek or Swedish. English excerpt available.

■ Pages: 192

■ Published in April 2021

Lo pasado no es un sueño

[The Past is not a Dream]

The most appreciated and most autobiographical novel of the writer.

One week before Kallifatides fled the village where he was born, a group of armed fascists forced everyone there to gather in the cemetery. Young and old alike stood there terrified while the capo slowly called them one by one, finally selecting a few men whom he took with him. Their bodies were never found. With his characteristic simplicity and humanity, Kallifatides narrates his life from the time he leaves his hometown until he returns to it an acclaimed writer to receive the homage of his neighbors. Thus we discover his childhood and adolescence in an Athens governed by authoritarian regimes, the birth of his political and class consciousness, the discovery of sexuality and love, his exile to Sweden, his surprising ability to rebuild his work life and raise a family there, and finally, his trajectory as a writer in his host language, Swedish. Kallifatides provides us with another brilliant book, to the delight of those who already know his work as well as those still lucky enough to discover it.

Kallifatides' narrative speaks to belonging and sharing. And to the choice of standing out and speak: to be a full individual, yes, but with a hand stretched out towards tradition. _Expressen

The Past is Not a Dream follows in the wake of Mothers and Sons, a bestseller thanks to which this new title has been immediately translated into Spanish from its original publication in Swedish. In this book, Kallifatides takes up his memorialistic gaze of reencounter with the past, to trace a loop from the sentence that his wife dedicates to him, “Forget it, the past is a dream”, to the conclusion that “the past has returned. The past was not a dream, although you could already live with it”.



English rights sold to
Other Press

Greek rights sold to
Patakis

Turkish rights
sold to Istos Polis

Complete book
available in Spanish,
English, Greek or
Swedish. English
excerpt available.

■ Pages: 176

■ Reissued
in September 2020

Madres e hijos

[Mothers and Sons]

The beautiful story of a grown-up child's love towards his mother.

“This book and other of my latest novels could not have been written in Swedish because the words, being the same, have different meanings in different languages. For example, taxes. For a Swede, they are an obligation of citizens, while for a Greek it is rather the ability of the State to take your money”. _ Kallifatides.

Theodor Kallifatides, aged sixty-eight, exiled in Sweden for more than four decades, visits his ninety-two year old mother, who still lives in Athens. Both know that this may be one of his last visits before her death. During the week they spend together, they remember what has been the most important things in their lives, including the presence and absence of Theodor's father, from whom he is reading a written account of his life. There, his father tells what has been his difficult existence, from his origins as a Greek exile in Turkey, through his months in a Nazi prison and his passion for the teaching profession. This reveals the origins of a family going through the 20th century. However, the book is above all a wonderful tribute to the love of a mother, who Kallifatides incarnates in these pages in an unforgettable way, while at the same time managing to convey a universal truth about the importance of this figure in our lives.



READ AN EXCERPT FROM *Mothers and sons*

“When I was a boy, I thought that I would die before my mother, according to the principle by which the tree outlasts its fruit.

In time, I understood the logical or at least the natural order of things, and then I had a different problem: might I cause my mother a sadness as great as my death?

This thought made me prudent and cautious. My games were never especially risky; generally, I tried to stay close to her, something she often reminds me of when I call on Saturdays.

She lives in Athens. I've lived in Stockholm for nearly forty-three years.

These phone calls are a ritual we share. It's best to have them in the morning once she's out of bed, already seated and embracing her coffee. She usually rests the mug on her belly. She drinks the coffee in small, small sips, fearful that it might be bitter. Three teaspoons of sugar, at least.

— Hi Mama, it's me — I say when she lifts the receiver. If she's in a good mood, she responds with a little rhyme. If she's not in a good mood, she pretends to be.”

“Madres e hijos is a dynamic novel, which manages to keep us on tenterhooks throughout its pages but, above all, it subtly conveys the essence of what fatherhood and motherhood mean”.

_El Heraldo

“You always carry a beginning within you”, thus concludes a book that speaks of the tree and its fruit, and of the cycle of life and beginnings; it achieves it with a pleasant and emotional writing that moves the emotions with simplicity”.

_El imparcial

*** Kallifatides won the the Signe Ekblad-Eldh prize by the Swedish Academy after the first publication of *Mothers and Sons*.**

Kallifatides offers his reader a personal politics of the human.

_ Siri Hustvedt



WHY TO PUBLISH KALLIFATIDES

He is one of the most prominent contemporary European voices. In Spain, in particular, Kallifatides is a **growing literary phenomenon** thanks to the recent publication of the books *Mothers and sons*, *The past is not a dream*, *The Siege of Troy* and *Another life* by Galaxia Gutenberg. Author straddling his native country and Sweden -where he is a **prestigious and award-winning figure**-, in record time the four titles published so far have sold **more than 50,000 copies** and in little more than a year.

As a reflecting on **existence**, he delves into experiences in his **family environment**, the **exile and longing**, the **aging process** and more, with **sublime narrative skills and expressive power**.

Galaxia Gutenberg is honored to represent the author's works worldwide. The complete list of Kallifatides titles is available on request.

WHY DO WE LIKE HIS WORK SO MUCH

Because he is warm, tender and amusing as it is **profound and unforgettable**. His writing makes you feel as if you are listening to someone very close, as if he is your family. It is **honest** and completely devoid of ego. Because the **message of humanity** in it. Today the great trance for many is trying to enter Europe. Many plead for asylum. To read Kallifatides is to understand that emigration inevitably cuts the life of those who emigrate into two parts, one before and one after emigrating, and that in turn opens the way to a fluctuation of feelings that come and go. We agree with him that “all the good things that happen to us in life simply happen [...] it is not always our merit”, but in his case, **the credit is so his**. For many reasons we esteem Kallifatides and for many more we love his particular humanism.

Marketing and Publicity Tips

- National media campaign
- Interviews with the author
- Author appearances by request
- Literary reviews coverage
- Targeted outreach to literary, history, memoir
- Arts and culture publications and website coverage, and more.
- Bookseller and librarian outreach
- Organic social media and more



International editions

Galaxia Gutenberg (Spanish); Bonniers Forlag (Swedish); Other Press (English); Loomingu Raamatukogu (Estonian); Acroos Publishing (Korean); Abis Yayincilik (Turkish); Solferino (Italian); Patakis (Greek); Sprotin (Faroese)

Complete book available in Spanish, English and Swedish.

■ Pages: 176

■ Published in February 2020

El asedio de Troya [The Siege of Troy]

A young Greek teacher draws on the enduring power of myth to help her students cope with the terrors of Nazi occupation.

Bombs fall over a Greek village during World War II, and a teacher takes her students to a cave for shelter. There she tells them about another war – when the Greeks besieged Troy. Day after day, she recounts how the Greeks suffer from thirst, heat, and homesickness, and how the opponents meet – army against army, man against man. Helmets are cleaved, heads fly, blood flows. Theodor Kallifatides provides remarkable psychological insight in his version of *The Iliad*, downplaying the role of the gods and delving into the mindsets of its mortal heroes. Homer's epic comes to life with a renewed urgency that allows us to experience events as though first-hand, and reveals timeless truths about the senselessness of war and what it means to be human.

The author weaves together a moving and thoughtful epic of his own. _The National Herald

Kallifatides carries within him memories of his homeland during the tragic years of occupation and war, and suffers to see how even today Greece is subjected to new, painful trials. _Corriere della sera



FIVE EDITIONS in Spanish so far.

International editions

Galaxia Gutenberg (Spanish); Bonniers Forlag (Swedish); Other Press (English); Loomingu Raamatukogu (Estonian); Acroos Publishing (Korean); Abis Yayincilik (Turkish); Quetzal (Portuguese); Patakis (Greek).

Complete book available in Spanish, English, Greek or Swedish

■ Pages: 160

■ Published in May 2019

Otra vida por vivir [Another Life]

On memory language, and the Past.

«Nobody should write after the age of seventy-five», a friend had said. At seventy-seven, struggling with the weight of writer's block, Theodor Kallifatides makes the difficult decision to sell the Stockholm studio where he diligently worked for decades and retire. Unable to write, and yet unable to not write, he travels to his native Greece in the hope of rediscovering that lost fluidity of language. In this slim memoir, Kallifatides explores the interplay of meaningful living and meaningful work, and the timeless question of how to reconcile oneself to aging. But he also comments on worrying trends in contemporary Europe and his sadness at the battered state of his beloved Greece. Kallifatides offers a thought-provoking meditation on the writing life, and an author's place in a changing world.

*** Cálamo Extraordinario Award for the best Spanish translation of the year**

[A] poetic and philosophical memoir... Traveling in his mind, Kallifatides produces a restless and thought-provoking read. _World Literature Today

This is a really beautiful book, a book about true death and spiritual rebirth, a miracle told with the tranquil naturalness with which you would tell a common and trivial affair. _Mario Vargas Llosa.

> Coming soon at Galaxia Gutenberg

Timandra

by Kallifatides

Timandra is one of the most fascinating female figures of Greek antiquity. A woman of exceptional beauty, who gathered in her house the best minds of her time, from Socrates to Euripides. But, above all, she went down in history for, as historical sources explain, being “the splendid ether that lived with the hero Alcibiades and collected his ashes.”

Considered by Theodor Kallifatides himself as perhaps the best of all her novels, *Timandra* tells us in the first person her life and the Athens of her time, in the middle of the Peloponnesian War against Sparta.

Figures, places, times, the Athens of the Agora and ports, gyms and battlefields: everything is real. But *Timandra* is much more than a historical novel. The center of gravity is love: explored, debated, codified - as was the custom among the Greeks of the time - always accepted as a gift and condemnation, between laughter and tears, in a symposium, a mysterious rite, one minute from the death.

This novel was originally published in 1986 in Swedish. Galaxia Gutenberg is publishing *Timandra* for the first time in Spanish language.



READ AN EXCERPT FROM *Timandra*

“The man was lying by my side. Immobile. Naked. Drops of sweat glistened on his forehead, illuminated by the glow of the fireplace, they sucked it in, turned into a wreath of fire. That’s when I heard the steps. I froze. The men breathed deeply. Calm down. “Someone is coming!” I said. “Let them come!” he replied, “I have been waiting for them for twenty-five years. They never get close enough! ” Then he lay down on his right side. After a while he had fallen asleep. He always fell asleep on the right side. “I can never fall asleep on my heart,” he had explained to me. “I can not sleep on my heart or my heart never sleeps.” I looked at him. Gently. With a vague feeling of shame, which made me half-close my eyes. Many men had been lying next to me in the same unprotected position. Mighty, rich, famous men. A couple of women too”.



Italian rights sold to Crocetti

Complete book available in Spanish, Swedish or Greek

■ Pages: 240

Galaxia Gutenberg is publishing *Timandra* for the first time in Spanish language. **Worldwide RiGHTS available.**



Monika Zgustova

Born in Prague, Monika Zgustova has lived in Barcelona, Spain, since the 1980s. Translator, writer and journalist, Zgustova has worked for various national and international newspapers. She has also translated more than sixty Czech and Russian works into Catalan and Spanish; among these are feature the writings of Bohumil Hrabal, Jaroslav Hašek, Václav Havel, Milan Kundera, Anna Ajmátova and Marina Tsvetáieva. Her work has been recognised by the City of Barcelona Award, the Ángel Crespo Prize, the Cálamo Award for Best Novel of the Year and the Mercé Rodoreda Award. She is the author of seven novels, including *La mujer silenciosa*, considered one of the five best novels of 2005 in Spain; *La noche de Valia*, winner of the 2014 Amat-Piniella Award for the best novel of the year; and *Vestidas para un baile en la nieve*, counted among the 75 Notable Books in Translation by World Literature Today. Her work has been translated into nine languages, including English and German, with three of her novels published in the United States. She has written two plays.

2005 *La mujer silenciosa* (The Silent Woman)

2014 *La noche de Valia* (Valia's Night)

2014 *Los frutos amargos del jardín de las delicias* (The Bitter Fruits from the Garden of Earthly Delights) -essay-

2016 *Las Rosas de Stalin* (Stalin's Roses)

2018 *La intrusa* (The Intruder)

2019 *Vestidas para un baile en la noche* (Dressed for a Dance in the Snow)

2019 *Un revólver para salir de noche* (A Gun to Go out at Night)

Zgustova's
NEW NOVEL
will be available
from March
2022.

