THRILLER & NOIR CATALOGUE
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MARÍA ORUÑA

Maria Oruña comes from Galicia and has a Cantabrian father. She is a regular visitor to Cantabria from a very young age. And Cantabria is now the setting for The Hidden Harbour Series that marked her very successful début and has been translated into Catalan, French and German. This first title, The Hidden Harbour (2015), is followed by A Place to Go (2017), Where We Were Invincibles (2018) and What the Tide Conceals (2021). Cantabrian landscape shares the spotlight with Valentina Redondo and her team, who have earned the love of thousands of readers.

A Place to Go - 2

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

In the tranquil and picturesque village of Suances, the corpse of a Nordic-looking girl appears in medieval dress in La Mota de Trespalacios, the remote location of medieval ruins built over foundations stretching back three thousand years. In her hands is a medieval coin, and this leads Lieutenant Valentina Redondo and her team of detectives to think first, that this is the murderer's signature, and second, that they are dealing with a serial killer. While many are starting to imagine an impossible journey through time, new similar murders prove that Valentina is right. All of them show the killer's signature: a medieval coin in the corpse's hand. The killer is someone who knows history well. And it happens that just then, in Comillas, a nearby village, there is a speleological conference that has brought together the most renowned speleologists, archeologists, and historians in the world.

The author uses a mystery as a means for plunging the reader into the incredible and little-know archeological riches of Cantabria.

The Hidden Harbour - 1

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

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

Valentina is skeptic when it comes to the paranormal. Still, a succession of unusual events will lead them to investigate what's happened in unusual ways, until they find out some surprising, timeless secret essence and that every character has something to tell –and something to hide.
In Delparaíso everything seems perfect and idyllic. Until Juan del Val opens the doors. Come in and take a look around.

Delparaíso, they say, is one of the safest developments in Europe. The 70 homes there comprise an unbreachable fortress, but the twenty-four-hour security that watches over them cannot keep fear, love, sorrow, desire, and death from spreading inside it. The lives of the inhabitants of Delparaíso weave together with the same ease as those of any neighborhood, but they aren’t all as anodyne as they seem. Behind every door, a different story is concealed. And when these stories cross, the result is like a bomb thrown in the middle of the apparent tranquility.

Juan del Val’s gaze is incisive, cold, fiercely rooted in the brutal present, and it penetrates unstoppably in the minds of all his characters. The result is a choral novel in which the cards appear to be on the table but the future remains, just as in real life, dependent on the decisions we take for what are often the most fleeting reasons.

Delparaíso is an absorbing book, a multifaceted mirror in which the human condition is reflected in its grand diversity. Because all happy families look alike, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.
Aro Sáinz de la Maza combines his writing career with that of an editor and proofreader. He started the devastating series starring inspector Milo Malart with *The Barcelona Murders* (RBA, 2012, Destino, 2020), his first crime novel, which received a Special Mention of the RBA International Crime Novel Award. The outstanding popular reception and press reviews was reaffirmed with the publication of the novel in France *Le Bourreau de Gaudí*. Malart is already a classic of the genre, in the line of prestigious contemporary writers, such as Jo Nesbo and Philip Kerr.

**OUTSTANDING RECEPTION**
- Special mention 5th RBA International Crime Prize
- Nominated for the Grand Prix de Littérature Policière in the category of foreign literature 2015 and finalist in 2017
- Nominated for the Prix Violeta Negra 2015 by the Festival Toulouse Polars du Sud
- Nominated for the Prix Librairie AB 2015
- Nominated for the Pata Negra Prize 2016 and 2020
- Winner III Prize to Negra y Mortal 2020
- Nominated to the Casas Ahorcadas Prize 2016 and winner in 2020-2021
- Nominated to the Valencia Negra Prize 2016 and winner in 2020

**A Mediterranean Noir Series** which features the inspector Milo Malart.

**WHO IS MILO MALART?**

Milo Malart is an enigma for the reader. Anyone who knows him has learned to trust him and knows that everything he does will eventually be explained; those who meet him for the first time may well be taken aback and may not understand him, but all too soon they will warm up to him. Why? Because Milo is, above all else, efficient. Even if he has the kind of gruff appearance you’d try to avoid sitting near on the bus, his way of being ends up making us love him. Because Milo holds you. He is authentic. He leaves a mark. He moves us. He’s not just anyone… he’s Milo.

