

UPMARKET FICTION

London Book Fair 2023



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Care Santos is an author and literary critic. She has written ten novels, among them *Closed Rooms* (2011) – which was adapted for television–, *The Air You Breathe* (2013), *Longing for Chocolate* (2014, winner of the Ramon Llull Prize), *Blue Diamond* (2015) and *Half Life*, which won the Premio Nadal in 2017. Her work has been translated into more than twenty languages, including English, German, French, Swedish, Italian, and Dutch.

UPMARKET FICTION

CARE SANTOS

A moving novel revolving around the soothing power of both nature and literature to heal our wounds.

THE MAN WHO LOVED BIRDS

New York, 1889. The Schieffelins, an elderly married couple, lead a peaceful and comfortable life, immersed in their customs and routines. The death of Martha, Eugene's dearest sister, leaves the old man grieving and fearful of his own decline. Charged with nostalgia, Eugene delves into reading his sister's diaries, full of references to Shakespeare, of whom she was an ardent admirer, and memories that the siblings share.

In an accident, the Schieffelins' horse-drawn carriage runs over a man whom they take into their home and take care of until he recovers. This man is Daniel Rodríguez, a young Spaniard whose dream is to be a cartoonist. During his convalescence he receives a visit from Nellie Bly, who ends up becoming a regular at teatime in the Schieffelin drawing room. The young friends, as if they were the children the Schieffelin's never had, fill the house with life and share their dreams and longings with the elderly couple: Daniel aspires to publish his drawings in the newspapers; Nellie, to beat Phileas Fogg's record around the world.

But Eugene also has a mission, a crazy idea and a tribute to his beloved sister; he wants to introduce the birds that Shakespeare quotes in his works to the New York skies. While he develops his idea, the advances seen in the final decades of the 19th century follow one another at great speed. New York, a city that no longer looks like itself, becomes a city in which anything is possible, a city in which Eugene's eccentric plan can become reality.



Destino | 74,827 Words | 368 Pages | February 2023
English sample available & long synopsis available

GILDED AGE | NATURE | SOCIAL LIFE

NEW YORK CITY HIGH SOCIETY

OPTION PUBLISHERS

Humanitas (Romania).

Set between London and New York, The Man Who Loved Birds is a choral work featuring the story of a family that lived through an era of conflict and social transformation.

Begoña Gómez Urzaiz has written the best kind of book: the one you didn't know you were craving until it appeared. The Abandoners is a self-interrogative, intricately perceptive look at the buried tradition of women leaving their children: it's about the impossibility, pleasure, and torture embedded in motherhood, and the line — elusive when it entangles the facts of money, work, mistakes, and desire — between objective necessity and personal choice. I absolutely inhaled it.

Jia Toletino, writer and journalist

"I devoured this book. It's entertaining and reflective at the same time. One of the best texts I've read on maternal ambivalence."

Gabriela Ybarra, writer

"I couldn't put it down. The prose grabs you and takes you along with it, the voice guides you but doesn't obtrude.

The selection of names is fantastic, same as the memorable end with those anonymous voices. I read it as if it was a thriller. A smart, fascinating unmissable exploration of the verb 'to abandon'."

Eider Rodríguez, writer

"With her luminous and insightful craft, Begoña Gómez Urzaiz manages to find a fascinating and often liberating niche in this universe by falling in and out the lives of women who have tackled the dark corners of motherhood and the taboos of abandonment. This is literary non-fiction at its best: full of autonomous ideas, intuitions and confidence, and yet a subtleness that keeps the ambivalences within the subject of motherhood without gimmickness or fear, where the 'I' of the author becomes a thread and not the whole texture. Probably the best book I've read on the implications of motherhood and its opposites after Sheila Heti's Motherhood."

Claudia Durastanti, writer

Begoña Gómez Urzaiz is a freelance journalist who lives in Barcelona. She writes an opinion column in *La Vanguardia* and collaborates regularly in *El País*, *Radio Primavera Sound* and other media. She teaches Literary Journalism in a Master's program at the UAB. *The Abandoners* (Destino) is her first book.

