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- **Mercedes Cebrian (Spanish Fiction)**
- **Rebeca Garcia Nieto (Spanish Fiction)**
- **Sergio del Molino (Spanish Fiction)**
- **Montse Garcia-Moncó (Spanish Young Adult Fiction)**
- **Jacinto Lucas Pires (Portuguese Fiction)**
- **Daniel Moyano (Argentinean Fiction)**
- **Verónica Nieto Foco (Spanish Fiction)**
- **Marc Pastor (Catalan Fiction)**
- **Patricia Portela (Portuguese Fiction)**
- **Andrés Ressa Colino (Latin American Fiction, Uruguay)**
- **Eduardo Varas (Latin American Fiction, Ecuador)**
- **Ronaldo Wrobel (Brazilian Fiction)**
- **Richard Zimler (US Fiction)**

**A selection of titles**

**for all territories**

## **MARC PASTOR**

### ***BIOKO***

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Amsterdam Llibres (Catalan), March 2013

350- 400 pages approx.

1887. Moisés Corvo, a troubled young soldier, is sent to Fernando Poo, a small island part of the remote Spanish colony of Equatorial Guinea.

The island, which once belonged to Great Britain, is not just a melting pot of European traders, but also a penal colony where Cuban and Spanish dissidents have been sent over during the years.

Distrust and suspicion between settlers and natives is skin deep, and the soldiers sent to Fernando Poo (men who shall expiate their guilt away from home) must maintain order in the capital, Santa Isabel.

But the savage killing of an entire tribe in the middle of the jungle turns the island into a minefield.

Moisés Corvo, with the help of a cannibal turned into a missionary, will seek after the murderers, even if this will mean facing his own comrades or the very same secretary of the Island's Governor.

During his investigation, he will run into a mansion where bets on black people fighting to death are done, he will unearth hidden secrets of old settlers, he will have to find a beautiful native who is missing and he will strike up with a former Dutch coronel who claims to be a friend to Jules Verne .

But in addition to all this, the island has a secret coveted by both English and Spanish...

A legend says that, in the very heart of the isle, hides the material that the Atlantis used to mold time ...

**MARC PASTOR** (Barcelona, 1977) is the author of three novels. *Montecristo*, *La mala dona* – winner of the Crims de Tinta Award in 2008, and *L'any de la plaga*. What they all share is their direct, ironic voice and their excellent depiction of characters that remain passionate to the very end. Marc Pastor's skills to use different registers effectively, permit him to explore various genres, from adventure to crime fiction. He has graduated in Criminology and Criminal Politics and works for the Barcelona Scientific Police department.

Foreign rights sales to his previous books:

**La mala dona** (RBA/La Magrana, 2008): **Neri Pozza-Giano, Italia; Lübbe, Germany; Actes Sud, France**

**L'any de la plaga** (RBA/La Magrana, 2010): **Zentropa (Movie rights)**

World Rights available, please contact The Ella Sher Literary Agency, [ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)

**MARC PASTOR**

***La mala dona (Bad Woman)***

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La Magrana, 2008, 256 pages - Crims de Tinta First Prize, 2008

**Rights sold to: Spain (RBA Libros), Italy (Neri Pozza), Germany (Lübbe), France (Actes Sud )**

English extracts available

Some children have disappeared in Barcelona lately. They all are sons of prostitutes who do not dare to report the kidnapping to the police. Rumours are spreading around until Inspector Moisés Corvo, who believes the help of his gun and of his boxing skills is often necessary, gets interested in the case. He fancies drinking and hanging around with prostitutes.

Inspector Corvo's investigation has its sets in a luxury brothel, Moro's House; the Casino of l'Arrabassada, a cover-up for illegal business; pubs, theatres, eccentric doctor's consultations and extremely poor houses. Police chiefs claim there is any report so there should not be any investigation, but Inspector Corvo, and his colleague Malsano, do not agree with that and on with their research. They ask inconvenient questions showing the lack of responsibility in the police during those times and the difficulties for poor people to defend themselves.

Based on a true story in which a woman called 'Carrer Ponent's Vampire' was involved, this case moved Barcelona at the beginning of the XX century. *La mala dona* is an original and surprising novel that confirms Marc Pastor's literary talent. With its brave incipit and architecture, the novel has been awarded with "Crims de tinta" the First Prize.

***L'any de la plaga (The year of the plague)***

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La Magrana, 2010, 366 pages

**Rights sold to: Spain (RBA Libros), Zentropa (Movie rights) // English extracts available**

Victor is a social worker in a centre for senior citizens. His life is dull and marked by the loss of his relationship with Irene. His humdrum existence is turned on its ear when inexplicable things start to happen, including a series of mysterious death. The baffling events continue to pile up and gradually unfold into an apocalyptic plot. Something is possessing people, causing their behaviour to change, and the common thread is that they have fallen asleep near a type of Eucalyptus called *gengiskhanensis*. An invasion? A virus? The changes extend all over the world but not many people are able to offer any explanation. The novel is cleverly told through references to films, television series, characters, actors, streets and music of the generation born in the seventies.

**SERGIO DEL MOLINO**

***LA HORA VIOLETA (Violet Hour)***

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Premio Jaen 2012 de Novela - Finalist

Soon to be published by Mondadori, 179 pages

Those who lose their spouse are called widowers; a son losing his parents is called an orphan. But there is no word to describe a father that loses his son. Language did not find a word for his condition. The world has not planned his existence. When Pablo died, his father converted into a nameless being, into a look to avoid, into so many clichés...When Pablo died, his father got stuck into the target of medieval maps, that unexplored portion that scary cartographers labelled with the expression: "From there on, monsters"

Since his son's death, Sergio del Molino tried to find the words that could name him and bring him back to the world, from which he felt expelled. He uses his writer's skills not to pity himself nor to show anybody an epiphany, but as a way to delimit his grief and transform his cries into a literary moan. *La hora violeta* is the love story of a father to his son. It tells about the months during which Pablo was suffering from a severe leukaemia that, a year after the diagnosis, cause his death. But it's not a book on illness and suffering. It's book about an uninhibited and complex-less fatherhood, that goes deep into the relationship between fathers and sons and into the unlikeness of a loss. *La hora violeta* is not for fathers whose children are ill, but for every father, for any person able to understand a furious and irrational love, and for any reader who dares to give name to what the majority of languages preferred to omit.

**SERGIO DEL MOLINO** (1979) lives in Zaragoza. He has worked for almost ten years as a reporter in the *Heraldo de Aragón*, where he is currently writing a Sunday column.

His has published a short-stories book, *Malas influencias* (Tropo, 2009), an essay, *Soldiers in the Peace Garden* (Prames, 2009) - a research on the African origins of the German colony of Zaragoza – and a recompilation of articles, “*El restaurante favorito de Nina Hagen*”. He won the Premio de Literatura Joven del Gobierno de Aragón for fiction. “*There’ll be no more enemy*” was shortlisted for the Francisco Casavella Award in 2011 and was chosen as one of the ten best books of 2012 by the Spanish Booksellers Association

He currently writing a new book.

**SERGIO DEL MOLINO**

***NO HABRÁ MÁS ENEMIGO (There'll be no more enemy)***

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Tropo Editores, 2012, 280 pages.

Lenin, Leon and Alejandra are trapped in their horizontal city, where fear is something very sophisticated.

