

THRILLER & NOIR



Penguin
Random House
Grupo Editorial

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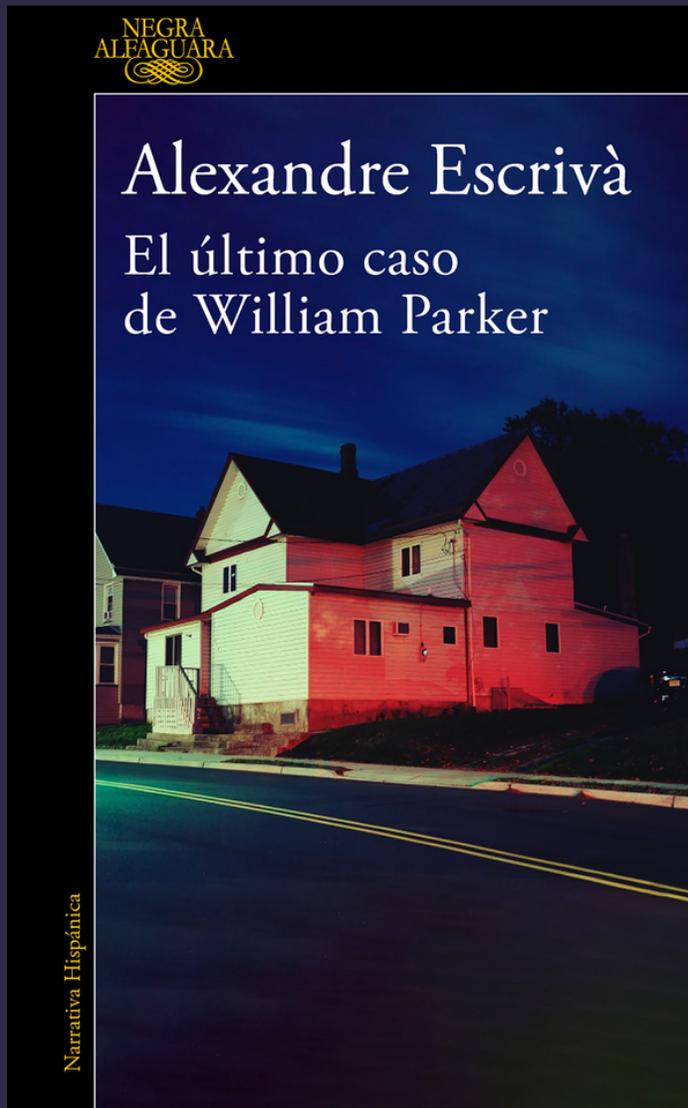
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ALEXANDRE ESCRIVÀ

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 other. 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.



THE LAST CASE OF WILLIAM PARKER

El último caso de William Parker

Alexandre Escrivà

Alfaguara Negra

June 2023

376 pages

PDF in English Available

SYNOPSIS

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, kneeled 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.

Who killed Sara Evans?

THE FORMULA OF THE ADICTION

Two great characters in altered times and places

Two different points of view for a hectic thriller happening in the attractive San Francisco.

THE CRITICS SAID

"Dark, surprising and with the realism of two protagonists who seem to be alive". **Javier Castillo**