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BEGOÑA GÓMEZ URZAIZ

"A richly interesting exploration of a tricky subject; Begoña Gómez Urzaiz tells the stories of all these different women with such intelligence, wit and generosity."

Tessa Hadley, writer

THE ABANDONERS

What kind of mother abandons her child? The phrase has something biblical about it and could be uttered by almost anyone at any time in history including our own, where motherhood has acquired a political nuance. And yet, every day everywhere there are women who decide not to raise their children for economic reasons, because they don't fit with their legitimate personal ambition, or because they believe the children will be better off at arm's length.

Led by personal interest —you can't possibly be very feminist, or even very empathetic if you can't understand this phenomenon— Begoña Gómez Urzaiz investigates maternal abandonment in this, her first book. She also discusses women who left their children at some point in their lives and what this meant for them: real figures such as Muriel Spark, Doris Lessing, Ingrid Bergman, Maria Montessori, Gala Dalí, and Mercè Rodoreda, as well as fictional characters such as Anna Karenina or Patricia Highsmith's Carol, of whom surely someone would at some point say: What kind of mother abandons her child?

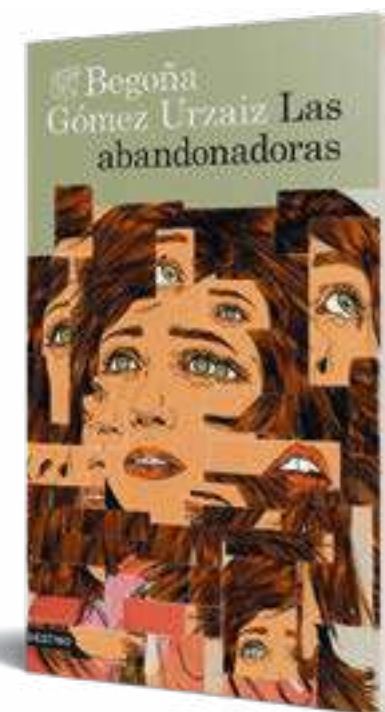
This revelatory, dazzling, hybrid personal essay will interest readers of recent novels that address taboos of motherhood —with reflective, creative, and sometimes guilty approaches— such as those of Brenda Navarro and Katixa Aguirre, but also fans of contemporary essayists such as Olivia Laing and Leslie Jamison.

"I liked this book so much. A funny-sad take on the hundreds, if not thousands of reasons that could bring a mother to abandon their children."

Katixa Aguirre, writer and professor

"A fascinating book, full of very lucid reflections."

Isaac Rosa, writer



Destino | 73,870 Words | 320 Pages | May 2022
English sample available

MOTHERHOOD CREATION LITERATURE

"Motherhood is like holding a gun that is always loaded. It makes you very aware of the consequences if you pull the trigger. Or maybe it's not like that at all and it's all the interiorized historical guilt that makes me feel this way. The Abandoners has put me in a place that is uncomfortable and stimulating at once. It made me question that universal mantra that not even feminism could get out of my mind: that the worst thing a mother can do is leaving their children behind. Yes? And Why? This fascinating book that takes you from cry to laughter gives you a way to understand our contradictions and it's a riveting journey through our genealogy."

Aixa de la Cruz, writer



Núria Pradas studied Catalan Language and Literature at the University of Barcelona. Her recent years in the classroom as a secondary school teacher were her motivation to begin writing children's and YA literature, and she has produced some fifty works in these genres. The Carlemany Prize, which she received in 2012 for *Under the Same Sky*, opened the doors for her to writing for adults. Her first novel in this new phase was *The Girl from the Library* (2014). It was followed by *Tailor-Made Dreams* (2016), which has been translated into twelve languages, and then by *The Aroma of Time* (2017). *A Whole Life to Remember* (2020) and *The Secret Life of Sylvia Nolan* are her latest novels.

