

# NOIR



Penguin  
Random House  
Grupo Editorial



## THE AUTHOR

Alexandre Escrivà (Valencia, 1996) always wanted to be a writer. He studied music and he has been a member of numerous young orchestras, as the Orquesta de la Generalitat Valenciana and the Joven Orquesta Nacional of Spain, among others. His musical job has been recognized with many prizes, including the first prize in the V International Music Competition "Grand Piano in Palace" of Russia (2021), the second prize in the International Music Competition 2019 "Paris" Grand Prize Virtuoso of France (2019), and many more. Nowadays he is a teacher and he is living his dream, writing. He has been a student in *Cursiva* and *El último caso de William Parker* is his first novel.

NEGRA  
ALFAGUARA

# Alexandre Escrivà

## El último caso de William Parker



Narrativa Hispánica

# THE LAST CASE OF WILLIAM PARKER

El último caso de William Parker  
Alexandre Escrivà Alfaguara Negra  
June 2023  
376 pages

## SYNOPSIS

Who killed Sarah Evans?

San Francisco, December 2018. Christmas is close when the decapitated head of Sarah appears a foggy morning on a crowded sidewalk of the city. A little later, the police finds her body in her house: it's naked, kneeling and with the arms tight with ropes to the walls. The inspector of the police, William Parker, specialist in serial killers and retired from the force after a traumatic case a year before, is called by lieutenant Watson to get back to his position and help her to unveil the mystery of Sarah's death. Though his doubts, Parker decides to leave his fears aside and throws himself to an investigation that will become more complicated than it seemed to be.

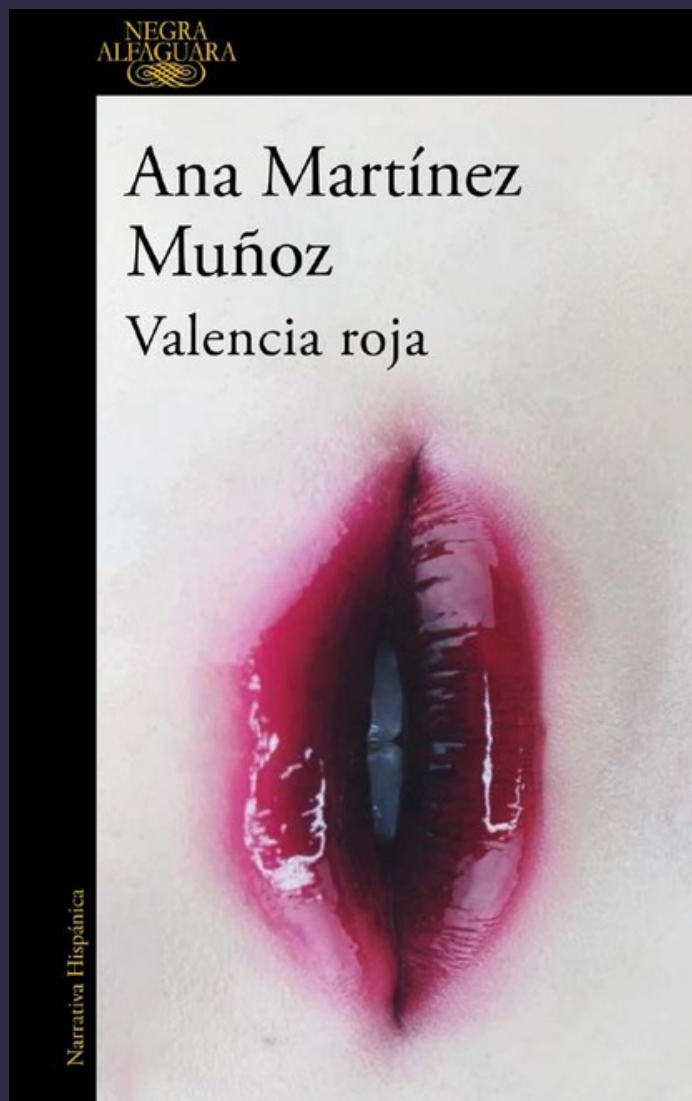
At the same time, the journalist Fernando Fons has recently arrived to San Francisco, escaping from his natal Valencia and from a tragic encounter. As a waiter in a local cafeteria, he follows the case of the young Sarah and, trusting his instincts, he starts looking for the murderer who is already known as The Hangman. William Parker and Fernando Fons are separately involved in a race to danger which will make them both face what they have never expected to. Trapped between the past and the future, little by little they converge towards each other, towards the unexpected end.