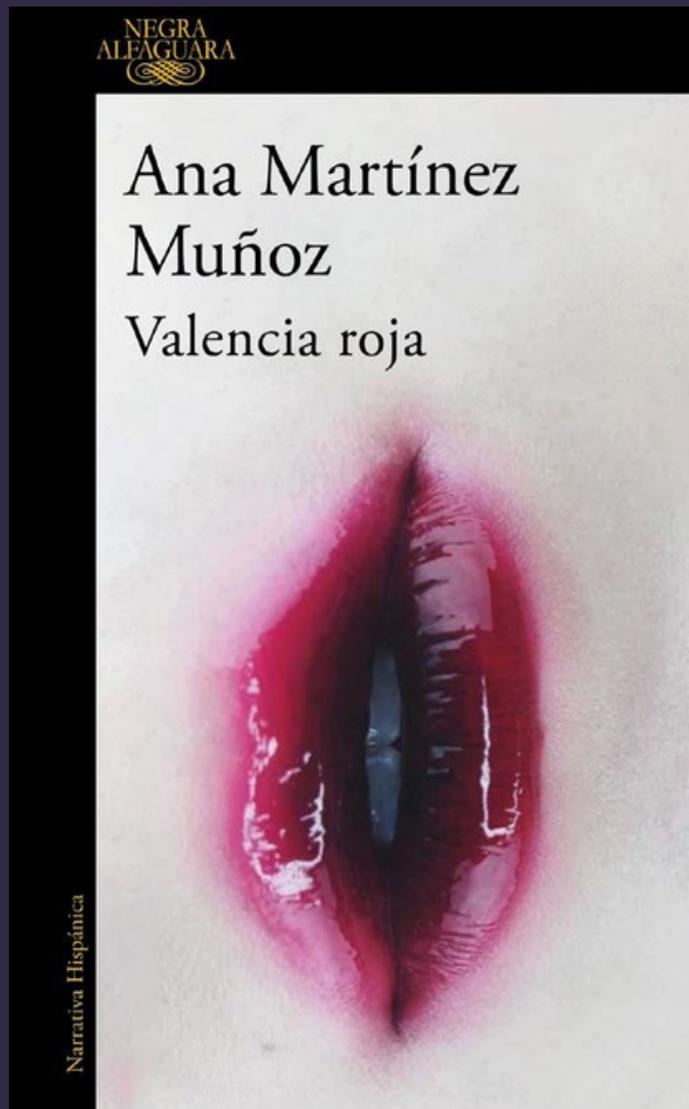
«One of the voices that have arrived with great strength in the editorial world». **Pedro M. Espinosa, Diario de Cádiz**

«A success, an editorial revelation». **Cadena Ser**



ANA MARTÍNEZ MUÑOZ

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...

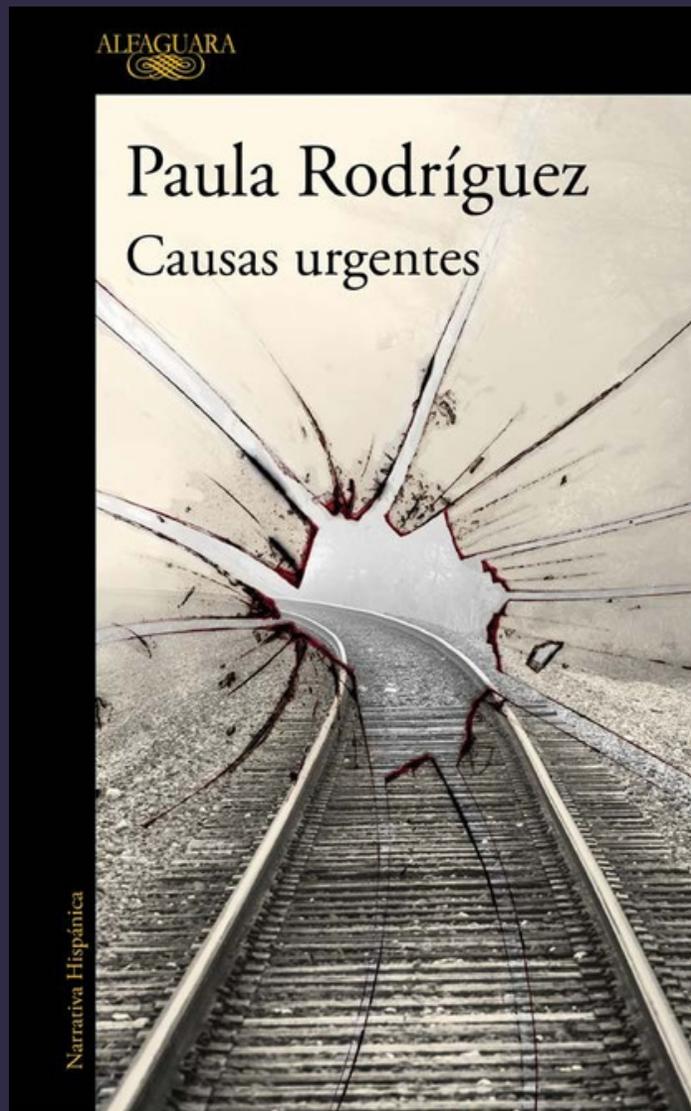
«An amazing first novel»
Alzira Martins, French editor of Stieg Larsson (Actes Sud)

«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)



PAULA RODRÍGUEZ

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.