*“I do feminism
by observing
the most
diverse women.
I write about
women who
knock on my
door. When
they do, the call
is so powerful
that I can no
longer evade.
It feels like
some kind of
reckoning”.*

_Zgustova by Zgustova.



English rights sold to
Other Press

Czech rights
sold to Odeon

Complete book
available in Spanish
and Catalan. English
excerpt available.

■ Pages: 150

■ Published in
September 2019

Un revólver para salir de noche

[A Gun to Go out at Night]

*The story of Véra Nabokov, Vladimir
Nabokov's wife*

Continuing her examination of women in the twentieth century, this time Monika Zgustova focuses her attention on Véra Nabokov, the woman who accompanied the writer Vladimir Nabokov throughout his life. Aware that she shares her existence with an extraordinary man, Véra decides to make her husband's success her goal in life. She is the first reader of Nabokov's texts. She types his manuscripts and prepares them for editing. She organises their lives in exile as they travel through Berlin, Paris, Switzerland and the United States, where she convinces her husband to focus on novels written in English. It is Véra who negotiates book contracts and cinematographic adaptations. But she also attempts to control Nabokov's friendships, especially those with women. While exploring what these meant to him and his work, more unavoidable questions arise: could Nabokov have become one of the twentieth-century's greatest writers without Véra? Was Véra truly an independent woman, as she considered herself, or was her life utterly dependent on her husband's?

*** Booksellers recommend for**
Un revólver para salir de noche, 2019



READ AN EXCERPT FROM *A Gun to Go out at Night*

“In the morning, Vera got up to have lunch with Vladimir. She pulled behind her ears her dense, white head of hair – the only embellishment in her – to prevent it from falling before her face while eating. After finishing, she sat in the armchair placed in his husband's room, the one that served as a study. He stood up to kiss her.

‘No, Volodya, you might get infected!’ Vera warded him off.

Thus, Vladimir sat again, not without some difficulty, in front of the desktop and pretended that he was writing, although he could not focus. He thought of Vera and himself when they were just over twenty years old...”

.....

“It had been a long time since he had lost his flexible Russian and it seemed to him that in that new Swiss exile he was also losing English. But Véra was convinced that it was the ideal place for both of them, that there they could concentrate on work... One thing it was clear: Véra was afraid that, as before, he might dream with urban and cosmopolitan women like Irina, with American actresses... Oh, the glorious Marilyn! What a woman! All her breasts and roses...

And the gun in Véra's bag...”



Czech rights sold to
Argo

English rights sold to
Other Press

Arab rights sold to
Ninawa

Complete book
available in **Spanish,**
Catalan and **English**

■ Pages: 272

■ Published
in July 2019

Vestidas para un baile en la nieve

[Dressed for a Dance In the Snow]

*Interviews with female intellectuals who
survived the Gulags.*

Since Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn astonished the world with his book *The Gulag Archipelago*, various testimonies and studies have been published to complete the portrait of the largest system of forced labour camps in human history. However, surprisingly few texts have dealt with the history of women in the gulags, suggesting that their roles in the camps, and in the context of Stalin's brutally repressive regime, were minimal. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Monika Zgustova, one of the most important Russian literature and history specialists in Spain, has spent the last nine years travelling from Moscow to London to Paris, meeting some of the few living female gulag survivors to learn their stories and transmit their testimonies before this valuable history is lost forever. Contrary to expectation, the result is an ode to life, literature and friendship. Through artefacts, memorabilia, books and notebooks that survived from that time, *Vestidas para un baile en la nieve* traces the stories of nine women and their incarceration in the gulag – but also their return to daily life.

*** Among the 75 Notable Translated
books of World Literature Today**

*** Cálamo Award 2017 for best novel
of the year**

*“The voices [of
these 9 women]
inspire us all,
and in bringing
them to us,
Monika Zgustova
has given us
the gift of their
strength”.*

_New York Journal of Books

*In the great tradition
of another Nobel
Laureate, Svetlana
Alexievich, who
gave World War II
female voices in The
Unwomanly Face of
War, Zgustova gathers
testimonies of women
who against all odds
survived the Gulag's
frozen horrors”.*

_The Jerusalem Post



Complete book
available in **Spanish**
and **Catalan**. **English
excerpt available.**

■ Pages: 144

■ Published
in May 2018

La intrusa [The Intruder]

*The story of Gala, Salvador Dalí's wife
and muse.*

In this fresh narrative examination, Monika Zgustova reveals the real Gala Dalí, a determined, brave and passionate woman who knew how to pursue her own desires while supporting the three men who, with her devoted assistance, became great figures in the world of poetry and art: Paul Éluard, Max Ernst and Salvador Dalí. Gala met all three when they were between the ages of seventeen and thirty, and to each she proved to be much more than a lover: she was the companion who embellished and critiqued their creative work, and who gave them the strength and confidence to establish themselves as great creators. Monika Zgustova brings to light little-known or ignored aspects about Gala's life: her relationship with her adoptive father and family; the influence her teenage friendship with the poet Marina Tsvetaïeva and her sister, Asia, had on her; how the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and the previous years marked her forever; how at the age of twenty-two she crossed war-torn Europe, travelling from Moscow to Paris, to meet Paul Éluard; how in an act of devotion to Salvador Dalí, she went to live with him in an austere cabin by the sea in the winter just as pneumonia was about to claim her life. This book is the portrait of a woman who challenged the stereotypes of her time to become one of the most influential people in twentieth-century art and literature.



WHY TO PUBLISH ZGUSTOVA

As a publisher and as a reader, we ask you: **do you like those books which you enjoy as you read them, that you continue to enjoy the day after you've finished them, and which you still remember the day after as they have already become part of you?** If your answer is yes, you will easily reckon that **Monika Zgustova's novels fit into this category.** Publishing her titles you will give your readers an enjoyable unforgettable narrative as efficient as full of discoveries and female strength.

WHY DO WE LIKE HER WORK SO MUCH

Her full work is well-made, equilibrated and **achieves everything it sets out to do.** Her prose, female, intimate and emphatic but lack of glamorous has a reason to be like this: is because her characters are the ones that should outstand, and we appreciate that. Each novel allows us to **learn something about human nature,** the different kinds of violence or **what all exiles are like in general;** what happens when you have to change your language, your home, your life, etc. **Monika Zgustova books contribute to the reader being more open to life.**

Marketing and Publicity Tips

- National media campaign
- Online and face-to-face interviews to the author
- Author appearances by request
- Literary reviews coverage
- Targeted outreach to literary, history, memoir and current affairs media
- Women publications, podcasts and web-site coverage
- Bookseller and librarian outreach
- Academic marketing
- Organic and paid social media
- Goodreads reviews



Czech rights sold to Odeon

Russian rights sold to N2

Complete book available in **Spanish, Catalan or English.**

■ Pages: 340

■ Published in February 2016

Las rosas de Stalin

[Roses from Stalin]

The imagined life of Svetlana Allilúyeva, Stalin's daughter.

Svetlana Allilúyeva is the only daughter of the infamous Soviet dictator, her life marked by catastrophe. When Svetlana is six years old, her mother, desperate in her relationship with Svetlana's father, commits suicide. At sixteen, Svetlana falls in love with a Jewish filmmaker, whom her father sends to the gulag. Later, she falls in love again, this time with a Hindu leftist intellectual. When he dies, Svetlana takes his ashes to India, where she decides to apply for political asylum through the US embassy. Arriving in New York, she believes she has found freedom at last. But this is the height of the Cold War, and Svetlana becomes one of the main targets of the US and Soviet secret services. Is she a traitor to the communist dream? Or a spy sent by Moscow? And how can the CIA pass up such a fantastic opportunity to use Svetlana's denunciation of the Soviet regime for its own purposes? Instead of freedom, Svetlana is subjected to yet more surveillance. In spite of everything, Svetlana finds success in the US with the publication of her famous book *Twenty Letters to a Friend*. Nevertheless, her periods of stability are always fleeting and fragile, her life defined by the struggle to escape her father's shadow and the past ghosts. Monika Zgustova's rendering of Svetlana's story makes for an original novel, exciting and full of unexpected twists.

“Monika Zgustova's novel is as intriguing as highly original. Thee reader will stay with this novel from the first page to the last without being able to put the book down”.

_Kosmas.cz

“In Las rosas de Stalin Zgustova breaks down the tragic life of the dictator's only daughter with a load of empathy. It is clear that Zgustova knows what she is talking about: she herself emigrated with her family in the 70s, after the Prague Spring, and the theme of exile is central in most of her works.”.

_El País



NON-FICTION

Czech rights sold to Odeon

Hungarian rights sold to Európa Könyvkiadó

German rights sold to Suhrkamp Verlag

Polish rights sold to Wydawnictwo Dolnoslaskie

Croatian rights sold to Hena Com

Complete book available in **Spanish and Catalan. English excerpt available.**

■ Pages 418

■ Published in April 2014

Los frutos amargos del jardín de las delicias. Vida y Obra de Bohumil Hrabal. [The Bitter Fruits from the Garden of Earthly Delights]

The first and most published biography of Bohumil Hrabal.

Monika Zgustova met the poet personally in 1987, when she began translating his work into Spanish and Catalan. This biography is born from the hours spent with him and his wife in his house in Kersko and in his apartment in Prague, or sharing a beer with him and his friends at the Golden Tiger brewery, but above all from the immersion in his work. It was later completed with years of research in public and private Czech archives. The first version of *Los frutos amargos del jardín de las delicias* was published in 1996, and Zgustova was able to hand over the first copy to Hrabal when he was already in hospital, a few weeks before his death.

This is a beautiful and lucid book that captures the humor, vitality and philosophy of Hrabal. In addition to learning things I didn't know before, I have enjoyed this book very much. It is very readable and profound and I recommend it without hesitation to anyone who wants to know more about the man who was my friend. _Jirí Menzel (Oscar winner for *Closely watched trains*, in 1968)

Croatian rights sold to Hena Com

Complete book available in **Spanish and Catalan. English excerpt available.**

■ Pages 352

■ Published in March 2013

La noche de Valia. [Valia's Night]

A journey through a traumatic and psychologically abusive relationship.

During the Second World War, in the Soviet city of Arkhangelsk, Valya, a student of the Bolshoi Theater, meets Bill, a marine from the US Navy. They fall in love and have a baby, Bella. When the war is over, Bill has to leave. A year after his departure, Valya 's arrested as an "enemy of the people". After a short trial, she is accused of being a pro American spy and is sent to a northern Gulag where she is obliged to cut trees and build a railroad, without having news from either Bill or Bella. For ten years, Valya remains in the forced labor Camp. After she is set free, she tries to pick up the life she had before her imprisonment, but nobody wants to give a job to an ex-political prisoner. Then Bill, who has been trying to find her all this time, travels from Baltimore to Moscow. The gap between their respective experiences is too wide, though, and both of them find it difficult to relate to each other. Yet they by vet)' hard and end up in a mutual understanding. That's when the KGB agents get in their way... The novel is based upon a true story about a punishment without a crime, and about the humiliation of Soviet women.

*** Amat-Piniella award, 2014**

In this splendid novel based on a true story, Monika Zgustova explains the truth about the Soviet concentration camps, in which not only men but a very large number of women were also imprisoned. _La Razón

Dramatic and hopeful, a moving testimony of survival, love, and the fight for life. _Los libreros recomiendan



Edurne Portela

Edurne Portela is a Doctor of Hispanic Literature in the University of North Carolina Chapel-Hill (US). Until 2015, she was a Professor of Literature at Lehigh University (Pennsylvania). In the frame of her research, she has published numerous articles as well as the essay *Displaced Memories: The Poetics of Trauma in Argentine Women Writers*. In 2016, she published *El eco de los disparos: Cultura y memoria de la violencia*, an essay where she presented culture as a tool to resolve the violent past of the Basque Country. *Mejor la ausencia*, published in 2017, is her first novel. It was awarded Best novel of 2018 by the Guild of Madrid Librarians. Her second novel, *Formas de estar lejos* was published in 2019 and followed by *Los ojos cerrados*, in 2021. She has been awarded with the *Letterature dal Fronte - Città di Cassino* international prize 2021. She collaborates regularly with the main Spanish newspapers and participates in numerous shows in Radio Nacional de España and Cadena SER.