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NÚRIA PRADAS

"A profound novel in which the protagonist and her struggle at Disney are brought together masterfully."

Carles Casajuana



Destino
65,453 Words
312 Pages
November 2022

FAMILY SECRETS

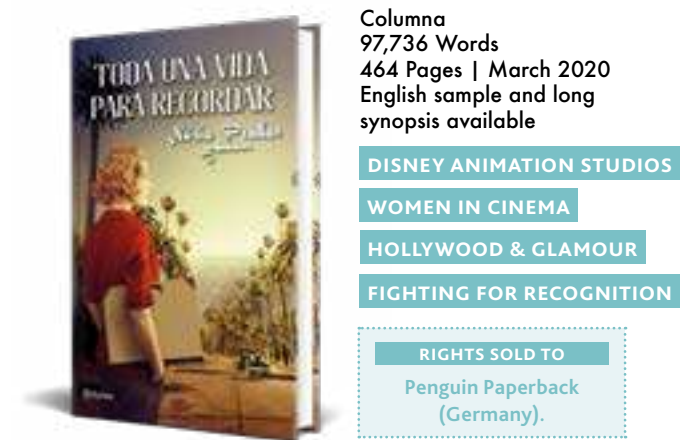
FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

JOURNALIST WOMEN

RECONCILIATION

OPTION PUBLISHERS

Penguin Paperback
(Germany).



Columna
97,736 Words
464 Pages | March 2020
English sample and long
synopsis available

DISNEY ANIMATION STUDIOS

WOMEN IN CINEMA

HOLLYWOOD & GLAMOUR

FIGHTING FOR RECOGNITION

RIGHTS SOLD TO

Penguin Paperback
(Germany).

THE SECRET LIFE OF SYLVIA NOLAN

A tribute to the journalistic work of women who fought to obtain an independence that both their families and the society of the time denied them

New York, 1964. After the death of Sylvia Nolan, an internationally famous writer, her daughter Idalia, a young and wealthy twenty-five-year-old photographer, receives from the family lawyer a box with some passionate love letters addressed to her mother and a photograph dated 1931 where two other girls appear: "Lola", the author of the letters, and Cecilia Ibars. Determined to discover her mother's past, Idalia travels to Paris in search of Cecilia, embarking on an adventure that will take her to Barcelona and Mexico City.

Maria Dueñas meets Paloma Sánchez-Garnica in a novel that celebrates female empowerment, with touches of mystery and an atmospheric historical setting.

A WHOLE LIFE TO REMEMBER

A fascinating behind-the-scenes glimpse into the world of the iconic Disney Studios

Sophie Simmons is a talented young girl from New York, who travels to Los Angeles in the 1930s to become a cartoonist. The story follows Sophie in her way to achieve her dream in a world of men at the golden beginnings of the Disney Studios. Love, friendship, tragedy and glamour are all the ingredients of this fascinating novel that will transport you to the backstage of the big first Disney cartoon productions, such as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs or Dumbo accompanied by a heroine who will stay with you for a long time.

A Whole Life To Remember is a fast-paced and utterly absorbing story which captures a beloved bygone era with acuity, wisdom, and heart.

"A fascinating novel. Made me feel at home."

Isona Passola

GABRI RÓDENAS

The author of the international phenomenon The Grandmother Who Rode a Bicycle Across the World, translated into 10 languages.

THE BOMB BUILDER AND THE BUTTERFLY

This is the story of Bimorí, a trapeze artist who has an accident during a show: dressed in her butterfly costume, she falls from twelve meters and goes into a coma... the very day she finds out she is pregnant.

During a fantastical journey, she will meet characters that include a cat dressed as a lumberjack, a magician, a fortune teller, a dream interpreter, a pirate, and a giant turtle that runs at high speed, and they will help her find her way back home.