«THERE IS ONLY ONE THING STRONGER THAN FEAR». Alfaguara Noir presents the young Prodigy of Spanish thriller: an intrigue literary addictive



## THE AUTHOR

Ana Martínez Muñoz (1982) After studying computing sciences, she worked as supporting personnel in the investigation at the International Economy Institute at the University of Valencia. She also worked in companies in the technology departments until she approved the oppositions for the TIC area of an Ayuntamiento in a town close to Valencia. She is a passionate for Literature since she was very young, she attended many creative writing and noir novel courses. Nowadays, she combines her professional duties with her passion for reading, music and writing. Valencia Roja (Alfaguara, 2023) is her first novel.



## RED VALENCIA

### *Valencia roja*

Ana Martínez Muñoz  
Alfaguara Negra March  
2023  
400 pages

Rights sold to:  
France (Actes Sud)  
Italy (Ponte alle Grazie)

## SYNOPSIS

An addictive story about murders rooted in the extreme pornographic practices of the Valencian upper class. A detective with a troubled past of domestic abuse. A porn film director. A man brutally murdered during the Valencia Erotic Festival.

The grotesque positioning of the corpse suggests revenge. The victim had been accused of child abuse and human trafficking for sexual exploitation. Fleeing from a tumultuous relationship, Inspector Nela Ferrer returns to Valencia to lead the Homicide team on the police force. The appearance of new victims—all corpses manipulated into macabre positions that emulate violent sexual practices. will drag her, and her new team, into the darkest corners of the local elite, uncovering some of the most extreme and unexpected practices.

A new and powerful voice in Spanish thrillers. The latest success from the Alfaguara Noir roster on its tenth anniversary.

The Editors said...

«An amazing first novel»  
Alzira Martins, French editor of Stieg Larsson (Actes Sud)

«A perfect plot, with hot and actual ingredients [...]. Ana Martínez Muñoz will be one the stars of the Spanish thriller in the following years».  
Vincenzo Ostuni, Italian editor of Margaret Atwood (Ponte alle Grazie)



## THE AUTHOR

Paula Rodríguez (Buenos Aires, 1968) is a journalist, editor, writer, comic, ghostwriter, and feminist activist. She has founded magazines and worked in the editorial departments of some of them. She co-directs a school of cultural journalism. She wrote the saga *A Useless Guide for First-Time Mothers* along with Ingrid Beck, and the nonfiction book *#NiUnaMenos* [*#NotOneWomanLess*].



## URGENT CASES

### ***Causas urgentes***

Paula Rodríguez

Alfaguara

July 2021

240 pages

Rights sold to:

UK (Pushkin)

Germany (Union  
Verlag)

## SYNOPSIS

Momentum, action, suspense, and strong characters, within the framework of journalistic fiction with a brutal plot. A train crashes. When they do a headcount of the victims, two are missing from the 43 people who were on the train, amongst them an alleged killer who exploits the situation to escape from the police. While the whole country waits anxiously in front of their televisions for the DNA results, a woman and her daughter flee without looking back. The media is flooded with a never-ending stream of unsolved mysteries, allegations, and duplicity. A police inspector tries to chase down the fugitive, discovering that dying is the best way to escape.