Finalist for the Silverio Cañada Memorial Award for the best first crime novel, "one of the ten must-see books of the year" according to Clarín.

A ruthless complain about the power of the Media and exceptional protagonists that can reinvent themselves from scratch.

Acclaimed by critics and foreign editors, it combines the best of noir genre and journalistic fiction.

THE CRITICS SAID

«It has all the ingredients of those gripping detective novels. It has speed, action, suspense, and great characters.»

Claudia Piñeiro

«Very dark, filled with all the tropes of the detective genre, lots of suspense, very well-written.»

Carlos Ulanovsky



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*.”*

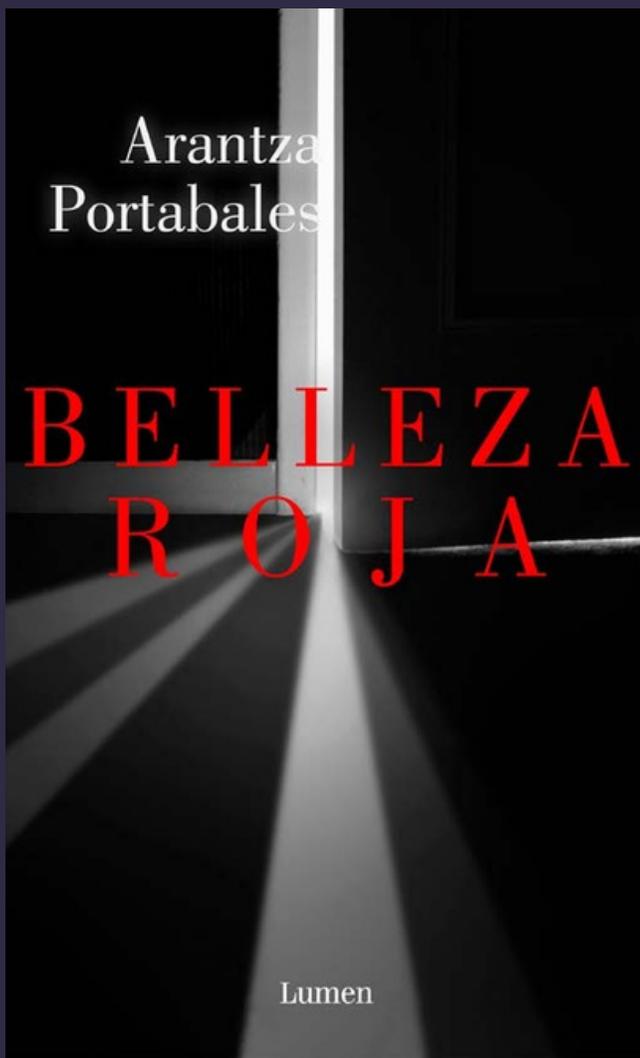
Juan Carlo Galindo, El País

“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.



RED BEAUTY (INSPECTORS ABAD & BARROSO 1)

Belleza roja
Arantza Portabales
Lumen
June 2021
432 pages

Rights Sold to:
Czech Republic (Dobrovský s.r.o.)
Russia (Eksmo)

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.