2009 *Displaced Memories: The Poetics of Trauma in Argentine Women's Writings*

2016 *El eco de los disparos (The Echo of Shots)*

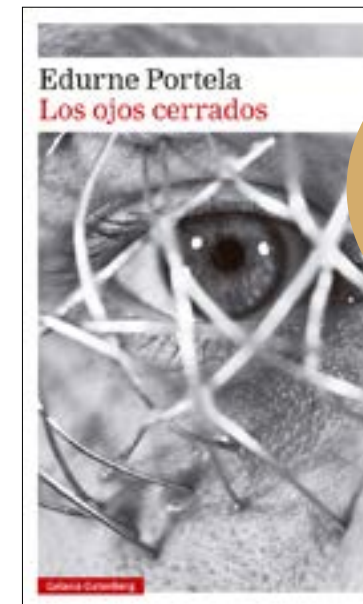
2017 *Mejor la ausencia (Absence is Better)*

2019 *Formas de estar lejos (Ways of Not Being There)*

2021 *Los ojos cerrados (With Eyes Closed)*

“Violence is part of a constant inquiry that began with my academic training, which I developed over almost two decades as a researcher and teacher, and which has continued in my work of fiction”

—Portela by Portela.



Galaxia
Gutenberg's
BEST-SELLING
fiction book in
2021.

English excerpt
available.

■ Pages: 206

■ Published
in March 2021

Los ojos cerrados [With Eyes Closed]

A harrowing tale of silence and violence, where past and present meet and dialogue.

This is a novel about a place, a village that could bare any name and that is why it is called Small Village. Small Village is tucked deep in a range of mountains which is sometimes veiled by fog, others by snow, a landscape where animals get lost, and people go missing. There lives Pedro, a keeper of the violent secrets that have haunted the place for decades. When Ariadna arrives to Small Village with unclear intentions, Pedro observes her from afar, while she slowly discovers her own connections with the place. This meeting between past and present, between Pedro and Ariadna, is at the heart of this novel. Edurne Portela delves into this violence that, inspite of having changed the characters lives forever, generates the possibility of creating a community, built upon solidarity.

“Edurne Portela’s latest novel, which makes those who read it live a kind of reverie from which –I warn you– we do not wake up easily, is like a gospel without verses or messiahs”.—Octavio Salazar, Público diario.



READ AN EXCERPT FROM *With Eyes Closed* translated by Tim Gutteridge

“Now I’m on the stony ground. I hear voices. I crouch behind the vulture rock. There they are, next to the river, on the stones, uniformed men standing up, men lying face down with no uniforms. There is dark blood on the white stones. A uniformed man with a pistol points in turn at each of the men lying down with no uniforms.

bang / the head jerks

The man with the pistol asks where he is. Nobody moves.

bang / the head jerks

The man with the pistol asks where he is. Nobody moves.

bang / the head jerks

The man with the pistol asks where he is. The man lying on the ground gestures with his head. The man with the pistol crouches beside him. The man lying on the ground whispers something into his ear. The man with the pistol stands up.

bang / the head jerks

I open my eyes. I can see no further than my outstretched arm. The fog has come down. I get up. I’m wet. I don’t know when it started to snow”.



*** Voted the best Novel of 2018 by the Madrid Guild of Booksellers**

Italian rights
sold to Lindau

Complete book in **Spanish** and **Italian**. **English excerpt available.**

■ Pages: 240

■ Published in March 2017

Mejor la ausencia

[Absence is Better]

The Basque conflict, as seen through the eyes of a young girl.

There's a certain kind of violence implied in the process of growing up, both against one self and against figures of authority. But when you live in a Basque town in the 80s and 90s, surrounded by heroin addiction, unemployment, pollution, and systematic police brutality, violence is more than a personal issue. Told from the perspective of a young girl at first and later of a teenaged Amaia, *Mejor la ausencia* is a portrait of a shattered family completely distraught by the violence that envelops them. Along with her three siblings, Amaia, the youngest, has to face a father who hurts and a mother who hides. By confronting this hostile environment and testing the limits of her own endurance, Amaia invites the reader to share her fears, confusion and rage. Years later, we find Amaia again in the woman who returns to her hometown hoping to tie up loose ends. Between the past she fled and the present day, Amaia slowly discovers that family history is unescapable – and acknowledging it may be the only way to survive.

“If Patria (by Aramburu) was Velázquez, Mejor la ausencia would be Goya”.

_El Español

“Mejor la ausencia is a novel that no one expected and that, nevertheless, shows hope in the future of Spanish literature, with the presence of a new generation that, as in Gil de Biedma’s well-known poem, has come to leave its mark”.

–Zenda, Autores, libros & cía



Italian rights
sold to Lindau

Complete book in **Spanish** and **Italian**. **English excerpt available.**

■ Pages: 240

■ Published in March 2019

Formas de estar lejos

[Ways of Not Being There]

A journey through a traumatic and psychologically abusive relationship.

Alicia and Matty meet in a small town in the American South. They fall in love and start a life together, enjoying what many would call success: a house, good jobs, and a good car. Despite having left her family, friends, and her life in Spain behind in order to embark on a high-powered university career, Alicia is content with her daily routine. However, little by little, lies and distortions appear in Alicia and Matty's seemingly perfect life, and love becomes indistinguishable from its imitation. Living in a world of isolation that conceals violence and abuse in supposedly safe spaces (like their home and the university), Alicia tries to adapt and lead a happy life with Matty, but the price she must pay is too high. In the space between reality and Alicia's secret dreams, a new violence is growing, colonizing her life and gradually wearing her down. That is, until the day comes when Alicia fails to recognise herself in the life she's created and dares to change everything, no matter the consequences.

“This novel is a monumental wonder. [...] Edurne knows how to turn into fiction things that inhabit our day-to-day life unattended but [...] that are profoundly violent”. Bob Pop, Diario de Aragón.

Edurne Portela achieves an intense and multifaceted narrative in which discomfort and uncertainty shake the reader's emotions and ideas.

_El Periodico.



WHY TO PUBLISH EDURNE PORTELA

We are in the presence of an author whose **harsh novels are as necessary as they are difficult to digest and forget**. Edurne Portela exposes, in each of her works, how society sets aside living memory when it suddenly ceases to be useful. Her characters are bearers of unspeakable stories and voices as dissimilar as they are resounding. Portela is one the most interesting European voices of contemporary literature.

WHY DO WE LIKE HER WORK SO MUCH

Edurne Portela shakes us. In the three works published by the author so far, the **subtle networks that the different forms of violence have woven in society** are presented as continuity. Her literature should be a mandatory destination for ambitious readers who enjoy the thoroughness and suggestiveness of a story well told.

Marketing and Publicity Tips

- National media campaign
- Online and face-to-face interviews to the author
- Author appearances by request
- Literary reviews coverage
- History, polity and current affairs publications and website coverage
- Women's, psychological & domestic suspense, literary, and translation interest media
- Bookseller and librarian outreach
- Influencer outreach
- Paid and organic social media
- Goodreads reviews
- Targeted email newsletters



Xavier Güell

Born in Barcelona in 1956, Xavier Güell studied in the conservatories of Barcelona and Madrid. For many years, he was a well-known conductor in Spain and abroad, working alongside Franco Ferrara in Italy, Sergui Celibidache in Germany, and Leonard Bernstein in the United States. Responsible for premiering some of the greatest composers of our time, Güell has played a major part in disseminating contemporary music throughout Spain. Güell's first book, *La Música de la Memoria*, published in 2015, enraptured thousands of readers with his tales of musical genius. In 2017, he published the novel *Los Prisioneros del Paraíso*. His third novel, *Yo, Gaudí*, followed in 2019. From 2021, he develops *Cuarteto de la memoria*, a challenging novelistic tetralogy about music and power in the 20th century. The four volumes deal with the profound relationships of four musicians with their music: Bartók, Strauss, Shostakóvich and Schoenberg.

2015 *La música de la memoria (The Music of Memory)*

2017 *Los prisioneros del paraíso (Prisoners in Paradise)*

2019 *Yo, Gaudí (I, Gaudí)*

2021 *Cuarteto de la guerra. I. Si no puedes yo respiraré por ti (War Quartet. I. If You Can't I'll Breath for You)*

2022 *Cuarteto de la guerra. II. Nadie logrará conocerse. (War Quartet. II. Nobody will Recognize Each Other)*



English excerpt available soon.

■ Pages: 240

■ Published in March 2021

Cuarteto de la Guerra. I. Si no puedes yo respiraré por ti

[Quartet of War. I. If You Can't, I'll Breath for You]

The first title of the Quartet of War reconstructs the misery that spoiled the creativity of the Hungarian composer Bartók during his New York expatriation.

Cuarteto de la guerra tells the story of four great composers who fight for their lives and their music when totalitarianism and war ravage Europe. New York, Berlin, Munich, Moscow, Barcelona and Los Angeles are the settings for their epic confrontation with political power, to prevent their work from being subjugated and used, while trying to survive. *Si no puedes, yo respiraré por ti* tells of Béla Bartók's voluntary exile to the United States, risking his emotional, family and professional stability, to record his radical opposition to the dictatorships of Horthy, Hitler and Mussolini. However, Bartók never managed to fully integrate in America. The rejection produced by his work in the American public, his reserved character, the progressive deterioration of his health, his economic difficulties and the pathological disorders of his wife will lead him to a limit situation, while he composes some of his most extraordinary works.

"Masterful tetralogy on the lights and shadows of the 20th century". _José Enrique Ruiz-Domènec.



* **Booksellers recommend 2021**

English excerpt available soon.

■ Pages: 208

■ Published in October 2021

Cuarteto de la Guerra. II. Nadie logrará conocerse

[Quartet of War. II. Nobody will Recognize Each Other]

An exciting and musical biographical novel that reveals the reasons why Richard Strauss, perhaps the greatest composer of the 20th century, decided to remain in Nazi Germany and how that controversial decision would fatally mark his life.

In the second volume, *Nadie logrará conocerse*, Richard Strauss, considered the greatest composer of his time, decides to remain in Nazi Germany and accept the presidency of the Reich's Chamber of Music in order to protect his family –his daughter-in-law and his two grandchildren are Jewish–, to ensure the premiere of his opera *The silent woman*, whose libretto has been written by Stefan Zweig, a Jew, and to promote German culture. A controversial decision that will make him appear in the eyes of the world as a collaborationist and be subjected, at the end of the war, to a denazification process that will last more than three years.

"The reader can glide through the pages of Güell's novel like as listening to a symphony. It is a total joy, where music and literature come together in the enjoyment of a reading that is different from what we usually read". _Todoliteratura.

> Coming soon at Galaxia Gutenberg

Quartet of War - volumes III & IV by Xavier Güell

III. Y Stalin se levantó y se fue [III. And Stalin Got Up and Left]

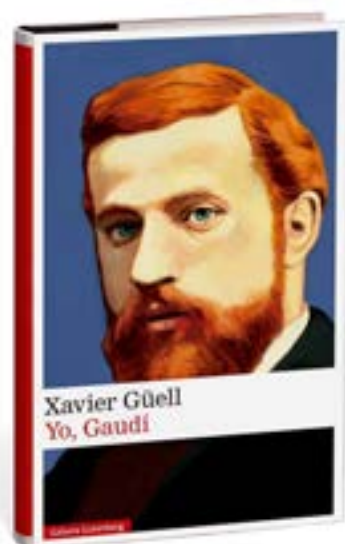
We meet Shostakovich's heartbreak when being forced to give up his creative freedom. When Stalin heard his opera *Lady Macbeth* in Moscow in the Mtsensk district, he was about to deport him to Siberia. He was given a choice: either his music would serve the revolutionary principles of the new Soviet state or he would have to bear the consequences of being considered an enemy of the people. And he chose.