A terrifying story that depicts the world of publicity and the dangers of overexposure on social media, exacerbated by moral depravation and the insatiable desire to be seen





## Arantza Portabales

(San Sebastian, 1973) has a degree in Law from the University of Santiago de Compostela. She started writing micro-fiction in 2013. In 2017, her story “Memo C1: Four Paths- Ambassadors” won the UnEd Short Story Prize and her micro-story “*The Muses*” was the winner of the Micro- library of Barberá del Vallés contest. The rights to her second novel, *Leave Your Message After the Beep*, originally published in Galician and winner of the 2021 Casino European Novel Prize, were sold to four major foreign publishers following the news of its publication by Lumen.

“Arantza Portabales makes the reader suspect everyone, even the dead girl.”  
Carmen Mola

“Arantza Portabales writes serious genre novels with good plots, something that might not seem like much, but is a lot considering how absurd some can be. She did this in *Red Beauty* and in *The Secret Life of Ursula Bas*, so we can enthusiastically expect the same from *Surviving, in March*.”  
Juan Carlo Galindo, *El País*

“Dramatic. [...] Everything fits together impeccably. [...] I highly recommend reading it.”  
Ramón Nicolás, *Fugas*

“An intriguing and fast-paced story [...] that weaves a captivating plot around a no less fascinating protagonist.”  
*La Voz de Galicia*

“.



## The man who killed Antía Morgade

*La vida secreta de Úrsula Bas*

Arantza Portabales

Lumen

February 2023

448 pages

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### SYNOPSIS

Santiago de Compostela, 2021: six Friends go to a reunion meetings after two decades of not seeing each other. During the Fireworks show before the Apóstol celebration, a gunshot ends with the life of one of them. Soon it will be clear that the key to the murder is related to what happened in the apartment of ..... Boys that they shared when they were adolescents: the suicide of Antía Morgade after one of her teachers, Héctor Vilaboi, abused her. After a sentence of twenty years of prison, , Vilaboi has just been out, but he has disappeared without a trail. The inspector Santiago Abad and the sub inspector Ana Barroso will have to face the resolution of a crime in which all the clues lead to “the man who killed Antía Morgade», but, as some unexpected secrets come to light, both will have to find the way to overpass themselves to avoid a new crime.

After the success of Belleza roja and La vida secreta de Úrsula Bas, arrives a new case of Abad and Barroso, told by one of the por una de las voces más poderosas de la novela negra española