An inspirational novel in the form of a travelogue we will enjoy as much as *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Princess Who Believed in Fairy Tales* or *The Knight in Rusty Armor*. With touches of dreamlike fantasy in the style of *Alice in Wonderland*, this work, destined to become a modern classic, tells us the importance of knowing our nature and leaving behind inherited patterns to find our own path and enjoy life in full possession of our freedom.

A fable of self-discovery, a hypnotic and inspiring tale, a fantastic journey in search of our true nature that reminds us of the importance of being true to ourselves.



Diana | 27,644 Words | 192 Pages | November 2022

SELF-DISCOVERY

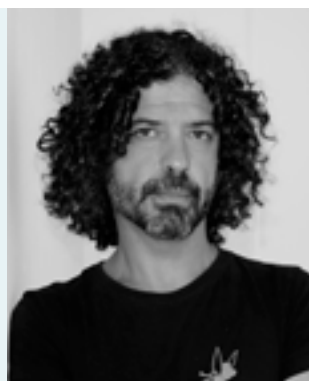
PERSONAL GROWTH

INSPIRATIONAL

OPTION PUBLISHERS

Bard Publishers (Bulgaria), Dioptra (Greece), Presença (Portugal), Alma Littera (Lithuania), Vallardi (Italy), Shogakukan (Japan), Michel Lafon (France).

Gabri Ródenas is a writer and philosopher. His simple and poetic style evokes the works of Charlie Mackesy, Paulo Coelho, and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. His novel *The Grandmother Who Crossed the World on a Bicycle* was a huge international success and has been translated into ten languages.



SIBILA FREIJO

Written with an elegant openness and radical honesty, Salt is a captivating portrait of lost happiness, the inevitability of family ties and the power of forgiveness and love, a novel overflowing with extraordinary compassion.

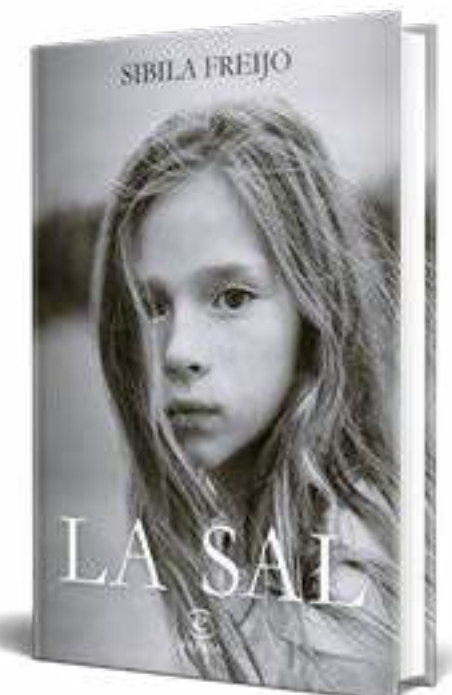
SALT

A novel that explores the emotional inheritance passed down from parents who are full of contradictions

Born in the early seventies, Sibila, the author of *Salt* and the protagonist of the story, is a “nobody child” like many of the children from the generation of “progressive” and atheist parents. An unhappy child, often mistreated, Sibilia grows up between a domineering and alcoholic father who at times can also be cultured and sensitive, and an absent mother.

In her forties and after the unexpected pain she experiences following her father’s death, the author unravels her complicated relationship with him, from childhood to adulthood, in a novel that is an exercise on lost childhoods, the absurdity and vitality of family ties, and the need to love and be loved.

“I prided myself on never calling him Dad, on being able to have the power to do that. I think I always awaited my father’s death as the ultimate test to prove whether I loved him or not. Because, deep down, I never forgave myself for loving him. Nor did I forgive myself for not loving him. I only knew that when he died, I could probably begin to love him in peace.”



Espasa | 114,721 Words | 360 Pages | February 2023

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

GRIEF

EMOTIONAL HERITAGE

CHILD ABUSE

Salt is an examination of grief, loss and the bewilderment of a daughter who does only one thing for her father: accompanying him in his death and forgiving him when it is too late.