2022_Available in Spanish

IV. Romperé los cerrojos con el viento [IV. I Will Break the Locks with the Wind]

It's time to get into Schoenberg's history, the great reformer of Western music. Nothing and no one could stop him from going ahead with his revolutionary work and yet, at the same time, everything hindered him, to the point that the completion of his opera *Moses and Aaron* came to a halt after his eight-month stay in Barcelona and his subsequent flight to Los Angeles. It was not the lack of will or the decrease of his creative capacity that was to blame, but the uneasiness caused by his exodus, the feeling of being lost, the anguish that accompanies the creation of every pilgrim.

2022_Available in Spanish



Complete book in
**Spanish. English
excerpt available.**

■ Pages: 256

■ Published
in March 2021

Yo, Guadí [I, Guadí]

The life of the great genius, finally unveiled.

Fact and fiction are intertwined in this novel that imagines Gaudí's inner thoughts through the medium of twenty-one letters written while recovering from a serious illness in his later years. Far from a typical historical novel, *Yo, Gaudí* is a powerful story about one of the greatest architects of all time, in which the voice of Gaudí addresses the reader directly on the subjects of his family, his work, his friends, his feelings, his desires and his disappointments. The truth of Gaudí's life is blended with imaginary reconstruction, resulting in a passionate tale that answers many questions about Gaudí and his world-renowned architecture. How did his love life impact his work? What was his relationship with the writers and poets of his time? Why was he so distracted the day he was run over by a tram? Who was Gaudí really? Few people are equipped to answer these questions better than Xavier Güell, a descendant of Eusebio Güell, the man who financed most of Gaudí's projects.

A magnificent opportunity for fans of one of the most international architects._Architects Digest

Now and thanks to Xavier Güell, we can access [Gaudí's work] a little further and explore this universal artist whose life instead of decreasing with the passage of time, becomes larger than life._TodoLiteratura



READ AN EXCERPT FROM *I, Gaudí*

"The 12th of June 1926 is a special day for Barcelona. The city awakes asking itself for whom the bell tolls. Everybody knows it eventually: For Gaudí, who is being buried that very afternoon. Comments on the circumstances of his death, over which so much ink has been spilled in the newspapers during the last forty-eight hours, merge into the pain of the people walking around the city dressed in black as a sign of mourning, bearing the stifling effects of a leaden sun, with the intention of visiting the funeral chapel set up in the Hospital de la Santa Cruz. The burial is expected to be quite an event. (In those times pomp and circumstance was never missing in the biggest funerals).

Outside this hustle and bustle, in the quiet funeral chapel of the hospital lies Gaudí's embalmed body, covered in a black monk cloak and holding a rosary in his left hand, resting on his inert chest. He looks as though he were asleep. The many people from Barcelona visiting him confirm that, in that moment and in that place, everything that had been essential in his life revealed itself: Both his serene attitude towards pain and his immutable amazement at the pleasure found in artistic creation. Indeed, it is in the funeral chapel where he reaches the highest peak that his ambition could ever wish for: Not royal receptions nor mundane triumphs, but the fact of being an eternal part of an imminent reality, like the stones and the trees".



Polish rights

sold to Wydawnictwo
Czarna Owca

Complete book in
**Spanish. English
excerpt available.**

■ Pages: 320

■ Published
in January 2017

Los prisioneros del paraíso

[Prisoners of Paradise]

A love affair between a Nazi scientist and a Jewish musician.

Prague, August 10th, 1942: Hans Krasa, a Czech composer of Jewish origin, is arrested by the SS and sent to the Theresienstadt, the concentration camp. He is 42 at the time. Many other composers (Gideon Klein, Pavel Haas and Viktor Ullmann), musicians, and singers are deported with him. The Nazis, guided by Adolf Eichmann, want to turn Theresienstadt into a model camp that will show the world that Jews are not only kept alive, but live enriching lives, composing and interpreting music at the highest level. With no illusions about their fate, Hans Krasa and his colleagues go along with the Nazis' evil games with one objective: to survive and join forces through music. However, there is one more essential character in this novel: Elisabeth von Leuenberg, one of the most prominent scientists in Nazi Germany. Xavier Güell presents a marvellous homage to music as experienced at the limits of human endurance.

Güell travels to the center of horror, the Theresienstadt concentration camp, to demonstrate that music can be an effective vaccine against barbarism._Sur



Complete book in
**Spanish. English
excerpt available.**

■ Pages: 480

■ Reissued
in March 2015

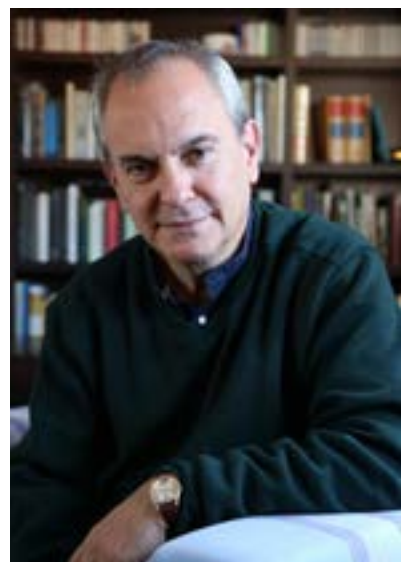
La música de la memoria

[Memory's music]

Art and romance in the lives of classical musicians.

La Música de la Memoria imagines the fictionalised confessions, both intimate and artistic, of Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Liszt, Wagner and Mahler. Xavier Güell, famous conductor and great music connoisseur, takes the reader on a fascinating tour through nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Romanticism, telling the lives and secrets of his renowned protagonists, who struggled with life and death, love and solitude, joy and desperation. For music aficionados and avid readers alike, this novel offers rare insight into seven of the greatest musical geniuses of all time, while also rising some poignant and decisive questions: who was Beethoven's "immortal beloved"? Why did Schumann accept his wife's love towards Brahms? Did Mahler really intend to burn his tenth Symphony? As Oscar Wilde once wrote: "Music is the art which is most nigh to tears and memory".

An ambitious book halfway between a biography, a novel and a musical essay._El Cultural



Galaxia
Gutenberg's
**SECOND
BEST-SELLING
book in 2021.**



More than
20,000 copies
sold in the first
six months.

NON-FICTION
Italian rights sold
to Vita et Pensiero

Complete book in **Spanish** or **Italian**. **English excerpt available.**

■ Pages: 596

■ Published
in February 2021

Biografía de la luz

[Biography of Light]

The new book by the author of the worldwide bestseller, Biografía del silencio, is as an intriguing as spiritual voyage.

"I started meditating in 2005. It was about this experience, that I continue pursuing to this day, that I wrote *Biography of Silence*: a brief essay about meditation that, surely because of its serendipitous timing, had an amazing commercial reception with the public. *Biography of Light* is the natural – not strategic – continuation of *Biography of Silence*. Silence and light are the themes that I am most attracted to during this period of my life" – Brief Introduction by the author.

This essay gathers a spiritual itinerary for the men and women of today. An essential reinterpretation, as modest as it is profound, of the legacy of Christ, the beacon of humanity. The Gospel as a map of conscience and as a permanent existential provocation. *Biografía de la luz* is a text designed for all spiritual seekers and, therefore, written from a cultural rather than confessional perspective. A radical journey to enlightenment, understanding the latter as something simple and common. A sort of poetic manual of interiority, in which some of the countless images and metaphors sketched by the Evangelists are presented, as authentic mirrors cast towards human identity. A book to review one's own life and to discover that we would not seek the luminous if we were not, after all, beings of light.

2015 *Contra la juventud* (Against Youth)

2016 *El estreno* (The Premiere)

2017 *Entusiasmo* (Enthusiasm)

2018 *El estupor y la maravilla* (Astonishment and Wonder)

2019 *El amigo del desierto* (Friend of the Desert)

2020 *Biografía del silencio* (Biography of Silence)

2020 *Andanzas del impresor Zollinger* (Adventures of Master Printer Zollinger)

2020 *Sendino se muere* (Sendino is Dying)

2021 *Biografía de la luz* (Biography of Light)

2021 *El olvido de sí* (The Disregard of the Self)



FICTION
Italian rights sold to
Vita e pensiero

Complete book in
Spanish or **Italian**.
English excerpt available.

■ Pages: 398

■ Reissued
in April 2021

El olvido de sí

[The Forgetting of the Self]

The moving biography of one of the most interesting characters of Christian history.

El olvido de sí narrates the troubled and moving story of Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916), a French aristocrat who converted to Christianity thanks to the faith and devotion he saw in Islam. Few biographies are as moving and emblematic as that one of this strange missionary, who had to become an explorer of the Sahara, a Trappist novice, a nun's errand boy, and even the author of the first French-Tuareg dictionary before making the discovery that friendship is the most beautiful gift of a life devoted to silence. The reasons for this eventful life journey are to be found in how much this man listened to his inner voice as well as in his implacable obedience to his conscience. Wounded by the passion of the Absolute, the man who later became known as "the universal brother" always sought to be less: a more hidden existence, a more anonymous surrender, a deeper humility.... Fascinated by this desire for abasement, Pablo d'Ors gets into the head and heart of this extravagant character. A text in which mystical wisdom resonates and narrates with as much plasticity as depth, the dangerous and marvelous extremes to which it and marvelous extremes to which love leads

Germanist, theologian, writer, priest, Zen disciple, translator, caregiver and Cultural Advisor to Pope Francis: Pablo d'Ors is many things and all of them are unexpected. – Review on the newspaper, El Periodico.



WHY TO PUBLISH D'ORS

Pablo d'Ors is a truly unclassifiable writer. He believes that silence and light have something to tell us and that "there is not an I and world", as "world and I are one same, sole thing". By publishing Pablo d'Ors works you are publishing one of the writers urging us to be quiet and stop. He tells us that it is not just silence that is healer, "but stillness as well." Widely read in Spain (*Biography of Silence* so far has sold more than 250,000 copies and *Biography of Light*, 20,000 in just six months from its release) and translated into English by Parallax Press, among other languages, d'Ors has made his deep interior pilgrimage.

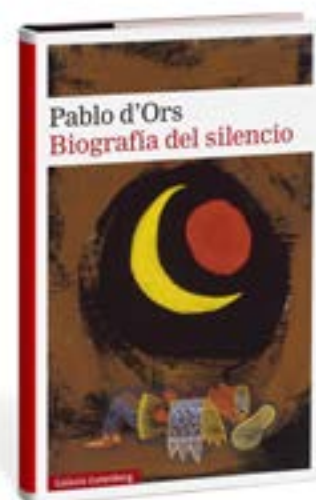
At Galaxia Gutenberg, **we join him to bring his inspiring talent to the world.** We are currently publishing anew the complete works of Pablo d'Ors. We are proud **to represent all the author's works worldwide, including the ones that have already appeared in Galaxia Gutenberg and the ones that still have to.** The full list of Pablo d'Ors's works is available for consultation on demand.

WHY DO WE LIKE HIS WORK SO MUCH

Pablo d'Ors is an exceptional voice, a cult writer and at the same time a writer for all. His voice is portentous and straightforward. He writes with humor and spirituality, eroticism and humanistic compassion, **both in his novels and his essays.**

Marketing and Publicity Tips

- National media campaign
- Online and face-to-face interviews to the author
- Author appearances by request
- Literary reviews coverage
- Mindful living, spiritual/Zen, religious publications, podcasts and website coverage
- Bookseller and librarian outreach
- Influencer outreach
- Organic social media
- Goodreads reviews

**NON-FICTION**

English rights Parallax
Czech rights Euromedia/Pragma
German rights Gütersloher Verlagshaus
French rights Bayard
Italian rights Vita e Pensiero
Portuguese rights Quetzal Editora (Portugal) and Planeta Brazil (Brazil)

Complete book available in **Spanish, Catalan and English**

- Pages: 144
- Reissued in March 2020

Biografía del silencio

[Biography of silence]

A bestseller about the benefits of meditation.

With silence increasingly becoming a stranger to us, one man set out to become its intimate: Pablo d'Ors, a Catholic priest whose life was changed by Zen meditation. With disarming honesty and directness, as well as a striking clarity of language, d'Ors shares his struggles as a beginning meditator: the tedium, restlessness, and distraction. But, persevering, the author discovers not only profound peace and a better understanding of his true nature, he also learns that silence, rather than representing a retreat from life, offers us an intense engagement with life just as it is. Imbued with rare beauty, Biography of Silence conveys the deep joy of silence that is available to us all.