**100,000 SOLD IN FRANCE (ACTES SUD)**

**Docile (Milo 3)**
Milo Malart, detective of the Catalan State Police, faces a particularly cruel and complex case.

Monday at dawn a young man shows up at the police station covered in blood from head to toe. “Everyone is dead,” he whispers before fainting. Analysis of his clothes confirms that the blood belongs to at least three people. Are the police looking at yet another victim, the survivor of a massacre? But why does he remain silent when he regains consciousness? There is another possibility: that he is the murderer. However, everyone describes him as a docile boy, unable to hurt a fly. Who is Lucas Torres really?

**The Blind Spot (Milo 2)**
A pitch-dark crime novel that shows the best and the worst of a society drowned in its successes and frustrations.

Milo Malart was facing two murders and a gruesome massacre of dogs in Barcelona. The body of a college student is found, strangled in a forest in Barcelona. When a second victim appears, the case takes on a whole new dimension. While a cold front hits the city, and the rain falls relentlessly, the acerbic inspector Milo Malart tries to untangle a series of crimes in the midst of a city that has been devastated by the havoc wreaked by the crisis, with unemployment and corruption as a backdrop.

**The Barcelona Murders (Milo 1)**
Corruption, past crimes, invisible citizens, fate and punishment…for every riddle that is solved, another, even more disturbing, appears.

A well-known politician and financier of Barcelona is found hanging in flames on the Pedrera, a building created by the Catalan genius, Gaudi, after being abducted. The judge handling the case decides to resort to desperate measures and Milo Malart, unorthodox inspector of a dark-talent, is reinstated to the Serious Crimes Department to help clarify the brutal crime. However, after analyzing the evidence, he formulates a theory that triggers an even greater confusion. He suspects that the police is facing a serial killer, who is already focusing on new victims. At first his ideas are met with disbelief and scorn, but all too soon they are confirmed.
BEBI FERNÁNDEZ

Bebi is the pseudonym of a writer and online activist, a graduate in Criminology specializing in gender violence, intervention, victimology, and organized crime.

Her extraordinary brilliance, her social commitment, and her biting discourse have made her one of the most influential figures in Spain, and this brought about the publication of her poetic diaries, *Love and Disgust* and *Indomitable*, written during her childhood and adolescence. These became a collective symbol of rebellion and a clarion call for the women's struggle, making her one of the rawest and most irreverent voices in the literary field today.

“A titanic voice thirsty for colour and sound. A sharp prose that scratches every page. Until now, Bebi was synonymous with fever, power and fire, but no one could imagine that the power of her pen would change the course of literature in full 21st century. *Memoirs Of A Savage* is a novel that expires on each page to be reborn on the next page conquering a horror inhabited by life in its purest state. The liberation of women owes to the pen of this author years of evolution. This is not a novel; it is a homeland. No one could imagine such a fertile jungle.”

— Men Marías, winner of the Carmen Martín Gaite novel award.

“Without looking for it, Bebi has created a -revolution-. Today’s feminism, the one that comes from the hand of the younger generations and that is present on the digital stage of social networks, has been nourished and is nourished by the philosophy of the Bebi’s quotes.”

— Nora Cifuentes, *Los Tiempos*.

*Memoirs Of A Savage* is also a plea for friendship between women. Women who are sticking together to fight and face the danger without the need of a knight in shining armour to save them.

— Bebi Fernández, *Yellow Break*.

**Memoirs Of A Savage**

*An explosive novel made of feminism, sisterhood, gender violence, empowerment, women and white slavery.*

Kassandra (K) is 19 years old and leads a somewhat peculiar life. When her father, a drug trafficker, is killed in a settling of scores, she is forced to combine her studies with a very unconventional job: receptionist in one of the flats where men prostitute women against their will.

Under the threat of these men and the crushing load of the debt that afflicts her family, she experiences firsthand the horrors of the system of trafficking in women. The empathy for the women she meets there drives her to seek to defend herself and discovering Ram’s boxing club, run by a youngster whose life has also been marked by violence and who founded his gym to offer an alternative to the neighborhood boys who, like him, can easily fall into the clutches of violence, crime or drugs.

While all this is happening, love and friendship become harder to grasp than ever. Opening the drawer where the chess pieces are contained won’t be easy, but Kassandra Fernández isn’t just a brave young girl trying to figure out her destiny any longer—she’s a savage woman, an icon, a myth, ready to play the game whether she wins or loses.

150,000 COPIES SOLD IN SPAIN
MANUEL RÍOS

Manuel Ríos is a scriptwriter who works for a local production company, developing animated films and series for HBO, he has also collaborated as a script writer in some of the most successful Spanish TV series of recent years. He cowrote and coordinated the book *The Script For Television Series* and is author of the novel *Circles* (Suma, 2016).