Sibila Freijo is a journalist and writer, and has developed a large part of her professional career in the field of digital journalism, directing various online fashion, lifestyle and travel publications for more than twenty years. She has also been writing the humour blog *Sex in Chamberí* for years (sexoenchamberi.com), and currently collaborates with *Cosmopolitan* magazine. In 2017 she published her first novel, *What I Didn't Know About Me...*



Pedro Simón is a journalist and writer. He currently works for the daily paper *El Mundo*. His journalism won him the Ortega y Gasset Prize in 2015 and the APM Journalist of the Year award for 2016. In 2020, he was a finalist for the Gabo Foundation Prizes. His books include anthologies of his journalism (*Total Goth and Barbarian Chronicles*) and his novels *Danger of Collapse*, *The Ingrates* and *The Misfits*.

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PEDRO SIMÓN

"A book that has been a refuge for thousands of readers."

El Mundo on The Ingrates



Espasa
82,482 Words
304 Pages
November 2022

FATHER-DAUGHTER
RELATIONSHIP

ADOLESCENCE

FAMILY



Espasa
69,725 Words
288 Pages
April 2021

FAMILY

COMING OF AGE

MOTHER-SON
RELATIONSHIP

Winner
of the
Primavera
Prize 2021

THE MISFITS

A memorable expedition to the heart of a family

Javier and Celia are a middle-class couple with a young son and a pre-adolescent daughter. He works in a publishing house and she in a hospital; he fixes fake lives and she fixes real lives. They try to prosper, they move to a better neighbourhood, live a normal, everyday life. Theirs could be the story of many. Until an excursion to the Pyrenees that changes absolutely everything.

This is the story of a journey into the abyss, but also of many other journeys along the way. The journey from childhood to troubled adolescence. The journey from childish merriment to the gravest silence. The journey on which with the parents lagged behind with their guilt and arrived too late. The journey on which the grandparents went ahead and to whom no one listened. It is also the story of what someone will do to save a life, and the story of the other journey we are all afraid of: the one that takes us to our dark and secretive past.

The Misfits is a novel about family loneliness, the lack of communication between parents and children, the horror of speaking out, but also, from the first page, about hope.

THE INGRATES

A warm and luminous novel about the power of love that depicts a time and a country

It's 1975 when Mercedes, a young teacher, moves with her three little children to a village in the Spanish interior. Her husband has to stay in Madrid to work, and Mercedes hires Miss Emérita, a childless widow, to help her around the house and with the children. David, the youngest, establishes a precious and unique friendship with Emérita that will mark both of them for life. She will teach him everything she knows—harsh but useful lessons about life in the country—while David, with a child's gentleness, will make her smile; and thanks to him, Emérita will get back something she thought she had lost forever, and will also learn how to read.

A tale about the loss of innocence and the passage into adulthood, and an homage to those—in some ways innocent, in some guilty—to those who brought us to where we are without asking for anything in return.

ULISES BÉRTOLO

The relentless rhythm, mystery and cruelty of such a dark world will grip readers and surprise them with the details of all that lies behind this woman, her accomplices and her enemies.

THE LADY FROM THE NORTH

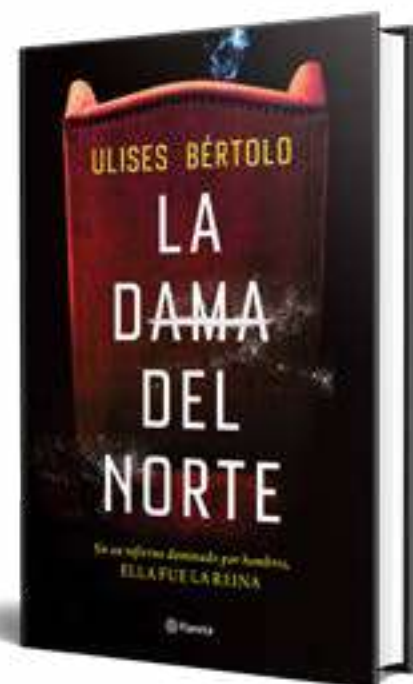
In a hell dominated by men, she was the queen