“This isn’t a self-help book. It doesn’t appeal to the simplism of those ideas-worth-framing-because-they’re-that-good nor to the cynicism of those-poor-souls-would-actually-buy-anything, it appeals to all those complex things that are told to us as simple matters”.

—El País

Galaxia
Gutenberg’s
BEST-SELLING
book
in 2021.

More than
250,000 copies
sold in Spain.

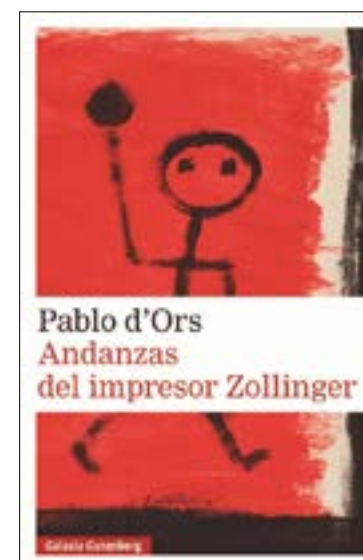
Also in its
ARTISTIC
EDITION with
watercolors by
MIQUEL
BARCELÓ



READ AN EXCERPT FROM
Biography of Silence

“I began to sit to meditate in silence and stillness on my own account and at my own risk, without anyone to give me any basic notions of how to do so or to accompany me in the process. The simplicity of the method—sitting, breathing, quieting one’s thoughts—and most of all, the simplicity of its intention—to reconcile a person with what they are—seduced me from the beginning. As I have a tenacious temperament, I have remained faithful for several years to this discipline of simply sitting and gathering myself; and at once I understood that it was about accepting whatever came—whatever it might be—with good humor.

During the first few months I meditated badly, very badly; keeping my back straight and my knees bent was not at all easy for me and, as if that was not enough, I breathed with a certain agitation. I was perfectly aware that this sitting without doing anything was something as foreign to my education and experience as—contradictory though this seems—it was equally innate to who I was at my core. Nonetheless, there was something very powerful that pulled at me: the intuition that the path of silent meditation would guide me to encounter my own self at least as much or more so than literature, which I have always been very fond of”.

**FICTION**

Catalan rights
sold to Funambulista

Italian rights
sold to Quodlibet

German rights
sold to Wagenbach

Complete book in **Spanish or Italian.**
English excerpt available.

- Pages: 120
- Reissued in May 2020

Andanzas del impresor Zollinger

[The adventures of the printer Zollinger]

A journey into finding one’s own path.

To save his own life, young August Zollinger leaves his hometown and stays away for seven years, embarking on a journey full of adventures and discoveries that lead him to practice many trades. What begins as a bitterly imposed exile will eventually become a path to enlightenment: August will find true love before the tiny gate of a railway station, where, every day, he takes the official call of a mysterious telephone operator; he will taste camaraderie and experience the most faithful of friendships in the ranks of the army; he will also discover the mystery of nature in the evanescent greatness of the forests. Above all, he will learn to value the dignity of small and humble efforts. With the emotional toolkit assembled along this journey, August will become a complete man who can finally return home and become a good printer, the job he has dreamed of since childhood.

“Where did this winged Spanish prose writer ever come from? So central-European, so solid in style and delicate in translating man’s eternal passions into a story - so capable of touching my innermost chords? _Stefano Zangrando_ De libris_

**FICTION**

Portuguese rights
sold to Quetzal Editora

Italian rights
sold to Vita e Pensiero

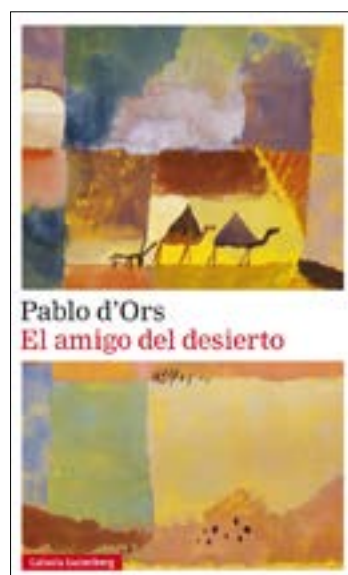
Complete book in **Spanish, Italian or Portuguese.**
English excerpt available.

- Pages: 120
- Reissued in May 2020

Sendino se muere [Sendino is Dying]

Reflections on life, death and pain

“I am a doctor,” wrote Dr. Africa Sendino. “I have put my hands in the mass of suffering with the noble intention of alleviating it. And if I have had the privilege of touching so much pain on other bodies, how can I not allow others to touch mine? Thanks to this illness that I suffer, I have understood that sharing pain does not simply mean taking on the pain of others, but also sharing your own. I have suffering, okay. I can hand it out or keep it for myself. I have decided to deliver it. And in deciding it, I have understood that this is how pain is relieved and for that - to deliver it - it exists.»During her convalescence, Dr. Sendino was taking notes on her experience of her illness, facing a book that she he wanted to write. Faced with the imminence of her death, she asked Pablo d'Ors to help her complete this task. The author, who cared for him spiritually, rescues his annotations and contextualizes them in a life that he does not hesitate to describe as exemplary. A testimony about what really matters in the end. An uncompromising text, as concise as it is straight to the heart. A necessary story about a life-giving death.

**FICTION**

Italian rights sold to Vita e pensiero

English rights sold to Parallax

Portuguese rights sold to Quetzal Editora

Complete book available in **Spanish, Catalan** and **English**

■ Pages: 128

■ Reissued in March 2019

El amigo del desierto

[Friend of the Dessert]

A book about contemplation and soul-searching through the exploration of emptiness.

“Thanks to the back cover of a book, I knew that there lived a man in Brno who had dedicated a good portion of his life to traveling through many of the world’s deserts.” So begins Pavel’s story, as a series of mysterious circumstances lead him to change the course of his life and turn his gaze onto that nothingness. On his repeated trips to the Sahara, first as part of an enigmatic organization called Friends of the Desert and later on his own, Pavel explores the drifting sands, the hot winds but, ultimately, comes upon something approaching infinity. Nothing is as it seem in the desert, and as mysteries pile up, each new encounter becomes a mirror held up to Pavel’s own expanding consciousness. Innumerable artists, thinkers, and mystics have paid their respects to the void. With refinement and care, *El amigo del desierto* [Friend of the Desert] inserts itself into that tradition. In the wake of Hesse’s famous *Siddhartha*, Bolaño’s *By Night in Chile*, and Don DeLillo’s *The Names*, Pablo d’Ors takes a leap of faith into the depths and casually settles in. *El amigo del desierto* is a rare gift for seekers of the absolute.

“A sublime performance. At the outset The Friend of the Desert occupies the beguiling territory of Robert Walser, Jane Bowles, or Georges Perec, but soon develops an allegorical intensity all its own; as it reaches its remarkable climax, each gesture seems to stand absolutely for itself, and also for the reader’s unnameable desires.”

—Jonathan Lethem, author of *Fortress of Solitude* and *Motherless Brooklyn*

**FICTION**

Portuguese rights sold to Quetzal Editora

Complete book in **Spanish** or **Portuguese**. **English excerpt** available.

■ Pages: 420

■ Reissued in October 2018

El estupor y la maravilla

[Astonishment and Wonder]

A Museum guard discovers that art is everywhere in his rounds

Fascinated by the prospect of protecting works of art, Alois Vogel works as a guard at the Museum of Expressionists in Koblenz, his hometown. After twenty-five years as an employee, he begins to write his memoirs. In these, he gives an account of a apparently bland and insignificant life, which is in reality amazingly intense. Vogel expresses himself as a child who sees the world for the first time, inventing stories about the visitors of the museum and describing his relationships with his peers and his feelings regarding the great masters of German expressionism. As absurd or crushing as they may seem, Vogel’s reflections, and his diffident engagement to the world, make him a lonely, extravagant and marginal type, as mysteriously endearing as he is familiar. His infinite imaginary colloquies and his meditative practices help him discover the extraordinary world of little things. *El estupor y la maravilla* [Astonishment and Wonder] is an epic of the minute, a story about training one’s powers of observation to its limits. A trip into the labyrinth of the human mind, heroic as well as mundane, this novel concerns the extremes where isolation and illusion can lead: a path, both modest and eloquent, to enlightenment.

**FICTION**

Italian rights sold to Vita e pensiero

Complete book in **Spanish** or **Italian**. **English excerpt** available.

■ Pages: 440

■ Published in September 2017

Entusiasmo [Enthusiasm]

Pablo d’Ors unveils his inner self to the reader in a journey of self-discovery.

“The moment a young person makes a decision and begins the journey to make it into reality, is, without a doubt, the most beautiful life can offer.” That one moment is precisely what these vibrant and moving pages relate. A true page-turner, this novel offers a rare understanding of humanity, filled with hope, and of something even more unusual in contemporary fiction: piety. Through this story full of action, clarity, and indelible images, the reader who relishes all the polarities and contradictions of life might well identify with the protagonist’s spiritual and artistic position. With remarkable narrative mastery, Pablo d’Ors unfolds a story strikingly similar to his own: that of a man who, in order to respond to an unanswerable inner call, opens himself to love and friendship, but also to incoherence, pain and, ultimately, the meaning of life understood as a service to others. An autobiographical romp with unpredictable twists and turns, this book is a bottle thrown into the sea, awaiting to be collected by someone who still believes that a literature of the soul is possible.

“Entusiasmo is a novel full of little discoveries where life always finds a way and where disappointments [...] converge with the will of working for others and trying to make the world a better place”.
_A golpe de letra



FICTION

Complete book in **Spanish** or **Italian**.
English excerpt
available.

■ Pages: 240

■ Reissued
in May 2016

El estreno [The Premiere]

A collection of short stories that create a colourful mosaic of pastiches, following the footsteps of famous writers.

El estreno [The Premiere] is a love declaration towards literature, a humorous tribute to a handful of writers (Bernhard, Pessoa, Mann, Dickens . . .). It is also, of course, an account of the author's aesthetic principles and the tragicomic drama of those who call themselves writers, dedicated to condensing life into those pills that we call books. In each of the seemingly realistic seven stories that make up this collection, there comes a time when the extraordinary takes over everyday life. The subject is always humiliation, and the tone, empathetic, something somewhat unusual in the history of literature. D'Ors laughs at his characters – as Kafka and Kundera do – but also lets them recompose themselves from their ashes and be born again out of the author's compassion.

*“A homage to literature, to Literature with a capital L”.*_Diario de Bergantiños

“El estreno is truly worth-reading, it is the debut of an author that keeps writing very interesting and suggestive novels”.

_Razón y Fe



FICTION

Italian rights
sold to Arkadia

Complete book in **Spanish** or **Italian**.
English excerpt
available.

■ Pages: 424

■ Published
in February 2015

Contra la juventud [Against Youth]

Youth is overrated. Being young is to suffer and fail, hurting and misunderstanding yourself and others.

A young Eugen Salmann travels to Prague for work, intending to settle there. Someone with his literary aspirations should dwell, he believes, in the city of Franz Kafka and Milan Kundera. Nevertheless, instead of writing, Eugen lets himself be seduced by all the women he meets, as if he were one of Kundera's characters. And like any of Kafka's, he always wants to be somewhere else. Eugen feels defeated, tired, aged, opposed to youth. Opposed to youth? Yes – because the hearts and minds of the young are solely occupied with themselves and mainly focused on one thing only: their amorous adventures. Privileging lofty and unreachable goals, the young are too easily devastated by the consequences of their own inexperience. With irony and compassion, Pablo d'Ors writes about an extremely relatable young man. He holds a mirror to what we are or have been.

*“The best novel by the author of that marvelous essay for exquisite readers, Biography of silence”.*_ABC

“This is the authentic fruit of an author that has carved himself an important niche in Spain's literary scene with his original and solid literary proposal”.

_ACE Prensa

➤ Coming soon at Galaxia Gutenberg

Reediting Pablo d'Ors

Las ideas puras

[Pure Ideas]

A dive into the depths of human nature and philosophy.

