Index

ARO SÁINZ DE LA MAZA .................................................. 4

BEBI FERNÁNDEZ ............................................................ 6

FERNANDO BENZO .......................................................... 8

MANUEL RÍOS ................................................................. 10

FLORENCIA ETCHEVES .................................................. 12

CARLOS MONTERO ........................................................ 14

MELCIOR COMES ........................................................... 16

RAFAEL CAUNEDO ........................................................ 18
ARO SÁINZ DE LA MAZA

Barcelona, 1959.

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 Gaudi*. Malart is already a classic of the genre, in the line of prestigious contemporary writers, such as Jo Nesbø and Philip Kerr.

100,000 SOLD IN FRANCE (ACTES SUD)

OUTSTANDING RECEPTION

- Special mention 5th RBA International Crime Novel Prize 2011 and policière in the category of foreign literature 2015
- Nominated for the Grand Prix de Littérature 2016
- Nominated for the Prix Violeta Negra 2015 by the Festival Toulouse Polars du Sud
- Nominated for the Prix Librairie AB 2015
- Nominated for the Prix Alice 2015
- Nominated to the Pata Negra Prize 2016
- Nominated to the Pata Negra Prize 2016
- III Prize to Negro y Mortal 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 eventually 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 hooks you. He is authentic. He leaves a mark. He moves us. He’s not just anyone… he’s Milo.

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**

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*

**Memories 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.

---

**Queen**

Only a real queen dares to play on a burning board.

Spain, 2020. The life of Kassandra Fernández is a back-and-forth between her readings and her attempts to overcome her traumatic past, but everything falls apart when death comes back to knock at her door. Her worst enemy, who vanished after the events that overturned her existence, will make an appearance in the worst possible way, setting into motion a cruel cold war in which strategy, criminal business, and the limits between good and evil blend together, and the protagonist will have to choose between vengeance and justice in an internal battle that will force her to come to terms with who she really is.

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.
FERNANDO BENZO


Fernando Benzo has studied Law and Civil Administration of State. He received the Castilla-La Mancha Prize with his first book The Happy Years (1989). After receiving numerous awards, his main stories were brought together in the book Ten Sad Stories. He returned to the novel with Mary Lou And Comfortable Life (Kutxa Prize) and since then he published The Betrayal Against Mermaids, After the Rain (Ciudad de Majadahonda Prize), The Castaways of Plaza Mayor, I Will Never Repeat Your Name and The Light Gray of Innocence.

He has recently worked in the field of cultural promotion and has been Undersecretary of Education, Culture, and Sports, and Secretary of State of Culture.

We Were Never Heroes fuses his passion for the crime novel with his experiences and knowledge of the fight against terrorism, in an inseparable mix of fiction and reality.

"There are moments in We Were Never Heroes by Fernando Benzo (Planeta) in which the reader is put in mind of a John Le Carré novel about ETA. This is particularly true when Gabo and Harri, the novel’s hero and villain, are roaming around talking about nothing and trying to discover an escape valve that will let them relieve forty years of mourning. They remind one of Smiley and Karla."

Luis Alemany, El Mundo, Cultura

"An excellently written thriller."

Ernesto Ayala-Dip, El País, Babelia

"We Were Never Heroes can be read as an anguished interrogation of the phenomenon of terrorism… I believe it is here where we find what is best in nihilistic literature from Dostoevsky to Camus. As an example, I would highlight the way the author confronts the inevitable desire for vengeance on the part of both the police and the families of victims."

Juan Ángel Juristo, ABC Cultural

"An addictive story of obsessions that tries not only to show a hostile and abject world as it is, but to render it comprehensible and in this way reveal the possibilities for hope."

Miguel Ángel Oeste, El Cultural

We Were Never Heroes

A moving police novel whose growing rhythm and intrigue fuses the author’s passion for crime fiction with his experiences and knowledge of the antiterrorism struggle.

Gabo is a retired police commissioner who has devoted his entire career to the fight against terrorism. Harri is a terrorist who has spent the past twenty years in Colombia after managing to escape numerous attempts at capture.