Ana Garrido wants to run away and leave behind her life as a poor girl from the Asturian mining towns. She loses her faith in God when her brother is killed, she loses her faith in men when her first love beats her and her second beau abandons her. She then swears to herself that she will write her destiny in letters of gold.

Ana Garrido wants power. She gets involved in drug trafficking and rises to control a criminal industry in Spain that is rife with ruthless individuals. She is nicknamed La Rubia and ends up behind bars, sentenced to more than thirty years in prison for directing the largest cocaine shipment ever seized in Europe in Operation Temple. Still, she has no regrets. She is the Lady from the North.

Madrid, Marbella, Galicia and Colombia. Hide outs, luxury and excesses, from multi-million-dollar schemes to identity changes, from persecutions and torture to detention and arrest. This novel has it all and is even based on real life. Because Ana Garrido exists and is still alive.

Ana Garrido was brought to justice in the late 1990s, after one of the most important police operations in Spain's history.



Planeta | 104,052 Words | 456 Pages | March 2023

DRUG TRAFFICKING BASED ON TRUE EVENTS
FEMALE-DRIVEN FICTION GRIPPING

The novel is based on the testimony of its protagonist, the woman who controlled drug trafficking in Spain. Ulises Bértolo recreates her capture, but also delves into a life full of vicissitudes, decisions and fate that led her to the top of a dangerous world dominated by men.

Ulises Bértolo works as a lawyer although his passion is literature. He has published two novels which were wonderfully received by both, readers and critics: *The Invisible Essence of the Heavens*, and a historical thriller placed in the Camino de Santiago, *Orthodoxia*. *The Lady from the North* is his new work, inspired in the intense life of Ana Garrido, the queen of the drug trafficking in Spain.



EMPAR MOLINER

In Beloved, she displays her literary talents in a moving and unforgettable story about friendship, the passage of time and forgiveness.

BELOVED

A masterpiece on surviving heartbreak

Remei Duran is a prestigious illustrator in her fifties who considers herself an attractive, happily married mother. Yet one evening, sitting in the back seat of the family car, she clearly predicts that her younger husband, a principal violinist in an orchestra, will fall in love with the second violinist, the woman sitting beside him, as they head to their home to practice. Neither Remei's husband nor the young woman have realized this yet. But Remei has.

This devastating certainty leads Remei, a determined woman who since childhood has had to fight to survive, to a harsh realization of what it is to grow old inside. She must suddenly accept the vulnerability of marital love, the addictive dependence of motherhood, and the expiration date on her artistic career.

"Now I have scientific confirmation of this volatile state I've unwittingly gotten trapped in over the past year without having paid attention. The drop in estrogen combined with lactose intolerance and waning near vision make me look at the world through dragonfly wings. That allows me to see, with perfect clarity, that my husband will fall in love with this other woman."



25K
copies sold
in Spain

Eligible for
Translation
Grant

Columna | 259,000 Words | 232 Pages | March 2022
English sample available

MIDDLE LIFE CRISIS INFIDELITIES
LOVE TRIANGLE BLACK HUMOUR

RIGHTS SOLD TO

3Times Rebel Press (World English Rights).



Empar Moliner debuted with the collection of stories *The Estate Agent Who Hated to Cuddle*, which was followed by the novel *Feli, the Beautician* (winner of the 2000 Josep Pla Prize). Later she published the volumes of stories *I Love You When I'm Drunk* (winner of the 2005 Lletra d'Or Award), and *There Aren't Any Third Parties*. She has also published the essay collections *I'm Looking for a Man for Friendship or Whatever Comes Up* and *Do You Want to Keep Your Change?* In 2012 she published the novel *The Collaborator*, followed by *Children's Stories Against All Odds*, and in 2015 she won the Mercè Rodoreda Prize with *I'm Doing All This Because I'm Very Scared*. In 2021 she published the short-story collection *Before We Weren't Like That*.