The eternal and furious struggle between head and heart, between passions and intelligence. This is the story of a man, obsessive and refined, who explores his personal hell, until he meets the cruelty of childhood and the perversion of adolescence; the odyssey of a character, whose name will never be known, who tries to put his passions in order, rebelling against them and narrating them until he builds a system from them. By means of a skillfully sustained suspense, this meticulous and caustic investigation is developed on the thin border of madness, in the return to the paradise of primordial sensations and in the unfolding of a dual personality, one of the great subjects that the work explores. In the ambivalent identity of the protagonist lies much of the irony that underpins the plot, hurtful and malicious, full of a sarcastic and stubborn humor. Can you imagine Musil and Nabokov writing in comandita? In this singular novel there is a prodigious knowledge of the human spirit, which is analyzed in its most intimate and hidden motions without stopping before any secret; and there is, above all, an extraordinary wisdom of love, both in its erotic and spiritual dimensions. A slap in the face for the good thinkers. A true theory, with surprising stylistic findings, about the meeting of bodies and souls that love each other. A melancholic and biting book that lyrically and irreverently brings out the whole history of philosophy.

With this novel Pablo d'Ors was a finalist for the Herralde Prize.

FICTION

Available in **Spanish**

English extract
available soon

■ Pages: 164

Lecciones de ilusión

[Lessons of Illusion]

Illusion as a creative powerhouse, and the delights and torments of perfectionism and inspiration

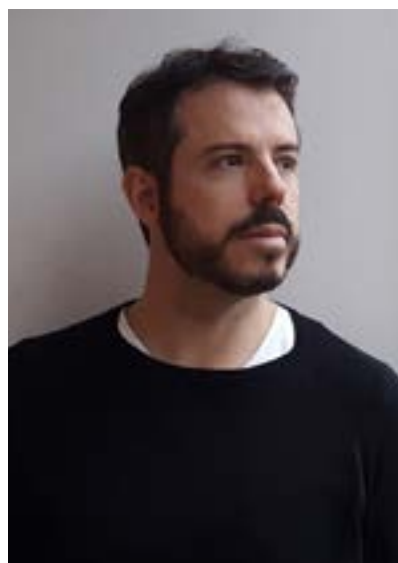
When Lorenzo Bellini arrives at the Kremszell Sanatorium prepared to write his thesis, he does not suspect that his life is about to change. During his research about the link between madness and invention, he finds many larger-than-life characters: a mailman who distributes invented letters; a voice impersonator who can cure nostalgia; a director determined to find links between his patients and the greatest madmen in history; a man nobody has seen and who is said to speak with horses; an erotic novel writer whose wife cheats on; a proofreader who ends up correcting his own biography; an archivist who gathers the mental disorders that have plagued humanity... In this piece, Pablo d'Ors shares his unique poetics of the novel: a combination of hope as a fuel for creativity and the delights and torments of perfectionism and inspiration. Concerned with the search for success and the myth of posterity, the dialectic between originality and mimicry, the difference between genius and illness, and the space between style, plagiarism and tradition, this is an ambitious text, overflowing with imagination.

FICTION

Available in **Spanish**

English extract
available soon

■ Pages: 688

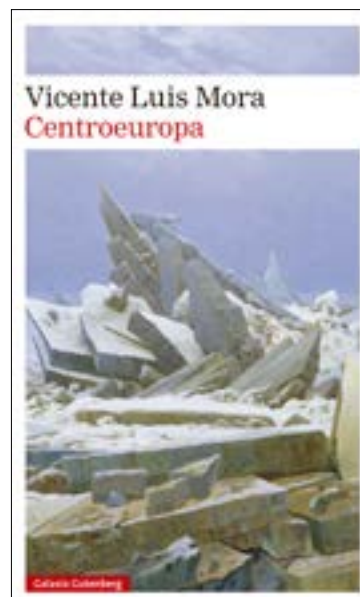


Vicente Luis Mora

He was born in Córdoba in 1970. He is a writer, literary critic and professor. His latest books are the novel *Fred Cabeza de Vaca* (Sexto Piso, 2017), the poem *Serie* (Pre-Textos, 2015), the essay *La huida de la imaginación* (Pre-Textos, 2019), a monography *El sujeto boscoso* (Iberoamericana Vervuert, 2016), an aphorisms book *Nanomoralía* (Isla de Siltolá, 2017), and the anthology *La cuarta persona del plural. Antología de poesía española contemporánea* (Vaso Roto, 2016). He has also ventured into theatre, *hoax* (Quimera 322, 2010), digital literature and literary critique in his blog *Diario de lecturas* (<http://vicenteluismo-ra.blogspot.com>). His last novel, *Centroeuropa*, published by Galaxia Gutenberg in 2020, was acclaimed by both critic and reader.

2020 *Centroeuropa* (Mitteleuropa)

Vicente Luis Mora's
NEW NOVEL
will be available
from SEPT
2022.



Centroeuropa

[Mitteleuropa]

An archaeological novel digging into the strata of the ground we walk on. A game of genres as risky as it is achieved.

Prussia, somewhere along the Oder, near the border with Poland, during a cold winter in the beginning of the 19th century. A foreigner arrived to work the land unloads his cart. Among the things he deposits on the ground is a casket, containing the body of his wife, deceased during the journey. Once he starts to dig her grave in the earth, he suddenly comes face to face with another body: a soldier. Male, prussian, hussar soldier, frozen: that is the first corpse. When one finds a corpse, in his own land, his own ground, one suspects he is not alone; somehow, if one finds a buried corpse, he fears or imagines that other bodies await their turn, quietly. With this first discovery, the story begins. A story about an inhospitable land, beaten by wars, at the heart of Central Europe. And at the same time, the tragic story of the narrator that tells us what occurred there. With *Centroeuropa*, Vicente Luis Mora approaches the theme of identity, personal as well as historical, through a character that has many sides and faces, just like Europe's history. A novel that, according to the jury that awarded the Málaga prize, «offers a picture of the heart of Europe and its wounds. A fable about the wars and revolutions that have shaped the continent's contemporary history.»

* *Centroeuropa* was awarded with the Málaga prize 2019 as best novel.

* Shortlisted XVI Dulce Chacón Novel Award

English rights sold to Peninsula Press UK

French rights sold to Zulma

Available in Spanish. English or German excerpt available.

■ Pages: 184

■ Published in September 2020



READ AN EXCERPT FROM *Mitteleuropa* specially translated by Rahul Bery

“Male, Prussian, Hussar soldier, frozen.

That was the first body I found while digging in the frozen earth to bury my wife; I say my wife because I never knew her real name, although I will return to that later.

When one finds a buried body under one's own earth, in one's own soil, one suspects it is not alone; in some way, anyone who finds a corpse fears or suspects that other corpses are out there, waiting their turn. The fields of a certain region cannot be looked at in the same way once the first body has been found, for now they no longer resemble flower meadows but burial grounds.

The story began with the discovery of that first soldier, but what I wish to write cannot be properly understood unless I go back a few hours to my anguished interview with Mayor Altmayer. Or perhaps I should go further and recall those sad days in Mainz? I ask the potential reader to forgive me for faltering as I expound, for these memories constitute the first long text I have ever put to paper, and the past is so wide, long and deep that choosing any single part as a starting point constitutes, in some way, an imposture. Nothing starts at an exact point. Our lives do not entirely start with our births.

Yes, I will recount in detail the tense conversation I had with Mayor Altmayer on the day of my move to Oderburch, shortly after first looking upon the river Oder and seeing its splendid silver ambling idly towards the north; I must relate my talk with the official, during which I began to discern the complexities of that time in the third decade of the century I arrived here, dates I cannot recall any with precision because my wife and I lived too much in the present and every day was the same to us, happy and identical, identically happy, until she died, and they became miserable and interchangeable, interchangeably unhappy once I lost her in Mainz, that baneful city where my beloved vanished forever”.

Centroeuropa is a stylistically stunning mystery historical novel, which makes its ambition known from the stunning and instantly memorable opening lines. These lines encapsulate so much of the plot and the main mystery, and in such a concise and enigmatic way that it's hard not to be hooked from this point on.

“Impeccable, from start to finish”.

— Carlos Zanón, EL PAÍS



Pilar Adón

Pilar Adón was born in Madrid in 1971. Galaxia Gutenberg published her novel *Las efímeras* in 2015, that was acclaimed by both critic and readers as one of the best books of the year. In 2017, Galaxia Gutenberg published her latest book of stories, *La vida sumergida*. In 2003 appeared her novel *Las hijas de Sara*, and in 2005 she was awarded with the prestigious Premio Ojo Crítico, of Radio Nacional de España (RNE), for her book of stories *Viajes inocentes*. In 2010 she published the volume of stories *El mes más cruel*, for which she was named New Fnac Talent, and was short-listed for the Setenil and Tigre Juan awards. She is the author of the collections of poems *Da dolor*, *Las órdenes* (awarded the Libro del Año Prize by the Association of Bookshops of Madrid), *Mente animal* and *La hija del cazador* (2020, 2018, 2014 and 2011). She has translated from English into Spanish works of fiction and essays (John Fowles, Henry James, Edith Wharton...) In fact, she is jointly responsible for the recovery into Spanish of the great English author Penelope Fitzgerald, whose novel *The Bookshop* was made into film by the Catalan director Isabel Coixet. The stories and poems of Pilar Adón have been translated into English, French, Serbian, Rumanian, Czech, Polish, Albanian and Korean.

2015 *Las efímeras* (*The Mayflies*)

2017 *La vida sumergida* (*A Submerged Life*)

Pilar Adón's
NEW NOVEL
will be available
from MAY 2022.

“My characters obey a stimulus that they believe is consistent with their aspirations [...] They seek tranquility or they do not accept situations that for the majority may seem normal. And getting out of normal is still unforgivable.”

—Adón by Adón.



Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available.

■ Pages: 160

■ Published
in October 2017

La vida sumergida

[A Submerged Life]

Short stories about solitude and isolation

In a house in the middle of the countryside, lit up by rays of light that penetrate its stained-glass windows from high up along the corridors, one woman asks another to carry out the greatest act of love possible. Although her wish is granted, a wish come true isn't always a blessing.

In other stories, a very young girl waits for her brother at a bus station, fantasising about running away with him to a place of friendship and peace. A man who dreams only of living surrounded by nature, reading and studying, devotes himself entirely to this rhythm, only to discover that nothing is what it seems. A cellist discovers that her greatest ambition is to rid herself of gravity and begins to practice escaping it.

Pilar Adón, paints a world where a permanent sense of danger is combined with a deep longing to find equilibrium and tranquility. The characters from the thirteen short stories gathered in this title are constantly trying to be somewhere else, to be someone else, finally realising that they will have to find the best ways to survive. For these characters, the journey itself is more exciting than the destination. They all share an inclination to isolation. But life is always lurking in every corner.

Adón conceives the story as a story in which its psychological dimension rules. She imagines closed spaces, some of them set in a world that seems to be from Romanticism. In any case, the spaces point to insecurity. The atmospheres reminded me of the universe of Walden, by Henry Thoreau.. _ Review on ABC Cultural.



WHY TO PUBLISH ADÓN

Pilar has her own literary universe. It is quotidian, straightforward, pleasant, indolent and feels dangerous. **Speaks of fear, of the desire to escape and to be elsewhere.** Her characters are not fully aware of all this and either of their emotional dependency. By publishing Adón's literature you share a world in which **all kinds of conflicts appear, although little happens.** Both her novels and her stories could definitely be defined as **lasting literature**: they have two faces; one explicit, which is what is narrated, and another implicit, the human mystery, **everything hidden behind what is apparent in people's behavior.**

WHY DO WE LIKE HER WORK SO MUCH

Pilar Adón has trapped us and will not let us go. Her originality is **suggestive.** Her literary quality is of remarkable perfection but it is **not one of those that is thrown in the reader's face.** Few like her know how to use a phrase with such aesthetic intention and efficiency. **She's just through with realism and the tagline "based on a true story", so fashionable nowadays.** Also, we love that almost all of her characters are women: **the voice that she usually uses, regardless of literary gender, is female.** In addition to having published her two last works, **Galaxia Gutenberg represents them worldwide.** We can't wait to see how the inexhaustible talent of Pilar Adón is received abroad.