An atypical police novel of the current situation in Spain. And it is, because, Manuel Ríos combines a contemporary themed story with a prehistoric setting in Atapuerca excavations as a background. For the writing of the story, the author has enjoyed the presence of the codirector of Atapuerca.”

Europa Press, *La Vanguardia* (about *The Imprint of Evil)*.

*The Imprint Of Evil* is not just a crime novel that will fascinate readers with the tightly fit puzzle pieces of its plot; it is also a story about the evolution—including moral evolution—of humankind from prehistory down to the present day. Violence, sex, altruism, empathy, fear of dying, and other parts of the human condition serve as the basis of high-level philosophical discussions in this book.

“It is said a lot that the noir novel serves to reflect on society, but I’ve tried to look deeper into the human being and ask what is more important on the human being, violence or empathy.”

Manuel Ríos.

The Imprint Of Evil

*Even if we hide it, the evil is inside all of us.*

During a tourist visit to the archaeological dig in Atapuerca, a fourteen-year-old boy realizes that one of the reproductions of hominid burial rites from thousands of years ago actually contains the body of a murdered girl. She seems to have been placed there ritualistically, and all the clues point to a macabre killing similar to one that took place years before.

In the village, unease runs rampant. Too many of the details resemble those from the earlier case, so the judge calls on the investigator who handled it: Daniel Velarde, ex-cop and current head of security from where he is raking in money. Daniel will be obliged to return to the force as a consultant. During the investigation, he will meet again with the new head of the homicide squad, a woman around forty who had to struggle to make it to where she is, and who finds her authority called into question when her old boss returns. To make things worse, the two of them were involved with each other, in a relationship fraught with ups and downs.

Their respective approaches to the case will clash, complicating an already convoluted investigation that will transform their lives forever, along with their ways of understanding the world and their personal relationships.

Where There is Darkness

*A stirring thriller in which the police in charge will have to scour the Bible to stop the work of a messianic serial killer.*

A young Russian model and influencer disappears in Madrid, where she had gone for the opening of a lingerie shop. Her body is found placed like an offering on the altar of a church. Like Eve, the young woman looks virginal, she doesn’t even have a belly button. The characteristics of the crime lead everyone top believe it is the work of a serial murderer looking to reenact God’s creation. The agents in charge, Detective Martín (a boomer looking to correct the errors of an entire generation) and Agent Pieldelobo (a hard and cynical millennial) must dust off their knowledge of religion in order to stop the crimes, but first they’ll have to learn to work together and establish a dialogue between two generations condemned to get along.

Only the person who looks for expiation can assume the burden of guilt.
Carlos Montero has worked in the audiovisual sector for more than sixteen years, as a screenwriter for cinema and television. He wrote some of the most successful Spanish TV series. His latest works include the successful adaptations of El tiempo entre costuras, based on the best-selling novel by María Dueñas, and Apaches, from the work of the same title by Miguel Sáez.

In 2012 he published his first novel, You Can’t Get Rid of Tattoos with a Laser. He has been in 2019 recruited into Netflix’s workforce to develop series as a screenwriter and is one of the creators of the successful Netflix series Elite. The book was adapted into a series by the author for Netflix. The series The Mess You Leave Behind was released by Netflix in December 2020 and instantly became an international box office hit.

*The Mess You Leave Behind* joins the latest trend in thrillers, related to the recent Scandinavian or French crime novel, with stories of deep emotional impact featuring women, of which Lost or *The Girl on the Train* are international references.

Carlos Montero has constructed a disturbing psychological thriller in which the protagonists are marked by absences and, above all, by the fear of losing someone they love. In this sense, the author reflects both on the emptiness left by the death of a loved one and the void that opens up after a sentimental rupture; likewise, on how we recompose ourselves after a loss.

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This prize-winning novel is an intense psychological thriller told in the voice of the protagonist, Raquel, a young, out of work literature teacher who accepts a position at a school in Novariz, which just happens to be her husband’s home town.

On her first day of work, the young woman discovers that Elvira, her predecessor, killed herself and at the end of classes she finds a note in her bag that reads: “And how long will it take you to kill yourself?”

Raquel is determined to find out who is behind the threat and will inevitably start to become obsessed with the teacher who came before her.

What happened to her?

Why was she so depressed when her students adored her?

Did she really commit suicide or did someone kill her?