When the Spanish intelligence services discover that Harri has returned to Madrid, the head of the General Commissariat of Information, asks his old friend and employee Gabo to find out the real reason why. He had promised himself he would keep a distance from his former life, but his old obsession with capturing Harri and settling old accounts leads Gabo to begin an investigation that will lead to crisscrossing international networks of drug traffickers, organized crime, jihadism, and the dark world of informants.

Through constant surveillance, Gabo will establish a disturbing personal relationship with the terrorist that will force him to relive a past he would have preferred to forget.

A young inspector in the drug squad, Estela, will help Gabo on his search, and both will know time is running out to prevent Harri from committing a new crime.
MANUEL RÍOS


Manuel Ríos has studied Information Sciences. He 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).

The Imprint Of Evil is his second and most personal project, a fast-paced and dynamic thriller. Detailed, well narrated and full of sentimental and criminal suspense, the novel links a criminal investigation with humanity’s origins.

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

**Only the person who looks for expiation can assume the burden of guilt.**

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 virginial, she doesn’t even have a bellybutton. The characteristics of the crime lead everyone to 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.
FLORENCIA ETCHEVES


Florencia Etcheves (Buenos Aires, 1971) is a journalist, writer and news anchor specializing in police cases. For two consecutive years (2010 and 2011) she received the Martín Fierro Award for the best woman’s journalist work. She is co-author of two journalistic essays: No somos ángeles (2007) and Mia o de la tumba fría (2009). She is also the author of crime novels such as The Virgin in your Eyes (2012), Cornelia (2018), Wanderers (2019) and The Champion’s Daughter (2014).

Florencia Etcheves is a journalist. She has worked mainly in TV news, covering crime and current affairs. After twenty-four years in that line of work, she made a change and took up writing. Her novels deal with crime and criticize violence against women, and all have been commercial successes. Her journalistic chops are evident in her detailed investigations and the presence of journalists and the press in all her work.

FEMINISM

Florencia Etcheves is a women’s rights activist and promoter of the Argentinian #Niunamenos campaign opposing violence against women. Her novels express her opposition to violence against women and sexual exploitation. The majority of her characters are women.

“Women aren’t going to stay quiet anymore. We no longer view as natural the violence we thought we deserved for so many years. All over, I see women of different ages being more empowered, and together we are forging and promoting the self-esteem that was so often taken away from us.”

Florencia Etcheves

ON THE SCREEN

The Virgin in Your Eyes appeared on Netflix with the title Intuition in May 2020, and is available in 194 countries. It topped the list of most-viewed productions in Spain, Brazil, the USA, Greece, Poland, the Netherlands, Russia, Israel, South Africa, and Italy. Cornelia was adapted as Perdida in Netflix in 2018.

The Virgin In Your Eyes

The first novel by Florencia Etcheves. The reader will be hopelessly caught in the web in this inexplicable murder and will never be able to forget the characters.

Two roommates in a conflictive relationship. The first, Gloriana Márquez, shows up murdered in her room. The second, Minerva del Valle with the frozen stare, is the suspect. The scene of the crime seems to have been tampered with. Minerva’s grandmother, one of the richest women in Argentina, will do anything to save her granddaughter.

While this unsolved murder rocks the country and confounds its journalist, the forces of justice, in the form of detectives Francisco Juánez and Manuela Pelari, are incapable of proving any of their suspicions. Twenty years later, this episode that left its mark on so many lives is still eating away at someone with a hidden past who fears the truth will be revealed.

The movie has topped the mostseen lists in Europe and US!

Cornelia

When the past resurfaces, there are no weapons or training that can protect you, especially if it’s a story full of secrets.

The young Cornelia disappears in a small town in Argentinian Patagonia when she is on a field trip with four of her classmates. A silver chain lying in the snow is all that is left of her.

Ten years after her disappearance, after a mass organized by the family to keep her memory alive, Pipa, one of the four friends, now a police officer, decides to reopen the case at the insistence of Cornelia’s mother. She has just discovered that an anonymous person has been publishing an obituary in the newspaper for her daughter every year.

Outstanding, original, raw, tough, sensitive, and terribly tender even though it addresses such a thorny issue as trafficking in women.
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.

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

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.
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?

**ON THE IMPURE EARTH**

Mallorca, 1980.

Melcior Comes has studied Law and Literary Theory. He 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’Esqupiratura 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.