A crime of passion with echoes of Dolores Redondo, Carmen Mola, and Joël Dicker

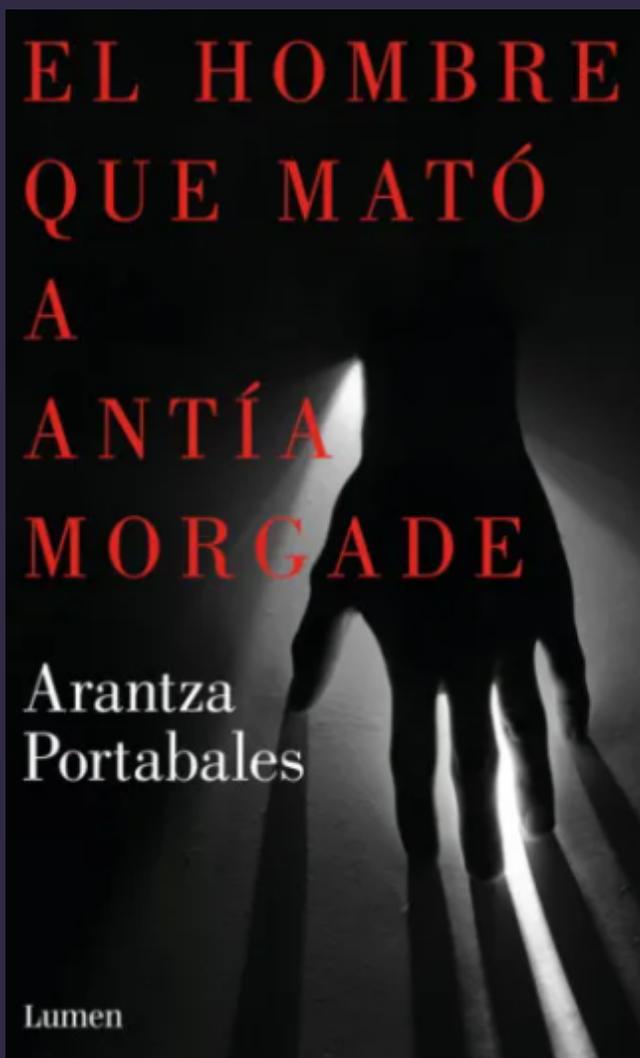
THE CRITICS SAID

«A corpse and six suspects. Arantza Portabales manages to make the reader suspicious of everyone, even the deceased girl. [...] Fashion, art, upscale urbanization. [...] And yet, Belleza Roja is dark, very dark.»

Carmen Mola

"It has left me as surprised as 'The Analyst' or 'The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair' did at the time. The ending is tremendous."

Gemma Fernández, Casa del Libro



THE MAN WHO KILLED ANTÍA MORGADE (INSPECTORS ABAD & BARROSO 2)

El hombre que mató a Antía Morgade

Arantza Portabales

Lumen

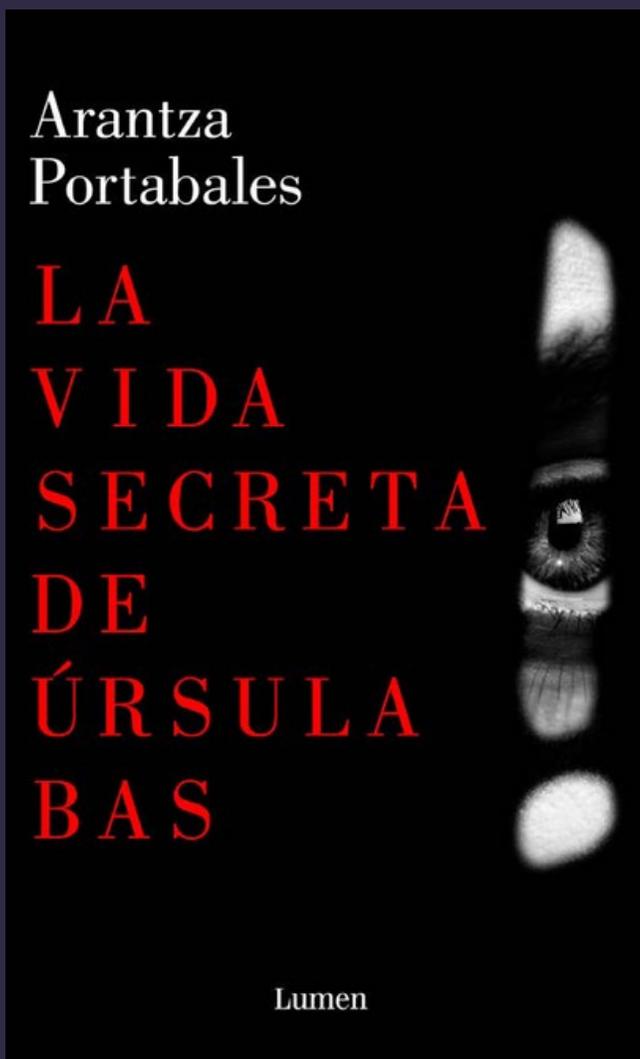
February 2023

448 pages

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 most powerful voices in Spanish crime fiction.