Is the same pattern repeating itself?

And above all, why do some of the clues point to Raquel’s husband?

A thriller about the power of absence and the danger of believing in appearances.

**ADAPTED INTO A SERIES FOR NETFLIX BY THE AUTHOR**

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**WINNER OF THE 20TH EDITION OF THE PRIMAVERA PRIZE, 2016**

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**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

Bastei Lübbe (Germany), Konyvimalékkiadó Kiadó Kft (Hungary), Czarna Owca (Poland), HLAB - Hachette Livre (France), Editura Univers (Romania), Fanucci (Italy).

Audiovisual rights: El desorden que dejas | Production company: Carlos Montero / Netflix.
MELCIOR COMES

Melcior Comes is the author of the novels L'aire i el món (Ciutat d'Elx Prize, 2003), L'estupor que us espera (Documenta Prize, 2004) and El llibre dels plaers immensos (Ciutat de Palma Prize, 2006). He has also published, with other young authors, the reflection book Qui no mereix una pallissa!

He has translated works of Honoré de Balzac and Victor Hugo. He teaches writing at the Escola d'Escriptura of Barcelona’s Atheneum. Moreover, he is a contributor to El Punt/Avui, elsingular.cat and Catalunya Ràdio.

His most recent book, On The Impure Earth, has won the most prestigious awards of the Catalan literary scene.

OUTSTANDING RECEPTION

• Critica Serra d'Or Award
• Creixells Award (Catalan Concourt)
• Núvol Award
• Omnium Award Finalist

“A book about the family, friends, and secrets. It is also a book about the things that we will never know, about parents and children, and how parents determine the world that children will live in. It is a book about the ability of literature to make us see and feel what has been hidden from us.”

Lluís Llort, El Punt Avui.

“Like Flaubert, the narrator is “the idiot of the family” and, like Flaubert, the narrator experiments with points of view and plays with rhythm and timelines. The powerful family treats him like an idiot and underestimates him, but he has a vocation for vigilante hero that is also a way to get rid of the certainty of being a complete looser.”

Vicenç Pagès Jordà, El Periòdico.

MELCIOR COMES

On The Impure Earth

A struggling writer is drawn back to his native Majorca when he’s hired to compose the memoirs of Dora Bonnin, a recently deceased singer and mother of his childhood best friend Leo, whom he hasn’t seen in years.

Leo’s father Higini Verdera is heir to the family shoe business, and the reigning patriarch of this extremely wealthy clan.

Delving into Dora’s diaries the writer soon discovers hints of some dark secrets, and loses all impartiality when he gets involved with Leo’s stepsister. Leo’s wife disappears on their wedding night, and Leo’s theory is that his father has kidnapped his bride. Then Dora’s diaries vanish as well; again Leo blames Higini.

As violent, criminal links to the Verdera family are exposed, Leo’s accusations start to seem less far-fetched, and the narration becomes much less reliable. How far have the Verderas gone to maintain the power of their empire, and how far are they willing to go?

“One of the most ambitious and spectacular novels born in contemporary Catalan fiction.”

Pere Antoni Pons, Última Hora.

On The Impure Earth is 2018’s Best Catalan Novel and after several recognitions, it is being hailed as “the great Majorcan novel”.

In this deft tale of fathers and sons, a young writer is pulled into an affluent family tree whose roots stretch deep into an island’s sordid past.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Navona Edicions (Spanish).
JAVIER MENÉNDEZ

Javier Menéndez is a journalist and author of books that include novels (*The Desolate Ones, Our Way of Saying Goodbye*), interviews (*Lie to Me While You Kiss Me, Art in Vein*), essay (*Legendary Lookers*), and biography. He is now working on his third novel.

All Of Us

A fascinating police intrigue that pounds at your head and aims for your heart.

Madrid, 1981. Two police inspectors investigate the hit-and-run death of a naked young woman whose autopsy reveals terrible wounds suffered before her death. Not long afterward, two girls of a similar age disappear. All three were last seen in late-night bars. This is the beginning of a gripping criminal intrigue that will cover two decades, weaving together the psychology of the characters with mastery. Madrid at the end of the seventies, where the ferocious methods of Francoism are still alive, contrasts with a new but stable democracy exposed to the dangers of a globalized world.

A novel whose rhythm doesn’t allow readers to catch their breath, with suspense, violence, and an epic finale that is as surprising as it is devastating. A novel that reflects on the complexity of human beings, their darkest zones, and the all-powerful strength of love.