While each one of them tries to escape to reach the flat and windy streets, their lives intersect and get entangled during the run away. Neither sex nor cards, nor the green pills from a certain Herbert overcome the apathy that consumes them. Not even crime and guns can do it.

Intertwined stories that merge into a dark lagoon in southern Mexico or in a corner of the *Chiado* in Lisbon.

With a fast-paced plot, thriller and action in "*No habrá más enemigos*" are the other ingredients of this novel, together with the ambiguous characters that make our three "heroes" doubt about their humanity.

This is a dark novel with a suffocating atmosphere that attempts to guess what would happen if what we wish ended up fulfilling and what would happen if we tried to violate the limits of the horizontal city in which we live trapped in.

Its rhythm is definitely black, with echoes of surrealism, as if we were in a David Lynch movie covered by *'The Third Man'* atmosphere, so perfectly drawn by Carol Reed

Praise for Sergio del Molino's work:

*About "No habrá más enemigos"*

*"Strong Gin & Tonic are drunk and peculiar characters are introduced, both of them making it difficult for the protagonists to survive. They are well drawn, all of them with Russian names, searching for their own revolution. In the end, it's us they are hiding, while we go on looking for something we don't know what it is. A sold and strong first novel, just like the Gin & Tonic. It even leaves dregs. An author to follow.*

**Álex Gil, *Qué Leer***

*«Powerful and torrential, without any limits more than those of imagination.»*

**Ignacio Martínez de Pisón**

*«A sharp and bittersweet writer, caustic and elegant, contemporary and abysmal.»*

**Mariano García, *Heraldo de Aragón***

*«In between sentences you can hear a music that blends W.G. Sebald with the Greeks and Latins, a pace that swings between the journalist's audacity and the storyteller's inventiveness.»*

**Hilario J. Rodríguez, *Abc***

For further information, The Ella Sher Literary Agency, [ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)



## **Daniel Moyano**

*El trino del diablo y otras modulaciones (Devil's Trill and other modulations)*

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Tropo Editores, 2008, 232 pages // Introduction by Mario Benedetti

### **Rights sold to: Italy (Nottetempo)**

Considered to be one of the best South American novels of the last decades, *El trino del diablo y otras modulaciones* is first of all a fascinating story that creates a magical atmosphere.

Its main character, Triclinio the violinist, lives out of the time, in a world he barely sees, symbolizing pureness in a country spoiled by ambition and poetical madness that tries to face the violence of the power.

This edition is completed with six other stories in which Moyano's impressive skills are expressed with all their strength.

From "Tia Lila" to "Desde los parques" or "Tiermusik", the anecdotal detail is soon dissolved into a symbolic orchestration that brings us to the best pages written by **Pavese or Kafka**.

Everything is music, in Moyano's prose, and these wonderful "modulations" are telling us a lot about the art of survival in a world completely alien to harmony.

**Daniel Moyano** (Buenos Aires 1930, Madrid 1992) was friend to García Márquez, Cortázar, Juan Gelman and Mario Benedetti among many other great South American writers.

In 1985 he was awarded with the prestigious Juan Rulfo Award.

From 1960, when "Artistas de variedades" was published, Moyano published eight short stories books and five novels.

Praise for Daniel Moyano's work

*Ofecía al lector textos compactos, inteligentes, que propiciaban la complicidad y la alegría*

*Roberto Bolaño*

*No propaga docttina, no teoriza ni argumenta, sino que sencillamente narra.*

*José Blanco*

*Su obra es música escrita con palabras*

*Juan Gelman*

*Daniel es hijo de Kaffka, de Chéjov, de todos los que se han dedicado a recoger los registros menos evidentes de la realidad.*

*Mario Paoletti*

*En la realidad de Moyano abundan los misterios y los personajes omnipotentes, las maravillas y las desdichas, súbitas e inexplicables.*

*Ricardo Rey Beckford*

*Moyano procede por excavación y no por acumulación, por la creación de atmósferas, de cierto clima espiritual y mental, más que por el abigarrado tatamiento de la anécdota. El de Moyano, después de todo, es un realismo profundo a fuerza de ser objetivo, a fuerza de querer ser un sondeo de todo lo real, de sus estratos más ricos e inéditos.*

*Augusto Roa Bastos*

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**Galgo Cabanas (Mario de los Santos y Óscar Sipán)**

*Cuando estás en el baile, bailas (When you're dancing, dance)*

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**XVI Premio de Novela Negra Ciudad de Getafe**

Edaf, 2012, 190 pages

In a twisted city, where the high class society goes to formal balls, completely indifferent to the insurrection plotting in its sewers, with revolutionaries prone to melancholy and dynamite, and more accustomed to open men than books, tailor Carlo Montelongo has no enemies and leads a quiet and orderly life. But when his friends start dying one after the other, it is time to avoid being the next one.

*Cuando estás en el baile, bailas* was awarded with the XVI Crime Fiction Award given by the city of Getafe

*Powerful imagination, unforgettable characters, an attractive plot and a surprising writing that combines brilliance and synthesis skills. A joy of literature demonstrating that crime fiction is not incompatible with good writing*

**LORENZO SILVA**

*An honest and exciting novel about downgrading, ignorance and cowardice, neatly written, with powerful images and with a very attractive gallery of characters from which stands out a fascinating femme fatale*

**MARTA SANZ**

*The best crime fiction today is the one that manages to explore new paths. Cuando estás en el baile, bailas is a different scenario, unusual, with a new hero, a terrible lovesick murderer and an unforgettable femme fatale*

**FERNANDO MARÍAS**

Mario de los Santos and Oscar Sipán are the editors and co-founders of Tropo Editores. They have both published several novels which have been awarded with prizes, and they co-wrote and produced the documentary *Il mondo mio* (Premio de Guión de la Delegación del Gobierno en Aragón 2008)

For further information, The Ella Sher Literary Agency, [ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)

## A selection of Catalan literature

### **Incerta glòria (Uncertain glory)**

**Joan Sales**, Club Editor, 764 pages. First edition: 1956

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Sold to France (Tinta Blava), UK/USA (MacLehose Press), Holand (MKW Uitgevers)

A new edition in two volumes by Club Editor and Destino (Grupo Planeta. Sept 2012)

*Incerta glòria* (Uncertain glory), 544 p. followed by *El vent de la nit* (The night wind), 224 p.

«*Ma jeunesse ne fut qu'un ténébreux orage*, says Baudelaire; maybe any youth was, is and will be like this. A dark storm crossed by lightnings of glory – of an uncertain glory- on a April day. Some strong desire is moving during those obscure and difficult years full of turmoil; consciously or unconsciously we are looking for a glory we cannot define. We look for it in many things, but especially in love – and in war, if war crosses our path. Maybe this is what happened to my generation”

There are novels whose ability to attract readers increase during the years; they are so important that they need time to show all their greatness. This is what happened with *Uncertain glory*, **“the most Russian, the deepest and the most impressive novel ever written by a Catalan writer.** (Enric Sòria said), of **“such a metaphysical weight that is not so often found in secular novels, comparable to Dostoievski's works”** (Jacques de Ricaumont).

Uncertain glory could be a war novel if it wasn't a love novel; three men are in love with the same woman, three fellows on the war front, who share living on the edge without knowing if tomorrow they will still be there. Which is their war? The 1936 war, lived on the Republican side, and much has been told about *Uncertain Glory* being a novel of the defeated.