THE SECRET LIFE OF ÚRSULA BAS (INSPECTORS ABAD & BARROSO 3)

La vida secreta de Úrsula Bas

Arantza Portabales

Lumen

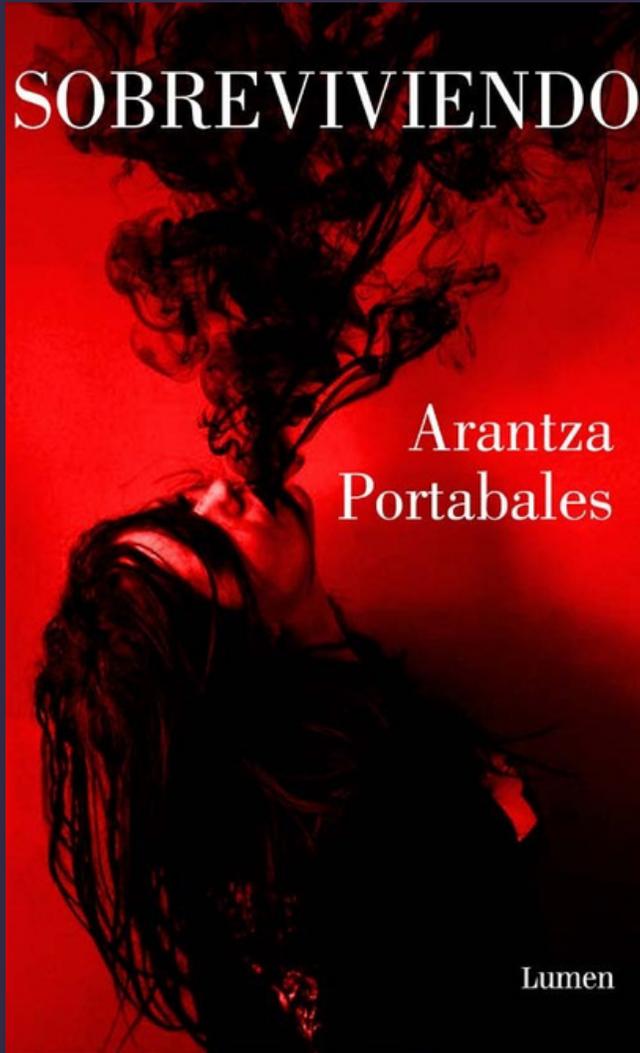
May 2021

464 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.



SURVIVING

Sobreviviendo

Arantza Portabales
Lumen
March 2022
184 pages

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.