**“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 Periódico

"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

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

Pere Antoni Pons, Última Hora

**ON THE IMPURE EARTH**

*Navona Edicions (Spanish).*

*Eligible for translation grant*

**On The Impure Earth**

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

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?

**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.
The Lust For Accidents

What are we capable of doing to satisfy our desires? Does every accident conceal a wish?

A psychological thriller with shades of *domestic* noir that traps us from the first page.

Blanca, a riot cop, and her husband Alberto, a high school history teacher, are at a low point in their marriage. After her first child, Blanca goes back to work, but nothing is the same as before. Her first day back ends tragically when she makes a mistake in a police charge and wounds Eva, a bystander, shooting her eye out with a rubber bullet.

This fateful event will be the beginning of Blanca’s downfall. She will have to take leave because she is unable to devote herself fully to her work. While Alberto begins an affair with Kate, his colleague from the school, Blanca will speak with the victim to confess her guilt, not knowing Simón, the girl’s father, is already suing her for police brutality. Blanca’s revenge when she finds out about Alberto’s infidelity will have tragic consequences in both their lives.

A novel in which no one and nothing is what they seem and we see how our most intimate desires (for vengeance, for turning back time, love, survival, the desire to transcend ourselves) can destroy everything.

RAFAEL CAUNEDO


Is a writer and professor of Creative Writing at the Carmen Posadas and Andrea Zarza workshop, editor of the magazine *Culturamas*, and a decorator. He currently coordinates the readers’ clubs for the Corte Inglés Madrid’s *Ámbito Cultural* and is presenter of “The Leather Armchair,” a cultural program for Onda Madrid. He is also a regular contributor to several publications, including *Culturamas*, *El Cotidiano*, and *Yorokobu*. 

The Lust For Accidents

What are we capable of doing to satisfy our desires? Does every accident conceal a wish?

A psychological thriller with shades of *domestic* noir that traps us from the first page.

Blanca, a riot cop, and her husband Alberto, a high school history teacher, are at a low point in their marriage. After her first child, Blanca goes back to work, but nothing is the same as before. Her first day back ends tragically when she makes a mistake in a police charge and wounds Eva, a bystander, shooting her eye out with a rubber bullet.

This fateful event will be the beginning of Blanca’s downfall. She will have to take leave because she is unable to devote herself fully to her work. While Alberto begins an affair with Kate, his colleague from the school, Blanca will speak with the victim to confess her guilt, not knowing Simón, the girl’s father, is already suing her for police brutality. Blanca’s revenge when she finds out about Alberto’s infidelity will have tragic consequences in both their lives.

A novel in which no one and nothing is what they seem and we see how our most intimate desires (for vengeance, for turning back time, love, survival, the desire to transcend ourselves) can destroy everything.

RAFAEL CAUNEDO


Is a writer and professor of Creative Writing at the Carmen Posadas and Andrea Zarza workshop, editor of the magazine *Culturamas*, and a decorator. He currently coordinates the readers’ clubs for the Corte Inglés Madrid’s *Ámbito Cultural* and is presenter of “The Leather Armchair,” a cultural program for Onda Madrid. He is also a regular contributor to several publications, including *Culturamas*, *El Cotidiano*, and *Yorokobu*. 

The Lust For Accidents

What are we capable of doing to satisfy our desires? Does every accident conceal a wish?

A psychological thriller with shades of *domestic* noir that traps us from the first page.

Blanca, a riot cop, and her husband Alberto, a high school history teacher, are at a low point in their marriage. After her first child, Blanca goes back to work, but nothing is the same as before. Her first day back ends tragically when she makes a mistake in a police charge and wounds Eva, a bystander, shooting her eye out with a rubber bullet.

This fateful event will be the beginning of Blanca’s downfall. She will have to take leave because she is unable to devote herself fully to her work. While Alberto begins an affair with Kate, his colleague from the school, Blanca will speak with the victim to confess her guilt, not knowing Simón, the girl’s father, is already suing her for police brutality. Blanca’s revenge when she finds out about Alberto’s infidelity will have tragic consequences in both their lives.

A novel in which no one and nothing is what they seem and we see how our most intimate desires (for vengeance, for turning back time, love, survival, the desire to transcend ourselves) can destroy everything.