Marketing and Publicity Tips

- National media campaign
- Online and face-to-face interviews to the author
- Author appearances by request
- Literary and short story reviews coverage
- Indie outreach
- Women's, psychological suspense media.
- Bookseller and librarian outreach
- Influencer outreach
- Organic social media
- Goodreads reviews



* One of the ten best novels of 2015 by the critics.

* Booksellers recommend title 2015

Available in Spanish. English and Italian excerpts available

■ Pages: 280

■ English rights sold to OPEN LETTER (Publication spring 2023).

■ Published in December 2015

Las efimeras

[The Mayflies]

A novel about domination, dependence and the desire to monopolize and control the life of those close to us. All this immersed in an invasive, suffocating nature from which it is very difficult to escape.

Dora and Violeta Oliver, two sisters with an ambiguous relationship, live isolated in a house located on the outskirts of La Ruche, a community in the middle of a dense forest. Their members gather on the site around a house that resembles the shape of a beehive, searching a lifestyle of recess and self-sufficiency, coherence and introspection.

As life goes on dominated by an omnipresent nature that also sets its own rules, Dora tries to control Violeta's life. When she eats, what she wears. That is her idea of love. She ends up locking Violeta up in a shed to prevent her from meeting Denis, a mysterious boy who terrifies her.

One day, Violeta disappears and the normal life that Dora has tried to build falls apart. She has no choice but to ask for help to Anita, the descendant of the founders of La Ruche, still in charge of the community. But Anita is also haunted by her own past.

Among insects, earth and a dense mass of vegetation, a peaceful life is supposed to develop. But that idyllic way of life can become an oppressive and terrifying trap, provided the reader dares to look behind and see what it hides.

Las efimeras is a novel that is foreign to literary fashions, to the dictatorship of today and to the styles that are 'hype'.

_BABELIA, cultural supplement of the newspaper EL PAÍS

Reading Las efimeras, I felt what Emily Dickinson must have felt when she said, 'If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry.' There is little else I can add.

_ESTADO CRÍTICO



READ AN EXCERPT FROM *The Mayflies* specially translated by Katie Whittemore

"She went to the window.

If it stopped raining, in fifteen minutes, twenty tops, the view would no longer be the same. Nor the sounds or smells. Colors would be brighter. Cleaner. But the intensity of the scent emanating from the recently watered greenery would abate. They were incompatible kinds of beauty. Dora could spend an hour, two hours, studying the landscape out the back bedroom window. A motionless landscape. Trapped within a canvas that never aged, never changed owners, forever on the same wall in the same museum that was her home. In a setting that was flat, isolated, and prone to flooding, where indifference and seclusion seemed to clasp hands, having erected their shields over the inhabitants. That was the point, after all. That was the essence of the order established in La Ruche, the community in which the Olivers lived: protect the most fragile species from external attack. In the absence of poisonous elements or competition for space and food, the conditions were optimal for the growth and development of what they protected. Some species were selected, some were not. In specific numbers and quantities.

The environment, harmless and under control. The soil, nutrient. The structure, perfect."

English rights recently SOLD

Las efimeras is included in the neo-rural movement of Spanish literature from the early 21st century, which takes the narrative to rural areas. Neo-ruralism was widely cultivated mainly from the 40s to the 70s, by authors such as Miguel Delibes, Camilo José Cela and Juan Benet, among others.

* Reading report about *Las efimeras* published in Discourse Jorنال by Tatjana Gajic: *Edges of the Swarm: The World in Flux in Pilar Adón's Las efimeras* (available upon request)



Manuel Longares

Born in Madrid in 1943. His first three novels – *La novela del corsé* (1979), *Soldaditos de Pavía* (1984) and *Operación Primavera* (1992) – belong to the experimental cycle named *La vida de la letra* (Galaxia Gutenberg, 2014). The following novel, *No puedo vivir sin ti* (1995) is a transition of sorts to the cycle formed by *Romanticismo* (2001) and *Nuestra epopeya* (2006). His latest novels are *Los ingenuos* (2013), *El oído absoluto* (2016) and *Sentimentales* (2018). He is the author of three books of short stories: *Extravíos* (1999), *La ciudad sentida* (2007) and *Las cuatro esquinas* (2011). He has translated the book of sonnets by the Catalan poet J. V. Foix, *Sol, i de dol* (*Alone and in pain*, 1993).

* **Premio Nacional de la Crítica for *Romanticismo*** (republished by Galaxia Gutenberg in 2019)

* **Ramón Gómez de la Serna Award**

* **NH Award for short stories**

* **Francisco Umbral Award for *Las cuatro esquinas***

* **Madrid Booksellers Award for *Las cuatro esquinas***

2013 *Los ingenuos* (The Naive)

2014 *La vida de la letra* (The Life of the Letter)

2016 *El oído absoluto* (The Absolute Pitch)

2018 *Sentimentales* (Sentimental)

2019 *Romanticismo* (Romanticism) - first edition 2001

2021 *Las cuatro esquinas* (The Four Corners) - first edition 2011

“For me, writing is finding a style. And writing fiction is to reflect the life that passes [...] I have always been particularly fascinated by the fact that wealth and poverty are a step away. The impossible alliance between rich and poor has always dismayed me”.

—Longares by Longares.



Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available soon

■ Pages: 160

■ Published in 2011
Republished in 2021

Las cuatro esquinas [Four Corners]

A rich mosaic that explores four different moments of Spanish history.

Las cuatro esquinas offers four fragments of the Spanish contemporary history, building paths between reality and invention. The post-war period of the 1940s inspires the first story, where the supernatural visions of a maid contrast with the atmosphere of francoist violence and visible poverty. The second story is set twenty years later, among the elites of the Faculty of Law at Universidad Complutense. In the third story we witness the sustained persecution of a young Catholic man by the secret police during the death throes of the Dictatorship and the first years of the political transition. The fourth story takes place in our days, when the death of a composer raises the question of transcendence and unfulfilled dreams within his closest circle of friends, all of them retired musicians. The swing between humor and pathos, the contrasting points of view, the sharp profiles of the characters, are all writing marks that reveals the evolution of a country from misery to prosperity. Manuel Longares presents in this book a journey of crossed looks, feelings, ideas, emotions and commotions, which nest in the secret of what we were and are, in a reality that only true literature can reveal, with its mysterious illumination.

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* *Romanticismo* was
awarded with
the **National
Critics Award**

Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available

■ Pages: 552

■ Published in 2001.
Republished in
February 2019

Romanticismo [Romanticism]

A novel as essential as it is unclassifiable, situated in the trail of the best European narrative of the 20th century.

In one of Madrid's most bourgeois neighbourhoods, covering three generations of a family marked by an unfeasible love, this novel is about the crucial years of the Spanish story, after Franco's death and the political transformation it entailed. Does anything ever really change or is everything actually turned upside down? That is the question that affects most of the bourgeois families of the district, that feel it as a threat. For them, life is unalterable in its rites, customs and beliefs, given the most wealthy and powerful discard any alternative to what already exist. Almost twenty years later after its first publication, Galaxia Gutenberg recovers this novel, which won the *Premio Nacional de la Crítica*, and that is still considered a masterpiece. An essential novel, located in the wake of the best European narrative of the twentieth century. This edition includes a text by the author in which some keys to his creation are revealed.

*Now that everyone is looking back for the precise moment when Spain's democratic transition got “f*cked”, it would be more than advisable to read Manuel Longares' novel Romanticismo. He is a writer that draws from Galdós and Valle Inclán, but whose untainted and sarcastic style is absolutely genuine. _El Periódico*

A fable of a time that no one had told as well as Longares. A historic discovery. _Luis Mateo Díez.



Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available soon

- Pages: 240
- Published in March 2018

Sentimentales [Sentimental]

Music and literature meet in this light yet powerful novel.

The events take place in a province in love with music. Its streets are named after composers and its inhabitants gather in one of the two authorized musical associations. We usually call these people as 'normal': they have a steady job, a family and pay their taxes; except when music exacerbates their sentimentality and dislocates their behavior. An erudite man, the literary glory of the province and of whom we ignore if he is still alive or has been buried for years, sustains that sentimental people are a danger to families and nations. We will see this throughout this novel in which music lovers are betrayed by their character and even the smallest of hopes is distorted and frustrated. *Sentimentales* is divided into three parts: a scandalous symphonic premiere, the dissolution of an artist's marriage and the delay of an illustrious visitor. It is an homage to classical music through a text in which the literary game, expressed with humor in distorted phrases, absurd situations and arbitrary denominations, pursues a richer reality.

With a baroque and humorous prose, the authors imagines in Sentimentales a place where symphonic music arouses true passions and provokes heated confrontations between its inhabitants. _El Cultural



Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available soon

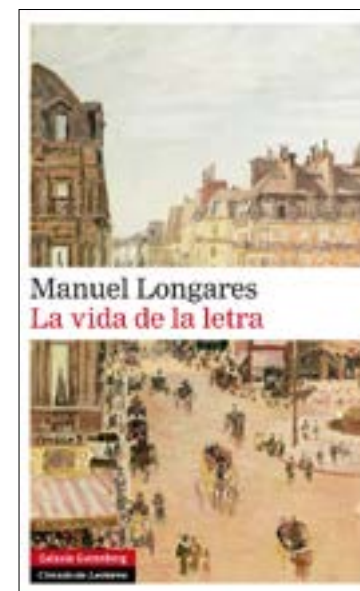
- Pages: 304
- Published in April 2016

El oído absoluto [The Absolut Pitch]

A novel about literature, its workers and its lovers.

This is a novel about literature. It is about writers and illiterates, about the publisher and the reader, about the scholar and the disciple, about the muses and the censors, about the mute and the loquacious, about the bohemian and the manuscripts of memoirs. About the greatness and misery of a profession whose reward lies in devoting oneself to words. It takes place in a time period that covers the heart of the 20th century, with its civil war and its post-war period. It revolves around a poet, a country boy who coexists in the capital with triumph, exile and madness. The narration is based on verses and prose by classic and contemporary authors and on fragments of zarzuela, musicals and copla. *El oído absoluto*, Manuel Longares' eighth novel, presents a heroic, foolish and cruel world. The style is very light, with substantially extravagant characters. They are the cultivators of the literary heritage and will entrust it to their heirs through libraries.

Manuel Longares cultivates a classic and exquisite prose and a profound love for literature, which he has captured, after years of contemplation, in El oído absoluto, a choral and amusing novel that raises the debate on whether or not creators can transmit this passion for literature. _Agencia EFE



Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available soon

- Pages: 800
- Republished in May 2014

La vida de la letra [The Life of the Letter]

A literary machine that will change every reader that approaches it.

The first three novels of Manuel Longares, published between 1979 and 1992, are reunited for the first time in a single volume. They include *La novela del corsé*, *Soldaditos de Pavía* and *Operación Primavera*, which he later gathered under the title *La vida de la letra* – a phrase which this edition preserves. These works of experimental nature and uncertain genre, with features of non-fiction or theatre, are a fiery homage to literature. Unlike many other novels, where the author uses his experience of reality to make words accompany life, these three works achieve the exact opposite: words are given a life of their own. As Longares says in the prologue of this new edition, the artistic issues in these three works – the erotic novels of early 20th century, plus the zarzuela and opera repertoires – plays the role of a character in a classical novel, running the plot and contributing to the discovery of reality. In this cycle of *La vida de la letra*, life does not influence literature, but it is rather literature that strives to influence the life of the reader.

With an elegant prose, Longares returns to our bookshops and stands out with a strong experimental call. _El diario



Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available soon

- Pages: 160
- Published in 2013

Los ingenuos [The Naive]

The story of a family hidden behind the limelights of history.

Madrid's Gran Vía has two faces: the bright one, full of cars and adorned with film posters, and the not so glamorous, in the side alleys, where life is active and noisy but lacks pomp. In an icy janitor lodge on Infantas Street, next to Gran Vía, lives a family: a couple with two children. The story unfolds in three different historical moments, which work as three theatrical acts. The first one takes place at the end of the 1940s: the father finds a job in the movie business as a scriptwriter, but he cannot get the benefits he dreamed of. In the second act, around the 1960s, the children of this marriage begin their vital take-off: the son obtains from his father the possibility of acting in a movie and the daughter follows the ups and downs of an elder teacher -a former classical theater actor with whom she has fallen in love. The third act happens in November 1975, days before Franco's death. These stories share the noblest and most underrated of human qualities: naivety. In this disturbing and funny novel, where hope is a companion of failure, beings pushed by their chimeras refuse to despair.