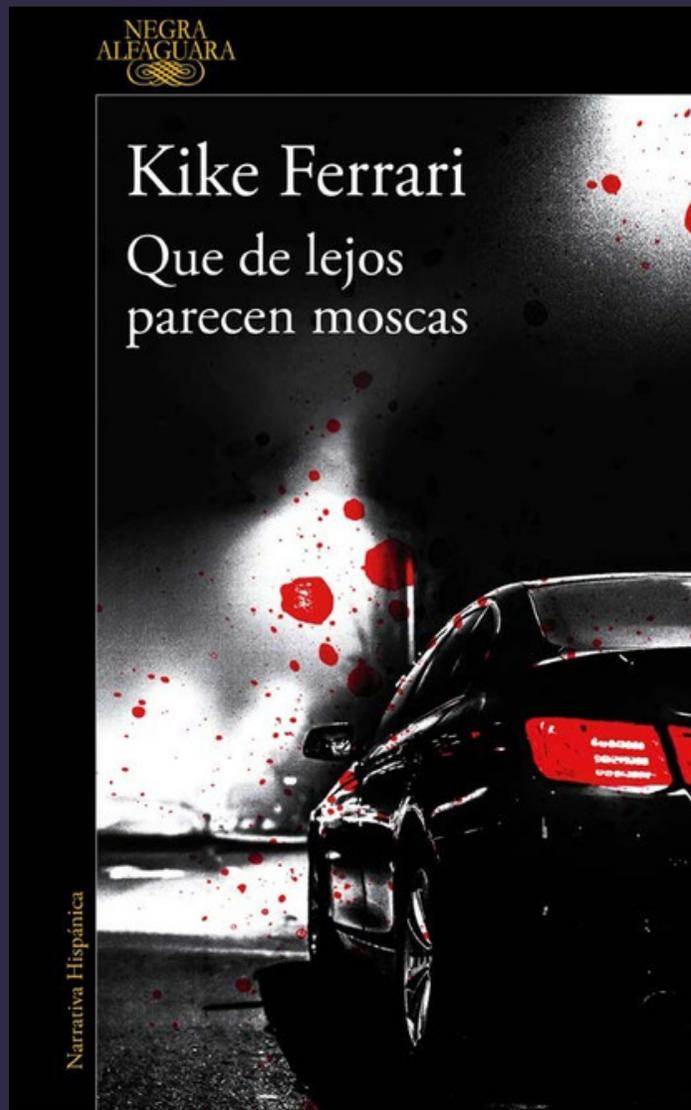
Like Joël Dicker or Pierre Lemaitre, Arantza Portabales uses great precision and a frenetic pace to connect the pieces of a compelling plot around an exceptional protagonist: Val Valdés, a triumphant woman who never allows herself to wallow in failure.

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.



KIKE FERRARI

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.



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

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.

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.



MARIANA KOMISEROFF

Mariana Komiseroff (Buenos Aires, 1984). She is a writer and a theatre director and critic. She published the books: *Fósforos mojados* (Suburbano Ediciones 2013), *De este lado del charco* (Conejos, 2015), *Una nena muy blanca* (Emecé 2019) and *Györ Cronograma de una ausencia* (Patronus, 2021). She published for the newspapers Clarín, Página 12, La agenda de Buenos Aires and today she writes for the Revista Cerdón from Universidad de Lomas de Zamora, among others. She has a Diploma on Women Human Rights. She delivers writing workshops and has a Bookstore in La Pampa.



THE SICKNESS OF NIGHT

La enfermedad de la noche

Mariana Komiseroff

May 2023

Random House

192 pages

SYNOPSIS

The narrator, a security employee of the night shift of the National Senate was sent by the Union to La Pampa for being accomplice of the murder of a man. The novel will go backwards, reconstructing the events that lead to the crime: the moment she starts working permanently for the Estate, which is a kind a job for life. Being in charge of a brother with a chronic disease, the narrator will focus on the dark side of people: their political, familiar and social organizations; the ways of being a man or a woman; the right behavior according to the class. She will be witness of the violence and the corruption, the sensuality and the abjection when the mythical building is empty and it is taken by ghosts or when the crowd outside makes the walls shake.