Half a century after, *Uncertain Glory's* war appears as *The War par excellence*, the vital experience that takes to the limit the inner self of any youth.

## **Una màquina d'espavilar ocells de nit (A machine to cheer up night birds)**

**Jordi Lara**, Edicions del 1984, 2008, 275 p.

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Menció Especial Premi Ciutat de Barcelona 2008

*Una màquina d'espavilar ocells de nit* is one of the most surprising works of contemporary Catalan literature. A novel, an essay, where biography and fiction are mixed together while we follow the story of a young music student who joins a band of crazy old musicians. Together with them, researching the life and work of odd celebrities of the past, he will find out what really is a machine to cheer up night birds and what is it used for.

Going through the tragicomic and detectivesque chronicles of this novel we will discover “a small world trying to look for its place in the huge world”, and peculiar characters who look like “merry castaways” who tell us about talent, love, freedom or posterity

Any reader, interested or not in music, will fall in love with this book.

A book to enjoy, to make you think and to make you feel thrilled.

Jordi Lara is a writer and a film director. Born in Vic in 1968, he studied History of music and Catalan philology and he wrote and directed musical programmes for the Catalan Television

Always in favour of a timeless way of being modern and transgressive, his works often show marginal characters who do their best to find a place in contemporary society.

He likes themes and worlds which are somehow connected to traditions, while he uses a very innovative and personal way of expressing himself.

## **Olor de colònia (Smell of cologne)**

**Silvia Àlcantara**, Edicions del 1984, 2009, 336 p.

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Spanish Edition (MR Ediciones)

A big fire breaks the monotony of the textile factory. The warehouses are burning down. There is smoke everywhere. Sirens run without a break, everybody gets outside. The fight to save the factory is desperate. And at last a voice shouts: “there is nobody left!”. Fire is controlled. Landlords and workers go to the church to pray for their survival. But really nobody was left there?

Readers’ attention is kept awoken until the end of this powerful novel, sharp like its characters, with a surprising ending

*Olor de Colònia* portrays life in a textile colony, with its poisoned relationships, and the mix of despotism and condescension that, around the 50ies, were the main ingredients of its life. It was a matter of being born, grown up, have children and die among the factory walls. A big factory that was more than just a work place: it was a school for the youngest, church, shops and homes for families. It was a miniature world for workers who, apparently, felt safe inside.

**Sílvia Alcàntara i Ribolleda** (1944) became one of the best-selling Catalan author with her first novel, with more than 50,000 copies sold of “Olor de colònia”. She is a teacher.

**La casa cantonera, (The Road Inspector's House)**, Edicions del 1984, 2011, 142 p.

## **Quirat i mig (A carat and a half)**

**M. Dolors Millat Llusà**, Edicions del 1984, 2012, 350 p.

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Alicia, a middle-aged woman who works as air traffic controller, married with a doctor and with two children, starts to disappear sporadically, without telling anybody where she goes.

Her husband, completely lost and worried, tries to talk to her, see if she is ill, hoping to solve the mystery. She tells him to trust her and to respect this kind of voluntary reclusion. He accepts it but the situation comes to an unbearable point.

What is happening to her. Who is she seeing? Doubts are building up walls between them

*Quirat i mig* is the story of a personal research. Alicia is trying to listen to herself, looking for her inner being. What she discovers helps her to get along with the problems of her past

Without stopping to glimpse to the reader, and give him symbolic materials (such as the ring of the title which is lost at the beginning of the novel). In the end, different elements are mixed together to help Alicia getting ready to live her last great experience.

**M. Dolors Millat Llusà** (1953) founded in 1995 l'Aula de Lletres, the first creative writing school in Catalonia. From 1998 until 2002 she is the director of the Ateneu Barcelonés Writing School. This is her first novel.

**El quadern de Nicolaas Kleen** (The diary of Nicolaas Kleen)

**Jaume Benavente** , Columna, 2010, 360 p.

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Spanish: Roca Editorial - English extracts available

Marja Batelaar is a young police inspector in the Homicides section of the Amsterdam police. Born in a family of Jewish origin, she is introverted and she lives in Jordaan, the city bohemian neighbourhood. She likes reading and she has a great friend, Louise, an artist that live in a house-boat. She has a long distance relationship with Franz, her German boyfriend who lives in Berlin.

On a rainy winter morning, Marja has to investigate, together with Jan Laagsveld – an older and more experienced inspector – on the dead of an immigrant, Suzanne Vitéz, that was found murdered in a pension downtown. Her companion disappeared and the case is closed with too many things left open.

Marja can't stop thinking about it. Without any friends among the police corps, who thinks she is an intellectual, Marja steps into a world of shadows in which the city high level society and the cosmopolites are mixed with criminal interests and the presence of ghosts from her own past, like her brother's murder from years ago...

**Llums a la costa** (Lights on the shore)

Columna, 2007, 336 p. - Premi Pin i Soler 2006 - Spanish: Bruguera

With the excuse of having to work on a translation, Cèlia Vidal, a Barcelonean writer, decide to move to Lisbon for the winter season. There she meets Eusebio Sena, an older man, former professor from Madeira, who has been prosecuted during the Salazar dictatorship. Eusebio is a special man, who lived for a long time surrounded by a hail of mystery that intrigue Cèlia. Following the ex-professor and the Cèlia's voices, the author recreates in a wonderful way the lost world of Sena's Madeira, his political fights and his frustrated love.

All of this is perfectly framed under the light and the magical atmosphere of Lisbon, where Eusebio and Cèlia both found themselves as complete foreigners.

A novel full of *saudade* , so poignant and so powerful that soaks the reader with its peaceful lyrism.



## JACINTO LUCAS PIRES

### *O VERDADEIRO ATOR (The True Actor)*

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Cotovia, 2012, 190 pages

Rights sold to: DZANC Books (World English)

“His 2011 novel, *O Verdadeiro Ator (The True Actor)* is a comedy of hard knocks. It offers multiple possibilities for interpretation, beginning with the symbolic name of its hero, Américo Abril, combining America and the month in which Portugal’s 1974 Carnation revolution occurred. The split fantasies of the tragic-comic Abril can be read as Portugal personified, combining a ghost of the past (April revolution) with a *Being John Malkovich* twist on the American dream. Abril, an unemployed actor, babysits and fights with his baby son over feeding while his ambitious wife brings home the cash and stakes her place in the demanding business world. A sensitive man, Abril is also a hapless fantasizer until the phone rings with a Hollywood producer offering a dream film-role. He can barely believe his luck. The scenario gets complicated when Abril’s call-girl lover is murdered and he becomes a prime suspect. What follows is a comic and sometimes harrowing unscrambling of mysteries, confessions, lies, and harsh truths.