Arantza  
Portabales

LA  
VIDA  
SECRETA  
DE  
ÚRSULA  
BAS

Lumen



## THE SECRET LIFE OF ÚRSULA BAS

***La vida secreta de Úrsula Bas***

Arantza Portabales

Lumen

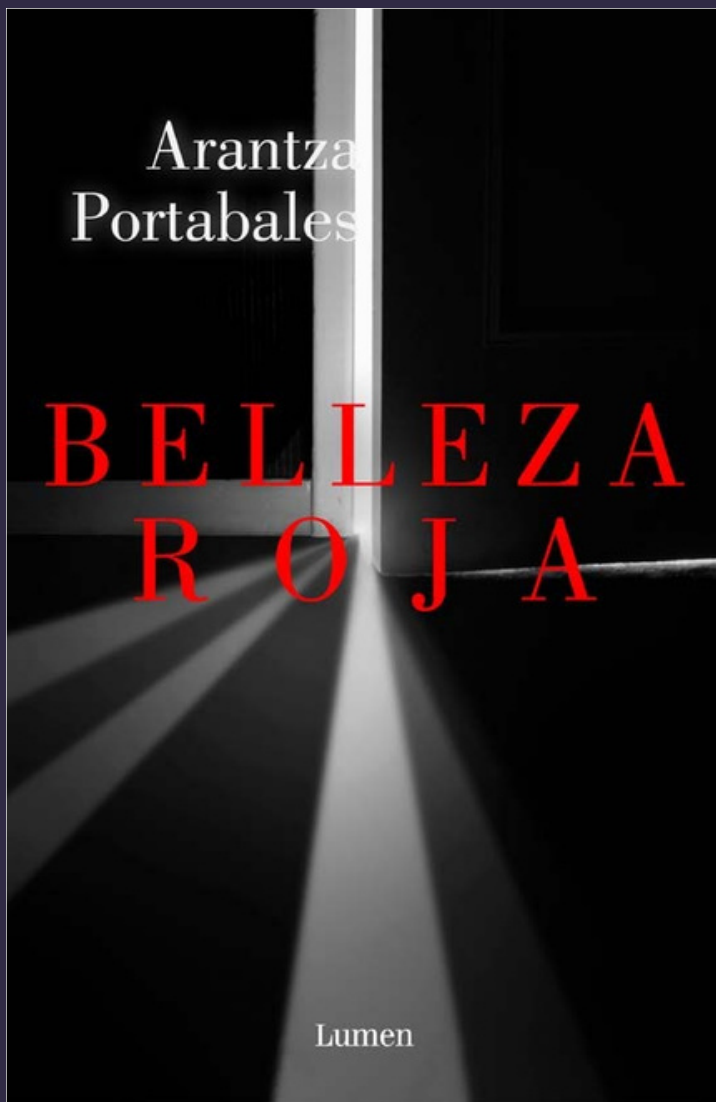
May 2021

456 pages

### SYNOPSIS

Úrsula Bas, successful writer, leads a seemingly humdrum life in Santiago de Compostela. One Friday in February, she leaves home to give a talk and never comes back. Her husband, Lois Castro, reports the disappearance. Úrsula has been locked up in a basement by a kidnapper she knows well—he's an admirer, and she was easily caught in his web—and she knows that sooner or later, he will kill her. Inspector Santi Abad, back on the police force after a year and a half on mental health leave, begins a relentless search with the help of a new detective, Álex Veiga. Every step leads them towards another unresolved case—the story of Catalina Fiz, who vanished in Pontevedra three years earlier—and closer to a killer who has taken justice into his own hands.

Mystery, strong characters, puzzles, double lives and no shortage of secrets in a captivating Santiago de Compostela that seduces readers from the very first line.



## RED BEAUTY

### ***Belleza roja***

Arantza Portabales

Lumen

June 2021

432 pages

Rights Sold to:

Czech Republic (Dobrovský  
s.r.o.)

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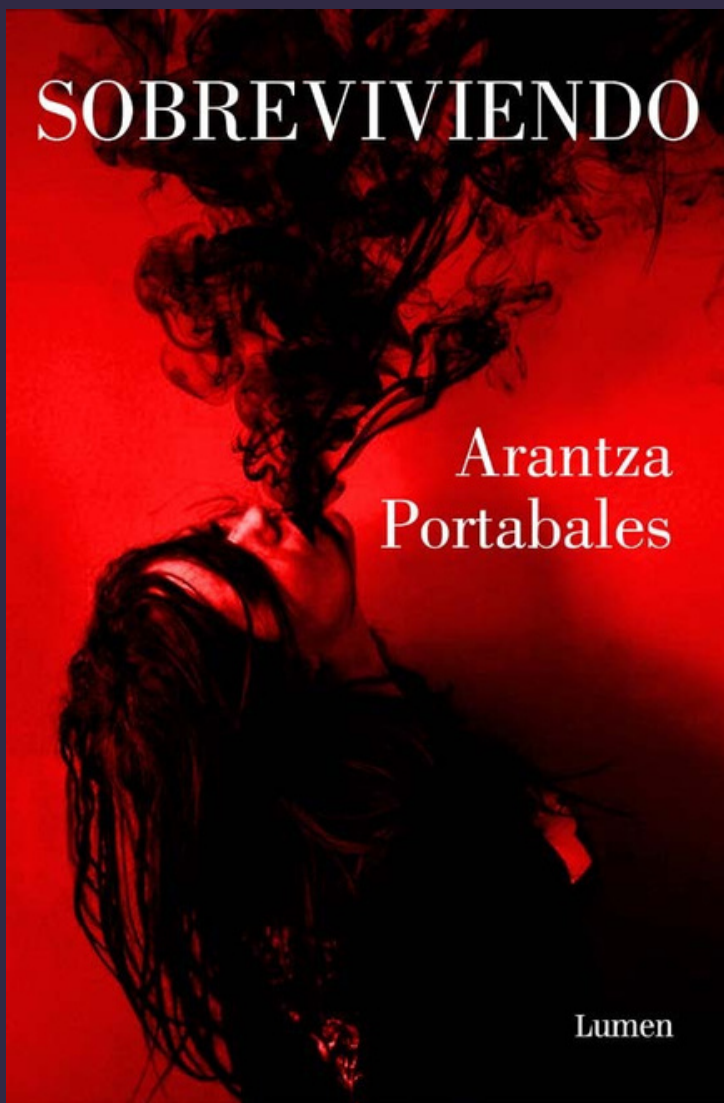
### SYNOPSIS