ANDREU CLARET

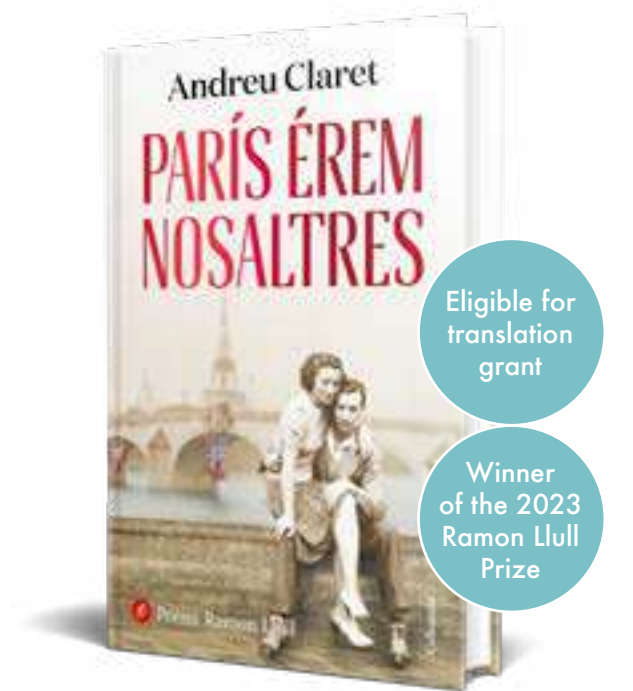
Facing hardships, persecutions and established morals, together they will discover love, freedom and Paris.

PARIS WAS US

Paris Was Us tells the extraordinary story of the son of Republican exiles who falls in love with a young Catalan woman, also a refugee, in France during World War II.

Committed to the Republic, and a close friend of Luis Companys during the Spanish Civil War, the protagonist of this story is forced to go into exile in France and fight adversity far from his land. During these years, he manages the largest circus in France, avoids the Nazi occupation, collaborates with the maquis on the border with the Pyrenees, and escapes from the repression of the Gestapo.

While facing up to the hardships, persecutions, and the morals of his time, he discovers Paris, freedom, and love.



Columna | 80,568 Words | 368 Pages | March 2023
English sample available

PARIS NAZISM FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM
HEART-POUNDING LOVE STORY

Andreu Claret is a journalist and writer. He was born in France into a family of Spanish Republicans who were exiled after the Civil War and began to practice his profession under Franco in *Cambio 16* magazine. He has been a delegate for the *Efe* news agency in sub-Saharan Africa and Central America, and director of the agency in Catalonia. He has collaborated with mainstream media, such as the newspapers *La Vanguardia* and *Avui*, and with various radio programs. He has published a trilogy of novels about the Civil War in Catalonia: *The Brigade Man's Secret* (2008), *The Consul of Barcelona* (2019), winner of the Nèstor Luján prize, and *1939. The fall of Barcelona* (2021). He is also the author of *Vengeance* (2017), set in Alexandria at the time of Hypatia.



ALFRED BOSCH

A novel about the construction of the Sagrada Familia and the figure of Gaudí.

THE TEMPLE OF THE POOR

The moving story of the construction of the Sagrada Familia and the lives of those who grew up in its shadow

Jaume *el Bordillo*, tenacious and brave, is the son of an unknown father and a young mother with a confused past, who came into the world on the same day that Vicentó, an older craftsman who worked on the construction the Sagrada Familia fell from scaffolding and lost his life. Jaume's path in life is not at all easy, as told by Jaume himself in an intimate first-person narrative that allows readers a glimpse into the social and political portrait of the time. In a childhood that was full of hope, he grew up and went to school in the shadows of the modernist temple, the Sagrada Familia, with the children of those workers who worked on its construction.