Américo’s fame grows more as a result of the publicized false accusations about his implication in the girl’s murder than his acting skills. Comically, he survives the dangerous grey zones between reality and fantasy despite himself. He is neither innocent nor guilty, but rather the amiable victim of surrounding circumstances. The same might be said critically of contemporary Portugal. Unlike the bold and willful empire for which he is named, Américo Abril doesn’t act on the world with any great success, but he is alive, sensitive, and receptive, a somehow good natured heroic survivor on the margin. *O Verdadeiro Ator (The True Actor)* is an excellent and entertaining novel filled with Pires’ best work at revealing his fragile characters’ intimacies in a public context”

Richard Simas, <http://portuguese-american-journal.com/profile-jacinto-lucas-pires-essay/>

#### **Other titles by Jacinto Lucas Pires:**

- **Assobiar em público** (To whistle in public), Cotovia, 2008, 281 pages. Short stories
- **Perfeitos milagres** (Perfect miracles), Cotovia, 2007 311 pages. Novel

“A surprisingly funny and witty book” - Público – José Eduardo Agualusa

“One of the best novels published this year” – Blitz – João Villalobos

“Absolutely contemporary” – Público – Eduardo Pitta

- **Do Sol** (About the Sun) Cotovia 2004, 222 pages. Novel

**Jacinto Lucas Pires** (Porto, 1974) is a scriptwriter for theatre, and the writer of various novels and short stories. Many of his short stories have been included in different anthologies. In 2008 he was awarded with the “Prémio Europa - David Mourão-Ferreira”, given by the University of Bari together with the Instituto Camões. The award is aimed to spread Portuguese language and Portuguese-speaking cultures all over the world. The jury is presided over by Eduardo Lourenço.

The book presentation of “Assobiar em público” at the Pó dos Livros Bookstore in Lisbon can be seen here:<http://livrariapodoslivros.blogspot.com/2008/11/jacinto-lucas-pires-ganha-o-prmio.html>



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Dzanc Books to Publish Jacinto Lucas Pires**

September 16, 2012 - Ann Arbor, MI— The Dzanc Books DISQUIET imprint is proud to announce that it will publish the first English work by Jacinto Lucas Pires, the novel *A True Actor*.

The third novel by writer, musician, and playwright Jacinto Lucas Pires, *A True Actor* recounts the story of the grotesque character Americo Abril, an actor confounded by the various roles that he plays in real life—weary Dad, blocked artist, henpecked husband, and miserable lover, and in the cinema—where he inhabits the role of his alter-ego, Paul Giamatti. As a backdrop (and in intriguing confluence with current events), Portugal is in a state of high alert: *There is nary a gesture, nor the minimal suggestion of violence*, Pires writes. *Only the weight of the Portuguese masses, arms slack, brave shoulders pressed against the constitutional portals. Nor even the harshness of words; only a thousand, a million souls employing the weight of this most stringent of methods. Shoulders, foreheads, thighs, imagine. Begin.* In cinematic prose, Jacinto Lucas Pires affirms his status as one of the most articulate voices of Portugal and of his generation.

The novel is being translated from the Portuguese by Jaime Braz and Dean Ellis and will be published in English in North America in both print and eBook form in September 2013.

Jacinto Lucas Pires was born in Porto in 1974 and now lives in Lisbon. He is the author of three novels, including *A True Actor*. His other works include a short-story collection, *Whistling in Public*, a novella, and *Used Book*, an innovative travelogue about Japan. He has also written theatre plays and film scripts, and has directed two short films. He won the prestigious Prémio Europa–David Mourão-Ferreira (Bari University, Italy/Instituto Camões, Portugal) in 2008. Pires plays with the music band *Os Quais* and has a column about soccer in *Jornal de Notícias*, a major Portuguese newspaper. Several translations of his short prose recently appeared in an issue of *The St. Petersburg Review* translated by Jaime Braz and Dean Ellis.

Jeff Parker, Editor for the Disquiet imprint of Dzanc Books, said of the acquisition: “Already an integral part of

our DISQUIET Lisbon program, we're looking forward to bringing Jacinto's work to the English world. Deeply in touch with the Portuguese culture on the whole—in addition to being a novelist and playwright with the National Theater, he is a soccer aficionado and a musician with the ability to play Radiohead in Fado—his work is some of the most insightful, street-level reportage from Austerity-era Portugal that we've yet seen.”

Follow this link to read a recent essay by Richard Simas profiling Pires in English for the *Portuguese American Journal*: <http://portuguese-american-journal.com/profile-jacinto-lucas-pires-essay/>

This signing was made through Jacinto Lucas Pires agent, Ella Sher of the Ella Sher Literary agency.

### **About Disquiet**

The DISQUIET imprint of Dzanc Books will publish contemporary works from around the world in English translation. The imprint comes out of the annual DISQUIET International Literary Program in Lisbon, Portugal ([www.disquietinternational.org](http://www.disquietinternational.org)), and *A True Actor* by Jacinto Lucas Pires (translated by Jaime Braz and Dean Ellis) will be its debut title. All titles in the DISQUIET imprint will include introductions by leading figures contextualizing the authors and their stories for American audiences.

### **About Dzanc Books**

Dzanc Books was created in 2006 to advance great writing and to impact communities nationally with our efforts to advance literary readership and advocacy of creative writing workshops and readings offered across the country. As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, Dzanc publishes innovative fiction, supports several editorially independent imprints and literary journals, provides low-cost writing instruction to beginning and emerging writers by connecting them with accomplished authors through the innovative Dzanc Creative Writing Sessions, runs a writers-in-residence program that puts published authors in public schools, awards an annual prize to support a writer whose work shows literary excellence and who is engaged in community service, and organizes a writing conference held in Portugal.

For more information on Dzanc Books and its mission, imprints, books, authors, awards, and programs, please visit [www.dzancbooks.org](http://www.dzancbooks.org).

\* \* \*

**PATRICIA PORTELA**

*O Banquete (The Baquet)*

---

Caminho, 2012, 328 pp

“The Banquet is over big issues such as life and death. A complex but charming and delicious puzzle. “

*Pieter t'jonck in de Morgen*

“ A surprising mix of philosophical and terrestrial ingredients to munch our immortality. Bon Appetit!”

*Catherine Makereel in Le soir*

... "With a fairy tale lyricism, the author plays with ideas, makes us laugh, shuffles our ideas and leaves us baffled... 'The Banquet' is one of those works that leave us thinking how come we didn't write it ourselves.

The metaphor begins with the cover, black, with a spider web that ends in two symmetrically opposite birds.

Anything can happen on the inside. And what will happen is a great mystery

Then the first quote: "Nothing is lost, everything is transformed." - Antoine Laurent Lavoisier.

You will keep this in mind. Then another quote: "Heaven is hell if one lacks the ability to enjoy it." – from an Anonymous contemporary of Goethe.

Soon after it introduces the concept of a main meal for Ancient Greeks, consisting of cereals and lentil soup.

Sometimes it also included cakes and sweet breads.

Already lost in this literary game, it describes a dream that is the same every day

The myths who define Humanity are revisited with an incredibly clever and imaginative prose.

'The Banquet' is a deconstructing puzzle with no solution but it makes us think and reflects on our own existence, endlessly.

*Sandra Gonçalves, Diarrio digital*

*If I tell you stories all the time I do not disappear. - Scheherazade, Flatland (Portela)*

Patrícia Portela is an unclassifiable Portuguese writer, performer, media artist, producer, and stage designer who creates and manipulates language in a variety of multidisciplinary projects that include performance, installation, theatre, movement, and video. Her playful, audacious, and speculative texts narrate a hyper-real world where words spill from the printed page onto screens and from audio and virtual platforms to the eyes and ears of audiences. Unrelentingly inventive, her creations require audiences to question the meaning of language and its relationships to narrating reality.