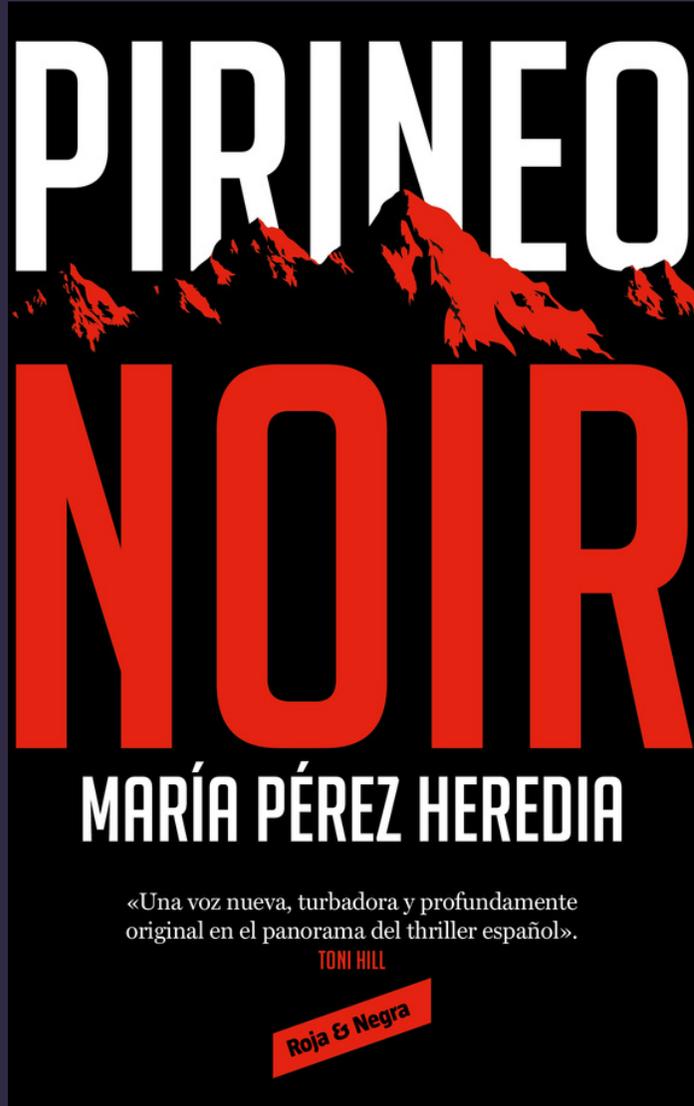
A great novel with a solid plot that records the night and the dark side of politics, from the point of view of a Congress guardian.

Contemporary in her topic (violence, harassment, the impotence in the face of the illness of a loved one, lesbianism, politic, and the conservatism of a sector of the popular classes) and open and simple in her style.



MARÍA PÉREZ HEREDIA

María Pérez Heredia (Zaragoza, 1994) studied Spanish Philology and published her first book, 'Esos días raros de lluvia' (2013), at 19 years old. Since then, she has followed it up with the novel 'Starman' (Reservoir Books, 2017), which was met with an exceptional reception, and the story for young people 'Eydís y el largo invierno' (2017, illustrated by David Guirao), as well as with several collaborations, stories and literary reviews. 'Pirineo Noir' (2023) is her third novel and her debut in the noir genre.



NOIR PYRENEES

Pirineo Noir

María Pérez Heredia
September 2023
Alfaguara
448 pages

Sample in English Available

SYNOPSIS

The corpse of Emma Lenglet, the daughter of a powerful French businessman, has surfaced in As Boiras, a tourist village in Huesca. The murderer's modus operandi is morbidly similar to that of the "Butcher of the Valley" three decades ago, the serial killer who has just returned to the Pyrenees after being recently released from prison due to suffering terminal cancer. The Gendarmerie has sent its best agent, as they suspect there is a copycat. However, the key to the investigation lies in Alice, his wife, who knows the original case better than anyone else, as she witnessed the events close up at the age of thirteen. At that time, she lived in As Boiras, and she later wrote about those events in a book that became a bestseller.

A literary thriller set in the Aragon Pyrenees, in the vein of Gillian Turner, Joyce Carol Oates and Virginia Feito, by "one of the talents of Spanish literature" (Vice).

An addictive story in the Aragon Pyrenees, wrapped in a rarefied atmosphere with captivating characters reminiscent of *La señora March* or Carol Oates.

"A very original and unprecedented thriller in the noir genre of Spain that consolidates María Pérez Heredia". A major surprise in the Spanish literary landscape". (El Mundo).

"María Pérez Heredia arrives with a firm step to become a grand dame of detective novels." Benjamín Prado, *Everyone is a Suspect*

"Suffocating. [...] It has fascinated me. [...] For lovers of labels: take a rural noir with touches of mountain noir and a hint of domestic noir. The transference of the fascinating universe of Twin Peaks to the most fiercely contemporary Spain." Jesús Lens, *Ideal de Granada*

«Una voz nueva, turbadora y profundamente original en el panorama del thriller español».

TONI HILL

Roja & Negra

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