Six suspects are having dinner in a luxurious garden outside of Santiago de Compostela as the body of Xiana Alén, fifteen, lies on the blood-soaked floor of her own bedroom, almost like an art installation. In the garden are her parents, her aunt Lía Zomoza (an internationally acclaimed painter), two friends and the Somoza sisters' elderly aunt.

Everything seems to suggest that Lía is the culprit, but after a few days she tries to commit suicide and is admitted to a hospital. Inspector Santi Abad, with the help of Ana Barroso—a young, strong, temperamental policewoman with whom he enters into an intense and conflict-ridden relationship—must uncover the deepest secrets of the Alén-Somozas, one of the most powerful and monied families in Galician high society.

One corpse, six possible killers. No one is free from suspicion, including the dead girl herself. Trembling beauty, fashion, painting, and a mix of art and death.





## SURVIVING

### ***Sobreviviendo***

Arantza Portabales

Lumen

March 2022

184 pages

Following the success of the Abad and Barroso series, the thriller which won the Novel Prize with *The Voice of Galicia*, by the new queen of the Spanish noir novel.

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### SYNOPSIS

After the death of her husband (the magnate Matías Wagner, who she married when she was fifteen and pregnant), Val Valdés appears on *Surviving*, the first reality show to air in Spain, which turns national television upside down. Val manages to charm the whole country and win the competition, using the prize to launch a business empire and retire from public life. Until, several years later, she turns herself in to the police as guilty of the murder of Dani Leis, an old school friend from Santiago de Compostela.

Like Joël Dicker or Pierre Lemaitre, Arantza Portabales uses great precision and a frenetic pace to connect the pieces of a compelling plot around an exceptional protagonist: Val Valdés, a triumphant woman who never allows herself to wallow in failure.



## THE AUTHOR

Kike Ferrari (Buenos Aires, 1972) was called the “Argentinian Paterson” for working as a cleaner in a Buenos Aires metro station whilst writing high-impact, critically-acclaimed novels. He was a finalist for Argentina’s Fondo Nacional de las Artes prize, Grand Prix de Littérature Policière and Prix SNCF du Polar.



## THE MEANING OF FIRE

### *El significado del fuego*

Kike Ferrari  
Alfaguara  
March 2022  
256 pages

A terrifying story that depicts the world of publicity and the dangers of overexposure on social media, exacerbated by moral depravation and the insatiable desire to be seen

## SYNOPSIS

The feared and fearsome Mr. Machi is seen for the last time on his BMW, speeding out of the residential complex where he lived. His whereabouts are now unknown. His family, friends and associates, together with the police and the judge, expose their theories about what could have happened to him.

With a perfect structure and a devilish rhythm, *The meaning of fire* reconstructs the last moments of Machi through those who knew him: from the prosecutor in charge of the case, through the judge himself, the commissioner, Machi's wife and children, his friends, business partners and even his occasional lovers or the security guards of the private urbanization.

The new and long-awaited novel by Kike Ferrari, author of *Like Flies From Afar*, retraces a story of corruption, mafia and power that relentlessly portrays a country in decline.