Discussing Portela in traditional literary contexts would be to ignore the particularity of her inventiveness and miss its provocative richness. Rather, her writing must be considered in the wider arena of interdisciplinary, contemporary art that integrates multiple practices and aesthetics on a project-by-project basis. Several of Portela's unconventional texts, however, are also published in book formats, and since she enjoys an international following, some are available in English. On stage, in public gardens, on virtual media, or in books, after more than a decade of original creations, inventive language and unusual storytelling are Patrícia Portela's enduring constants, attracting international co-productions, festival programming, and awards.

As part of the generation born in Portugal's mid 1970's "Carnation Revolution" period, she is a fascinating example of a New Wave of contemporary Portuguese creators shaping current artistic scenes. With regards to her training in stage design and affinity for the open-ended parameters of Contemporary Dance, she has called herself a "choreographing scenographer." However, her focus includes imagining stage space for text and combining movement, visual art, theatrics, cyber space, and words in multiple presentation platforms. Precisely, it is in mobilizing the synergetic movement, rhythm, and essence of each of these elements that makes her unique to both the performing and literary milieus.

Patricia Portela, images, videos, texts, information: [www.prado.tv](http://www.prado.tv)

*Richard Simas, June 2012 [richardsimas@netaxis.ca](mailto:richardsimas@netaxis.ca)*

For further information, The Ella Sher Literary Agency, [ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)

## KILIAN JORNET

### *CORRER O MORIR (Run or Die)*

---

Ara Llibres / Now Books, 180 pages

Rights Sold to: **USA (Velo Press), Germany (Malik & National Geographic, Piper group), Japan (Runners Group), France (Outdoors Editions), Poland (Sine Qua Non), Italy (Vivalda Edizioni), Portugal (Lua de Papel, LeYa), Slovenia (Mohorjeva)**

Kilian is the current world champion in sky-running (four times) and current ski mountaineering world champion (three times)

He holds the record running up and down Mt Kilimanjaro

Appeared in *Outdoor Magazine, Outside Magazine, Athletics Weekly (UK), Runner's Magazine, Go Trail (Brazil), South China Morning Post* and in media all over the world

First non-American to ever win the famous Western States 100 Race (in 2011 – he will run it again in 2012)

He is planning on running all the major trail-running races in the US in 2012. Sponsors are already excited, he has received a number of media petitions even before travelling to the US; here is his programme:

<http://desnivel.com/carreras-y-raids/el-nuevo-proyecto-de-kilian-jornet-incluye-everest-aconcagua-mckinley-y-cervino>

<http://vimeo.com/42632868>

“Our steps follow our instinct and take us into the unknown.

We no longer see the obstacles behind us, but look forward to the ones ahead.”

More infos about Kilian`s project in the next 5 years [summitsofmylife.com](http://summitsofmylife.com)

Kilian is about to embark on some colossal personal challenges that will test his fitness, resolve and skills far beyond the reaches of his career so far.

Combining his tremendous capacities for physical endurance with the mountain environment he is so

passionate about, **Kilian** will undertake a number of feats throughout the coming years that stand to change our perception of human capabilities.

"No-one told us who we were.

No-one told us we should this.

No-one told us it would be easy.

Someone said we are our dreams, that if we don't dream, we are not linger alive.

Our steps follow our instinct and take us into the unknown.

We no longer see the obstacles behind us, but look forward the ones ahead.

It's not about being the fastest, the strongest or the biggest...It's about being ourselves.

We are not just runners, mountaineers or skiers...or even athletes...we are people.

We don't know if we'll find it, but we're going in search of happiness.

What is it we're looking for? To be alive?"

You can see more videos of the series “Kilian’s Quest”, on You Tube, a series promoted by Salomon

Protagonist of amazing videos such as <http://www.kilianjornet.cat/en/videos/category/kilians-quests3>

Admired all over the world by athletes such as Rafa Nadal, Carles Puyol or Edurne Pasabán (Spanish mountaineer)

**1 year on the Catalan best-seller lists (Top ten in non-fiction from March 2011 to March 2012)**

**11 reprints in Catalan, 8 reprints in Spanish**

**Over 40.000 copies sold in total**

**2 reprints in French**, where it was N° 1 sales in the FNAC sports section. Over 10.000 copies sold since Christmas

For further information, The Ella Sher Literary Agency, [ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)



La evolución de una idea, los secretos de un estilo.  
El análisis más completo y detallado de las claves tácticas  
que han llevado al Barça de Guardiola a convertirse en uno  
de los mejores equipos de la historia.

«Hasta la llegada de Guardiola, la grandeza del Barcelona se explicaba sobre todo a partir del relato del club. Desde entonces empezó el relato del equipo y, sobre todo del juego, de manera que se imponía acudir a nuevas fuentes de información para saber, conocer e interpretar. Una de las más imprescindibles, por pedagógica e ilustrativa, ha sido y sigue siendo *Paradigma Guardiola*.»

**Ramón Besa**

«En días de zozobra y de dudas, ahí estaba *Paradigma Guardiola* para recordar los ejes básicos de un modelo de juego. Posesión 74, anchos para ser profundos, salir jugando, recuperación en 5 segundos... conceptos que, unidos, componen una dinámica excepcional: la del equipo más brillante de la historia. *Paradigma Guardiola* se adelantó a todo y a todos.»

**Martí Perarnau**



[www.arallibres.cat](http://www.arallibres.cat)

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**Educados para ganar**

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Xavier Torres y Santi Padró

**La suerte de mi destino**

Isidre Esteve

**Ahora hablo yo**

Carles Rexach

Matías Manna



PARADIGMA GUARDIOLA

# PARADIGMA GUARDIOLA

Matías Manna



**Prólogo de  
David Trueba**



**MATÍAS MANNA**

(San Vicente, Argentina, 1983) es entrenador de fútbol profesional (ATFA), y asesor e integrante de cuerpos técnicos de nivel internacional, nacional y regional. Es diplomado en la carrera de posgrado, con la especialización en Comunicación Digital Interactiva (Universidad Nacional de Rosario). Licenciado en Periodismo (UNR), docente universitario en Periodismo Digital y Educomunicación.

**Neus Chordà**

Jefe de prensa y Relaciones públicas  
M. 690 628 604



**Autor** Toni de la Torre

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**Páginas** 272

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# Las series que no me dejan dormir

Más de 100 recomendaciones para serieadictos con insomnio

Toni de la Torre



## Sobre el autor

**Toni de la Torre**

(Barcelona, 1981) es periodista y experto en series de televisión norteamericanas.

Ha escrito libros sobre Perdidos, House, Friends y Héroes, todos ellos en esta misma editorial. Colabora habitualmente en el programa de radio *El Món a RAC1*, de RAC1, la revista *TimeOut* y el periódico *Avui*.

## Sobre el libro

Si un día entraste en una escotilla y te convertiste en un fan de Perdidos, si House es tu droga diaria, si tu trabajo se parece a un capítulo de The Office y a veces te gustaría impartir justicia como Dexter, si tú también te enamoraste de un Mr. Big o te sientes confuso como Tony Soprano, si cuando llegan las elecciones votas a Bartlet, si tus cenas familiares se parecen demasiado a las de la familia Fisher, si te gustaría encontrar a tu dr. Macizo... Si en tu interior conviven un Mulder y una Scully, si bebes más café que Lorelai Gilmore y mordiste la manzana de Wisteria Lane, si tu gurú personal se llama George Constanza, si formaste parte de la compañía Easy, si estás convencido de que en el fondo todo lo que nos rodea es una trampa de los cylon pero confías en que el mundo se salvará en el último minuto gracias a Jack Bauer... ¡Este es tu libro!