Manuel Longares shows us again that it is possible to assemble a story, of both enormous interest and high literary voltage, capable of conveying a critical perspective on society and history. _Nueva Tribuna



Adolfo García Ortega

Born in Valladolid in 1958, Adolfo García Ortega has lived in Madrid since 1982, though he now divides his time between this city and Barcelona. He has been involved in the world of books and literature since 1980, as translator, literary critic, journalist (El País), and editor. As writer, his works enjoy the highest reputation. He has written the novels *Mampaso* (1990), *Café Hugo* (1999), *Lobo* (Wolf, 2000), *El comprador de aniversarios* (The Birthday buyer, 2003), *Automata* (Automaton, 2006), *El mapa de la vida* (Life's map 2009), *Pasajero K* (Passenger K, 2012) and *El evangelista* (The evangelist, Galaxia Gutenberg, 2016). In 2019 he has published the novel *Una tumba en el aire*, winner of the XII Malaga Novel Award and in 2021, *La luz que cae*. Some of his works have been translated into English, Italian and Hebrew, among others.

* **Finalist for the Literature National Prize for *The Birthday Buyer*, 2004**

* **Dulce Chacón Award for *The Birthday Buyer*, 2004**

* **Critics Award of Castilla y León for *Automaton*, 2007**

* **Samuel Haddas Prize by the State of Israel, 2012.**

* **Malaga Novel Award, 2018**

LAST FICTION TITLES PUBLISHED AT GALAXIA GUTENBERG

2016 *El evangelista* (The Evangelist)

2019 *Una tumba en el aire* (A Tomb in the Air)

2021 *La luz que cae* (The Falling Light)

García Ortega's
NEW NOVEL
The great journey
will be available
from OCT 2022.

“The writer must have some courage. In my books I have looked for a kind of justice, that concept of reparation. But who am I to repair? I don’t do it, but the book does.”

—García Ortega by
García Ortega.



Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available soon

■ Pages: 240

■ Published
in May 2021

La luz que cae

[The Falling Light]

A transformative, absolutely free and personal book that is destined to accompany those who read it forever.

This is a truly unique and unexpected book. On a recent trip to Japan to give lectures, the author came into contact with the ideas and figure of Hiroshi Kindaichi, an unusual 18th century Japanese thinker. Kindaichi, almost unknown until today, was a Shinto heretic who confronted the society of his time and was a pioneer in the dialogue with nature and the spiritual wonder that nature itself gives off. In Japan, aided by a specialist in the heretical world of Kindaichi, García Ortega succumbed to an inner journey and discovered the life and ideas of this figure who was as attractive as he was secretive.

A hybrid genre book, in that, in the manner of Borges, it combines essay and novel, *La luz que cae* finally goes for fiction. Its pages contain travels and translations through time, narrating the vicissitudes of Kindaichi's life, his reflections and adventures, the relations between Japan and Holland, the ideological tensions of a hermetic country from the 18th century until the Hiroshima catastrophe, Kindaichi's unusual stay in the Europe of Diderot and the French Revolution and, finally, a vibrant hymn to nature in which the reader is invited to an emotional encounter with himself.

“A book that can produce the sensation of having reached total clarity or of having fallen into absolute shadow; of having understood everything or of having understood nothing, which for Shintoism is the same thing. What remains is the sensation of a pleasurable reading that grips like a thriller and alienates like a good poem”.

— **Iñaki Ezkerra**

The falling light is the new literary game of Adolfo García Ortega an unclassifiable author, with one of the freest spirits in contemporary Spanish literature.



***Malaga Novel Award 2018 for *A Tomb in the Air*.**

Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available soon

■ Pages: 336

■ Published in 2019

Una tumba en el aire [A Tomb in the Air]

A thrilling novel that is the quintessence of what terrorism is.

On the night of March 24, 1973, three young men, Humberto, Fernando and Jorge, cross the French border to go to Biarritz to see the film *The Last Tango in Paris*, forbidden in Franco's Spain. We know that night they entered a discotheque and there a cruel destiny awaited them. Mistaken by the police with a group of ETA members, they were kidnapped, tortured and eventually killed. They were never heard from again. Their bodies were never found. But there was always a weak point in the story: this novel is inspired by real events to tell, with scrupulous verisimilitude, the story of that fateful encounter. Written with an overwhelming narrative pulse, Adolfo García Ortega tells the story of the lives of those young men and their executioners, while showing the social and political atmosphere of 1973 in the south of France, where the terrorists, considered soldiers in a revolutionary chimera, were preparing to act bloody against the dictatorship of Spain. In the tradition of Truman Capote and Graham Greene, *Una tumba en el aire* is a masterful literary piece that leaves the reader shaken. Its author does not shy away from justice or tenderness and opens the door to a possible truth about facts that have never been clarified.

"I have read a magnificent book, Una tumba en el aire de García Ortega"._ Fernando Armaburu.



Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available soon

■ Pages: 266

■ Published in
October 2016

El evangelista [The Evangelist]

The Gospel told from a street-level point of view.

This novel is a chronicle of the revolt that took place in Jerusalem and Galilee in the time of Tiberius and ended with the executions of its ring-leaders on the cross. These were Iskariot Yehudah and Yeshuah, called the Visionary. They rebelled against the Roman Empire, aimed to change the order of things in this world for a divine Kingdom and ended up creating a massacre. Those facts are recorded here by an anonymous scribe who follows them closely and notes every step and every idea of the group of subversive patriots, and does so as a storyteller who witnesses the truth but does not share the ideals of the rebels. A few years later, this story was rewritten and served as the basis for a religion: Christianity. But perhaps everything happened differently, as this black chronicle of a confused world reveals. A world much like ours. *El Evangelista* is a literary challenge for Adolfo García Ortega, a writer whose novels have always shown courage. As novelists such as D. H. Lawrence, Saramago, Kazantzakis, Bulgakov or Thornton Wilder, the author here takes on the challenge of telling in a very imaginative and different way a story everyone thinks they know, he does so as if it were a new and unpublished story. Because, as read in these pages, the gospel seems new and unpublished. Even terrible. With his novel, Adolfo García Ortega opens a box full of doubts.



Alberto de la Rocha

He was born in Madrid in 1979 and currently lives in Cordoba. He was part of the third promotion of the Antonio Gala Foundation for Young Creators (2004-2005). He has published the novels *El cuarto inclinado* (2006), which won the XXV Premio Felipe Trigo de narración corta, *El celado* (2014), VII Premio Encina de Plata, *Sumidero* (2015), *Los vertebrados* (2018), LXIV Premio de Novela Ateneo-Ciudad de Valladolid, and *Recordaré abril* (2019), I Certamen Biblioteca Fundación Antonio Gala. With *Los años radicales* he won the XIV Malaga Novel Prize.

PUBLISHED AT GALAXIA GUTENBERG

2021 *Los años radicales* (*The Radical Years*)

"A disturbing, beautiful and cruel novel that reflects a mythical, social and cultural time of Spain, the so-called la Movida Madrileña [...] The quality of each page and a deep and effective treatment in the construction of characters and atmospheres stands out".

_Jury of the XIV Málaga Novel Prize during the awarding



** The Radical Years was awarded with the Málaga prize 2020 as best novel.*

Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available

■ Pages: 272

■ Published
in March 2021

Los años radicales

[The Radical Years]

The reflection of the impossibility of knowing oneself, from the story of a "cursed" painter who tries to make his self-portrait at the same moment in which he receives an institutional award.

The radical years begins with the call of a girl who will completely upset the life of the central character of the novel, Eduardo Muñoz, considered the *enfant terrible* of Spanish painting. She is none other than the Princess of Asturias, who announces that she will grant him her award. That recognition at this point in his career, after a life of excesses and an image of a cursed painter, made him consider the "institutionalization" of his work and his figure. Famous for his irascible temperament, he will not know how to deal with that. From that moment on, his own image as a rebellious and elusive painter crumbles and that pushes him to make a harsh revision of his past, marked above all by his heroin addiction. After a lifetime of deluding himself about who he is and where he comes from, Eduardo Muñoz takes a fresh look at his dark years as an addict, the death of all his friends due to drugs, his detoxification and his definitive triumph as a painter. The acceptance of his true identity will finally allow him to undertake a project repeatedly postponed throughout his career: his self-portrait.



Coradino Vega

He was born in 1976 in Minas de Riotinto (Huelva). Graduating with a degree in law, he also studied literature and aesthetics at the University of Seville and in Paris. For many years, he lived in Madrid and worked in publishing. His first novel, *El hijo del futbolista* (The Footballer's Son), was published in 2010 and received praise from critics and writers like Rafael Chirbes and Antonio Muñoz Molina. In 2014, it was published his second novel, *Escarnio* (Ridicule). It was followed by *La noche más profunda* (Deepest Night) in 2020 and the last one, in 2021, *Una vida tranquila* (A quiet life), both also warmly received. Vega has written about books, music and painting for various cultural journals. He now lives and teaches in Seville.

LAST TITLES PUBLISHED AT GALAXIA GUTENBERG

2019 *La noche más profunda* (Deepest Night)

2021 *Una vida tranquila* (A Quiet Life)

*“Over time
I realize that
language
worries me in
an increasingly
conscientious
way. As a writer
I try to be clear
and precise
throughout
the creation
process of the
work; to be
demanding; flee
from vagueness
and gratuitous
rhetoric.”*

—Vega by Vega.



Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available soon

■ Pages: 152

■ Published in
October 2021

Una vida tranquila [A quiet life]

A personal testimony that analyzes the lives of artists who chose calm and contemplation as a way of being in the world.

Intertwined with the scenes of a film as a counterpoint, *Una vida tranquila* traces the lives of three artists who chose calm and contemplation not only as a way of understanding their art, but also as a way of being in the world. Although in its pages appear Fra Angelico, Ajmátova, Emily Dickinson, Falla, Britten, Thoreau, Etty Hillesum, the monks De dioses y hombres, Fray Luis de León, Josep Pla or Simone Weil, due to its own tendency to remembrance, this hybrid book seems to seek above all something similar to what the paintings of Giorgio Morandi, the poems of Jane Kenyon or the short piano pieces of Frederic Mompou aspired to. In addition, while defending the simple poetic, luminous and away from noise, *Una vida tranquila* reflects the reverse of a confessional testimony, an implicit autobiography from which any type of me is absent.

Coradino Vega finished this book just before the pandemic broke out, when a certain accelerated and excessive way of living had long since become the pattern of our day. Now, however, his commitment, withdrawn by austerity in the face of the bustle of overcrowding and fashions, by attentive calm in the face of the deterioration of nature and the distractions of technology, has involuntarily acquired an imperative topicality and a double relevance.



Available in **Spanish**.
English excerpt
available soon.

■ Pages: 432

■ Published in
October 2019

La noche más profunda

[Deepest Night]

An ambitious novel that reconstructs the Romanian cultural atmosphere around the Second World War and, in particular, the last day in the life of the Jewish writer Mihail Sebastian.

Spring of 1945, Bucharest: A man headed for the university walks through the half-demolished city, remembering. Towards the end of the war, Romania switched sides, trading a fascist dictatorship for Soviet control in a matter of months. This man survived it — both the bombings and the anti-Semitic violence. This man is none other than the Jewish writer Mihail Sebastian, friend to Cioran and Mircea Eliade, among others; he belonged to an intellectual circle under the influence of Professor Nae Ionescu that flirted with the Iron Guard. To what extent, this book asks, can language be held responsible for barbarism, frivolity, opportunism or apathy? Conceived as a symphony, *Deepest Night* is the tale of a specific temperament, of one man's way of perceiving life, but it's also about the details of a dying era: a novel that spans the loyalties and betrayals of love and friendship through to the great European crisis of the thirties and the horror of its consequences.

“Historical novel, novel of ideas [...] Deepest night is a valuable and different work that should not go unnoticed.” _Sergio Vila-Sanjuán, La Vanguardia.

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Av. Diagonal, 361 2on 1a
08037 Barcelona
+ 34 93 476 33 91

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