### Critics have said...

«Kike Ferrari is without a doubt one of the most important voices of the current Argentine police novel. His unforgettable characters are real and poetic, at the same time.»  
Claudia Pineiro

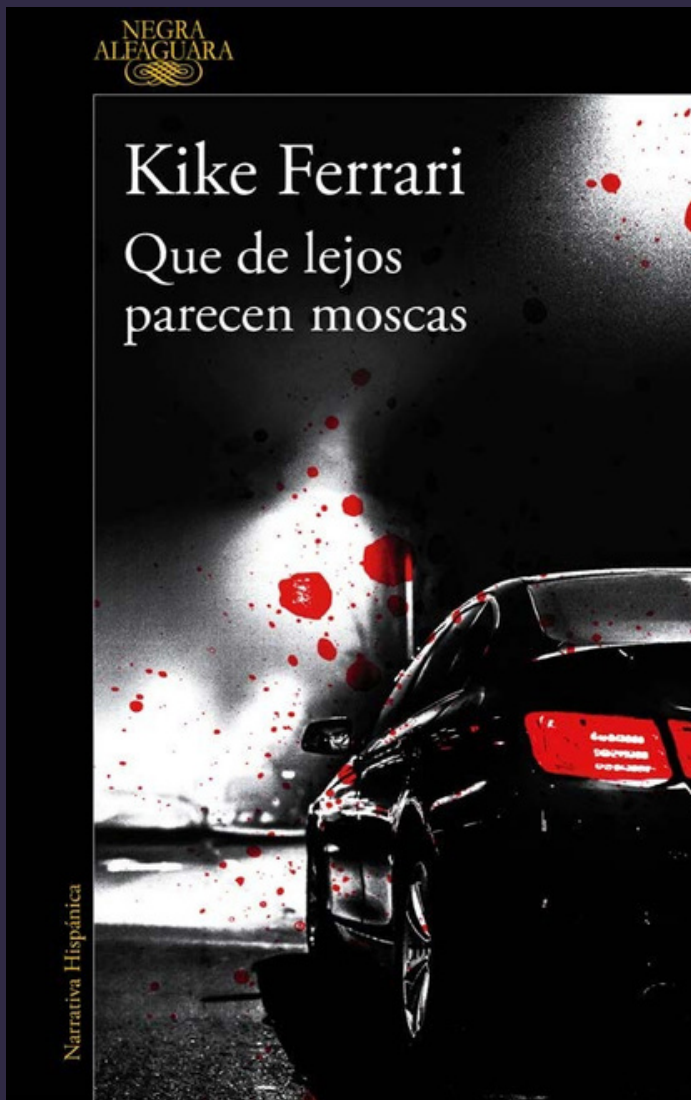
«Darkly comic, full of action and humor. For those who like fast, short, aggressive and dirty crime novels.»  
New York Times

«Brutal, tense, restless, his novel are also literary games: thrillers that read like a noirs [...] but everything in them is speculative. When nothing seems to matter, revenge matters.»



## THE AUTHOR

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## FAR AWAY THEY LOOK LIKE FLIES

### *Que de lejos parecen moscas*

Kike Ferrari

Alfaguara

February 2018

200 pages

Rights sold to:

UK & USA, Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Italy, Feltrinelli

France, Albin Michel

Greece, Kastaniotis editions

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Kike is Argentina’s latest literary revelation, winning the Casa de las Américas and the Best First Work awards at the Gijón Noir Week

## SYNOPSIS

Mr. Machi, the perfect example of success and contempt, is the owner of a small empire, a BMW, 300 ties and 10 million dollars. Cocaine and ‘blue pills’ help distract him from his wife’s many complaints about his infidelities and the failings of their children and above all help him to forget his many enemies; although he thinks of them as flies.

But someone hides a body in the trunk of his BMW and another story suddenly begins. This brutal and vertiginous work deals with the social, economic and urban devastation of a post-dictatorship Argentina and makes the unforgettable Mr. Machi a character who is emblematic and representative of ruthless neoliberalism everywhere.

# CONTACT

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