La Biblia imprescindible de los serieadictos. Con una selección de series fundamentales, creadores y productores, secretos de la industria, argot televisivo, anécdotas y joyas todavía por descubrir.

## **VICTORIA ÁLVAREZ**

### ***HOJAS DE DEDALERA (Foxgloves Leaves)***

---

Ediciones Versatil, 2011, 528 pages

**Italian Rights (Fanucci Editore) // German Rights (Bastei Lübbe)**

London 1888: Since when she was a child, Annabel Lovelace has been living with his uncle, the security guard of Highgate Cemetery. It is there where she discovers her extraordinary skill: she can talk to the dead, maybe thanks to her heart failure that is keeping her between life and death

Years later, a series of mysterious accidents will turn her into the most influential medium of the British Empire.

Nevertheless, her gift will reveal secrets that should have remained untold and that will threaten the British Aristocracy.

**Victoria Álvarez** (Salamanca, 1985) already knew she wanted to be a writer when she was nine. Since then, she never stop to create new stories and new characters. She graduated in History of Art and she is currently studying for her PhD in Literature of the Arts during the XIX century. She studied and lived in Paris and Rome. Following *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins and *Her Fearful Symmetry* by Audrey Niffenegger, "*Hojas de Dedalera*" is a reliable portrait of the Victorian society written by a young author that is already experimenting her huge success in the Spanish narrative scene.

## **VICTORIA ÁLVAREZ**

### ***LAS ETERNAS (The Eternals)***

---

Ediciones Versatil, November 2012, 183 pages

*"An intriguing and unsettling star-crossed love story that will leave you breathless. Undoubtedly it confirms Victoria Alvarez as one of the best writers today, taking us to far-away fictional landscapes such as an eerie early-twentieth century Venice"* Felix J. Palma, best-selling author of *The Map of Time* and *The Map of the Sky*.

Venice, 1908. Gian Carlo Montalbano and her daughter Silvana open up a Toy Shop, "La grotta della Fenice", right in front of the old and emblematic Corsini's Toy Shop. Montalbano's toys are the last generation of automaton that can be found. Their dolls are so perfect that they seems to be made of flesh and bones. Mario Corsini step into their Toy Shop to discover the secret of their art and he strikes up with cold and intelligent Silvana. But what Mario will find out in the "Grotta della Fenice" will unleash a series of horror and death that will make the Venetian society shuddered

For further information, please contact [The Ella Sher Literary Agency, ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)

**MEGAN MAXWELL**

***LOS PRÍNCIPES AZULES TAMBIÉN DESTIÑEN (Prince Charming is quite the charmless man)***

---

Ediciones Versatil, 2012, 424 pages

Published in 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and in just two weeks the first edition has been sold out

Are there any second chances in love? Read the stories of Sam and Kate, Michael and Terry, a fairy tale that turns into a nightmare, a nightmare that becomes a fairy tale, two lovers bound to meet again and again no matter what obstacles they might encounter in life. A novel where Prince Charming is not as charming as it seems, and his princess not as perfect as it might seem at first sight... are you ready to find out the truth?

The new novel from one of the queens of Spanish Romance, best-selling author Megan Maxwell, winner of the Premio Dama 2010 and 2011, Premio Rosas 2010 and 2011, both for best Romance Chick-lit. Best-selling author of FNAC Romance section.

**¿Y A TI QUÉ TE IMPORTA?** (What do you care?)

---

Ediciones Versatil, 2012, 384 pages

Noelia Stella Rice Ponce is a famous Hollywood actress of Spanish origins. She is used to glamour and stardom. During the campaign of her new movie she travels to Spain where she comes across with an old flame Juan Morán, a young man whom she met years ago in Las Vegas... someone uncomfortable whom she did not want to meet ever again. Juan works now as a Spanish SWAT and is used to all kinds of dangerous situations as well as to the discretion his job demands, and meeting the Hollywood star is what he less wants. But one can't fight against destiny when it knocks on your door, can't you?

“One of the new voices in the Spanish Romance.” DIARIO EL DIA.

“Thousands of readers love her books where they find tenderness and sizzling romance.” BARCELONA DIVINA

MEGAN MAXWELL is the winner of Premio de Novela Romántica de Seseña 2010 (Spanish Romance Novel Award ). She lives in a lovely village near Madrid, with her husband, her two children, her friends, her dog Drako and her cat Romeo. In Megan's own words: “To me, writing is dreaming”. That's why she writes, dreams, makes up stories and portrays strong women in her stories, women who are willing to be noticed and prove that "women are the weak sex" is indeed obsolete.

For further information, The Ella Sher Literary Agency, [ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)



Pedro Rodríguez  
**Para comprender la moda**  
*Con alcune regole di eleganza*

Prezzo 12 euro  
 Pagine 96  
 Uscita febbraio 2012  
 isbn 978-88-96873-62-5

**Questo libro è una riscoperta, anzi, una scoperta.**  
 Scritto nel 1945 da uno degli stilisti più eleganti e raffinati di Spagna, *Para comprender la moda* è un amabile e godibile pamphlet in cui Pedro Rodríguez racconta dove nasce la moda, come si diffonde, chi la comanda, come ci conquista e come possiamo interpretarla.

*Para comprender la moda* non è un manuale pratico, né un bigname di eleganza tascabile, non è neppure un sussidario su stili e costumi del tempo che fu, ma è **una riflessione attualissima sull'eleganza, su dove e come la si può coltivare imparando, anche, a difendersi da lei.**

Pedro Rodríguez, stilista di rara raffinatezza e soprattutto sarto straordinario, si pone come un attento osservatore dei gusti e dei tempi che hanno caratterizzato l'arte di vestirsi e ripensa, con arguzia, a come funzionano i meccanismi della bellezza.

**Un libro piacevole, raffinato, che per la prima volta varca i confini italiani.**

**Pedro Rodríguez** (1895-1990), stilista spagnolo, molto amato da Balenciaga, apre la propria maison a Barcellona nel 1919. Dieci anni dopo il suo lavoro viene consacrato grazie alla partecipazione dei suoi abiti all'Expo Internazionale di Barcellona. La guerra civile spagnola lo obbliga a espatriare e riprenderà a produrre abiti in patria solo nel 1937. Sono questi gli anni del suo massimo successo che continuerà fino al 1978 anno in cui chiuderà la maison per dedicarsi esclusivamente a lavori di alta sartoria per la sua clientela più fedele. I suoi lavori oggi sono conservati nei più importanti musei spagnoli.



**add**  
 EDITORE

via Bruno Buozzi 10, 10123 Torino, info@addeditore.it





Alessandra Di Pietro  
**Godete! (Savor it!)**

Price 6 euro  
Pages 96  
isbn 978-88-96873-53-3

Savor and enjoy your sex life.  
There is a lot in return...  
and nothing to pay for.