Over time, the construction progresses and takes shape under the directions of Gaudí, the humble and pious ground-breaking architect who has the appearance of a beggar. However, good times never come, and the violent disturbances of the *Semana Trágica*—with especially dramatic consequences in the churches—mark the beginning of the 20th century, along with trade unionism, strikes and the coup d'état in 1936, which put an end to the Republic. Constant interruptions in the construction of a temple that is not just a work of architecture, but poetry for the senses.



Alfred Bosch is unanimously recognised for having won two of the biggest awards in Catalan literature: *The Clandestine Atlas* won him the Sant Jordi Award in 1997 and in 2004 he received the Ramon Llull Award for *The Seven Scents of the World*. In 2007 he published *Inquisitio* with Editorial Planeta, a historical novel set in the 19th century. With *Temple of the Poor*, he returns to the genre with which he has achieved his greatest success, the historical novel.



Columna | 149,674 Words | 512 Pages | March 2022
English sample available

BARCELONA SAGRADA FAMILIA GAUDÍ

"And do we walk around from birth with the trajectory of our lives marked out on our foreheads? In my case, my origin is easy to discover; you just have to go to the Sagrada Familia to find it. Because there you will find my. I am part of the monument, I belong to it forever. Go there, and anyone with eyes in their face will see."



Behind the name Lady Desidia is Vanessa Borrell. A strong academic background, a unique artistic sensibility, and an unmistakable style have allowed her to become a reference point for illustration in Spain.

Ana Bernal-Triviño is a journalist who writes for *Público*, *El Periódico* and *TVE*. For her work in human rights and in defense of women's rights she has received numerous awards.

ANA BERNAL-TRIVIÑO & LADY DESIDIA



Lunweg
60,000 Words
224 Pages
November 2021

ILLUSTRATED STORY
FEMALE-DRIVEN FICTION
FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA

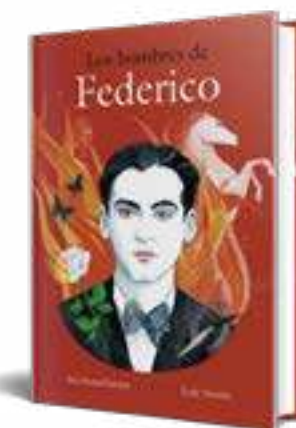
FEDERICO'S WOMEN

A work that addresses feminism from the perspective of fictional characters created at a time when machism was the order of the day

What would happen if the protagonists created by one of the most important Spanish poets of universal literature were to join together to change their destiny?

In these pages you will witness the awakening from boredom and conformism of some of Federico García Lorca's most emblematic female characters: Rosita, la Zapatera and Bernarda Alba among many others, will start together the path towards a personal transformation that will change forever the destiny assigned to them.

Ana Bernal's pen and Lady Desidia's unmistakable style come together to show us in a unique and moving way the reconciliation between the poet and his protagonists.



Lunweg
60,000 Words
224 Pages
October 2022

METAFICTION
MAGICAL ATMOSPHERE
ILLUSTRATED FICTION

FEDERICO'S MEN

The second part of the successful Federico's Women, by noted feminist Ana Bernal Triviño

A year later, Federico's women meet again in the Huerta de San Vicente at the call of Novia, but they are no longer the same and the surroundings have now changed to a somber landscape bathed in red. The meeting will get complicated when they find out Federico has composed a manuscript about their new lives that leaves an open door for other characters to take over the story.

The women will discover something isn't right when strange things occur in the house, and their anguish will worsen with rumors that Federico's men (their former partners or lovers) want to reach the place for unknown reasons. Only magic and togetherness can help them face the uncertainty and the dangers that this unexpected arrival will bring them.



BOOK & FILM
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