**Alessandra Di Pietro** writes about women, sex and politics in the weekly magazine «Gioia» and the monthly magazine «Myself». She is 43 and the mother of two children. She was born near the Mount Etna, and she lives in Rome. Here it is her blog: [www.alessandradipietro.it](http://www.alessandradipietro.it)

Good sex life is very important for a woman, but not every woman knows the true meaning of it.

Everything seems to be free, available and woman-friendly, but as soon as one gives it too much pleasure and freedom, she is often considered immoral.

We are living the obsession of being charming and attractive.

However, pleasure still seems to remain at a stage that comes before any body contact, any fusion of smells, perfumes, failures, conquests, fun, truth or relax which are normally given by the real imperfection.

We are surrounded by nudity and sexuality, but genuine female pleasure is still a taboo.

**We all must do something against it.**

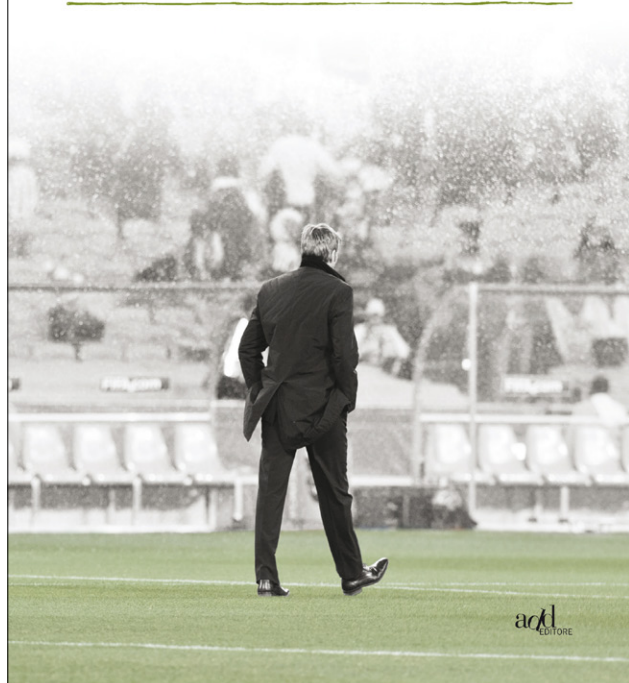
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# Roberto Rosetti

## Nessuno parla dell'arbitro



Roberto Rosetti  
**No talk about referees**

15 euro  
Pages 192  
November 2011  
isbn 978-88-96873-48-9

When you come onto the football ground, the eyes of the fans are directed on twenty-two men dressed in shorts, ready to wager the score. Then there are the other three, dressed in black, holding whistles and flags. It's doubtful that anyone has come to the stadium to see them; yet, without them, nothing can begin. It might seem a sad fate, that of a referee, often the scapegoat for the bad results of one's favourites, exposed to ridicule, always in the eye of the storm despite the apparent invisibility.

One of the greatest Italian referees, Roberto Rosetti, knows this mechanism very well, and his excellent career on the pitch had a difficult and delicate moment when, during the South African World Cup, his missed whistle became for an instant the most famous whistle in the world. Argentina - Mexico, in the round of sixteen, the offside goal of Argentinian Tevez considered valid: the fate of a match and millions of fans changes.

Roberto Rosetti's story begins here, from this error broadcast worldwide, but before arriving at that twenty-fifth minute of the first half there is a life of training, preparation, hard work and provincial playing fields. In this book, Rosetti narrates what it means to be a great international referee. For better or worse.

**Roberto Rosetti** born in Torino in 1967. He has just been named head of the division of Russian referees.

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Franco Bolelli  
**Giocate! (Let's Play!)**

Price 6 euro  
Pages 80  
Published: March 2011  
isbn 978-88-96873-65-6

A book about children, about how children grow up and what adults are due to do. It is neither a handbook nor a book of rules, it is an invitation to bring ourselves into play, open our mind and be able to face the contemporary challenges and stress of life, to which children are often exposed.

*Giocate! (Let's play!)* is a light-hearted and peaceful call, which passionately urges a mental and behavioural model based on playing. Franco Bolelli tells us his idea of upbringing, and tests it at our times. The core of the matter is that playing is necessary to interpret and discover the world, with no fears.

**Franco Bolelli** (1950) was born and lives in Milan. He has always written and spoken about progressive frontiers, creative worlds and new models for humanity. He has published numerous books and has planned and staged experimental and pop festivals, like Frontiere, a mixture of philosophy, rock and new technologies.

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Claudio Fava

*L'ultima meta*

Prezzo 14 euro

Pagine 256

Uscita settembre 2012

isbn 978-88-96873-83-0

*“Abbiamo fatto un buon lavoro... anarchici, vagabondi, capelloni, sindacalisti, rivoluzionari... adesso tocca anche agli indecisi. Che sei tornato a fare, Passarella?” A vincere il campionato con i miei ragazzi, gli dice Passarella. “Li abbiamo fatti fuori tutti, i tuoi ragazzi” gli dice calmo Montonero. Tu sei pazzo, gli urla Passarella. “Non sono pazzo. Sei tu che non hai capito cos’è successo in questo paese... Sai qual è la prima cosa che ti insegnano quando ti arruoli? Se non ammazzi i tuoi nemici, saranno loro ad ammazzare te”.*

**Claudio Fava**, 55 anni, giornalista, scrittore, politico. Ha raccontato, per i giornali e per le televisioni, molti luoghi e molte guerre, dalla Sicilia che lotta contro Cosa Nostra ai difficili processi di pace in America Latina. Scrive anche per il cinema e il teatro. Sua la sceneggiatura del film *I cento passi*.

**Immaginate un giocatore di rugby.** Teso, attento, pronto allo scatto e a resistere alle cariche, ai placcaggi, a tutto. Solo che quest'uomo non è un giocatore di rugby come gli altri: lo si capisce quando comincia a raccontare quella partita, e le altre cento che l'hanno preceduta. **Si chiama Raul, è argentino e la squadra per cui sta giocando non esiste più. Morti, tutti, durante gli anni della dittatura. Lui è l'unico sopravvissuto.**

Una squadra di fantasmi. Che un tempo era **la squadra più forte d'Argentina**. Un tempo funesto, il 1978. Qualcuno si illude che lo sport sia un terreno neutrale e che altrove, lontani dal campo di rugby, stiano anche i generali e la repressione di un regime che in pochi anni farà ventimila ammazzati. Che c'entriamo noi con la dittatura? Noi che diamo l'anima sul campo?

**Poi uno di quei ragazzi, uno che di mestiere fa l'operaio e in fabbrica parla e pensa ad alta voce, scompare.** La domenica successiva i suoi compagni chiedono un minuto di silenzio prima della partita. Invece di minuti ne passano dieci. Dal giorno dopo cambia tutto. Mentre l'Argentina si prepara a trasformare i campionati del mondo di calcio del 1978 nella vetrina del regime, **tra la giunta militare e quei ragazzi si accende una sfida che non prevede armistizi.** Uno dopo l'altro i giocatori spariscono: ma per ogni giocatore ucciso, un ragazzino del vivaio viene promosso titolare. E così, mentre il mondo celebra l'Argentina campione del mondo di calcio fingendo di non sapere cosa stia accadendo, **i ragazzi del Rugby La Plata continuano a giocare, a vincere, a parlare ad alta voce. E a morire.**

Dei titolari ne resta in vita solo uno: Raul. L'ultima di campionato si porta in campo una squadra di ragazzi. Giocano, e vincono. Per la giunta militare, che assiste con le divise tirate a lucido dal palco d'onore, sarà l'inizio della fine.

**Una storia vera, raccontata con la passione, l'amore e il rispetto che meritano i grandi eventi della Storia.**

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Add editore, via Bruno Buozzi 10, 10123 Torino, info@addeditore.it



Paolo Flores d'Arcais  
**Democrazia!**

Prezzo 7 euro  
Pagine 160  
Uscita maggio 2012  
formato 16,5x10,5  
isbn 978-88-96873-73-1

**Il libro verrà distribuito in cofanetti/espositori da banco personalizzati da 10 copie ciascuno  
CODICE COFANETTO: 67595**

**Paolo Flores d'Arcais** (Cervignano del Friuli, 11 luglio 1944) è filosofo e giornalista. Animatore del movimento studentesco nel '68, e dei "girotondi" nel 2002. Fondatore e direttore della rivista MicroMega, editorialista di "Il Fatto quotidiano", collaboratore di "El Pais" e "Gazeta Wyborcza". Tra le sue pubblicazioni: *Il sovrano e il dissidente* (Garzanti, 2004), *Hannah Arendt* (Fazi 2006), *Atei o credenti* (Fazi, 2007), *Albert Camus filosofo del futuro* (Codice, 2010), *La sfida oscurantista di Joseph Ratzinger* (Ponte alla Grazie 2010) e il grande successo pubblicato con Add *Gesù. L'invenzione del Dio cristiano*.

Da anni si afferma che è malata, la si accusa, ma le si rimane attaccati come all'ultimo baluardo di libertà e uguaglianza. Da anni si sente parlare di **democrazia zoppa, di democrazia finita, di democrazia fallita**.

**Ma a cosa ci riferiamo quando parliamo di democrazia?** A una forma utopica e ideale, o a un meccanismo concreto di gestione del potere capace di ridurre le distanze tra i cittadini?

**L'idea di democrazia ha dovuto adeguarsi a molte sollecitazioni**, a cambiamenti sociali così radicali da mettere in crisi non solo le grandi ideologie, ma anche gli ideali che tenevano insieme popoli e nazioni. Cosa rimane al concetto e alla pratica democratica dopo l'improvviso accelerare della storia degli ultimi anni? Cosa dopo decenni di liberismo sfrenato, dopo crisi finanziarie, dopo l'avvento sempre più incontrollabile dei poteri forti?

Dopo il successo di *Gesù*, con questo saggio **Paolo Flores d'Arcais riflette sullo stato di salute e sugli spazi di azione ancora propri della democrazia**, cercando prima di individuarne nemici e punti deboli, poi di trovare possibili soluzioni per un ritorno vero e condiviso del fare democratico.

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**Viola di Grado**

*Settanta acrilico trenta lana (Seventy percent Acrylic thirty percent wool)*

---

Edizioni e/o, 2010, 192 pages

**Rights Sold to: Spain (Alpha Decay), Portugal (Porto Editora), France (Seuil),  
Dutch (Wereldbibliotheek), German (Lutherhand)**

Premio Campiello Opera Prima

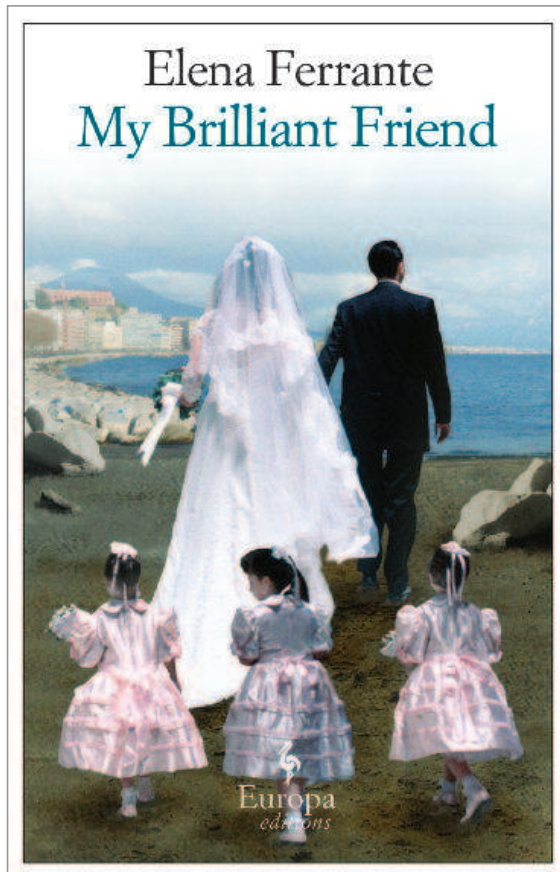
Premio Rapallo Carige

*As dark as Amelie Nothomb as literary as Elena Ferrante...*

Camelia lives with her mother in Leeds, in a house next to a cemetery where the mould seems to creep up the walls. Their life has been shattered as death has robbed them of a father and husband, now they communicate only through looks, glances, gazes and stares, a new alphabet the daughter has had to invent as her mother has declared the death of language when her husband died. Camelia used to study Chinese, but now earns a living translating instruction manuals for washing machines, her mother, once a renowned flautist, is now obsessed by photography. One day Camelia finds some strange clothes in the trash, and she decides to take them, adopt them, start a new life from here on. She wanders around and comes to meet Wen, a Chinese who works in a boutique, and who accepts to teach her Chinese. It's the beginning of a love, a love through a new language, a love as strong as denied, a bad kind of love, a love that might include Wen's brother.

**Viola Di Grado** was born in Sicily, studied oriental languages in Turin and now lives in London. Her new novel will soon be published by edizioni e/o

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## My Brilliant Friend

Elena Ferrante

*Translated from the Italian  
by Ann Goldstein*

The much anticipated new novel from the author of *The Days of Abandonment*

A modern masterpiece from one of Italy's most acclaimed authors, *My Brilliant Friend* is a rich, intense, and generous-hearted tale of two friends, Elena and Lila. Ferrante's inimitable style lends itself perfectly to a meticulous portrait of these two women that is also the story of a nation and a touching meditation on the nature of friendship.

The novel begins in the 1950s, in a poor but vibrant neighborhood on the outskirts of Naples. Growing up on these tough streets the two girls learn to rely on each other. As they grow, as their paths repeatedly diverge and converge, Elena and Lila remain best friends whose respective destinies are reflected and refracted in the other. They are likewise the embodiments of a nation undergoing momentous change. Ferrante tells the story of a neighborhood, a city, and a country as it is transformed over the years in ways that, in turn, also transform the relationship between her protagonists, the unforgettable Elena and Lila.

Ferrante is the author of three previous works of critically acclaimed fiction: *The Days of Abandonment*, *Troubling Love*, and *The Lost Daughter*. With this novel, the first in a trilogy, she proves herself to be one of Italy's great storytellers. She has given her readers a masterfully plotted page-turner, abundant and generous in its narrative details and characterizations, that is also a stylish work of literary fiction destined to delight her many fans and win new readers to her fiction.

- National media outreach (Elena Ferrante's previous novels widely reviewed, including *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *Financial Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Seattle Times*)
- 50,000 copies sold in the first two months in Italy
- Book Club and Reading Group outreach
- Simultaneous publication and promotion in UK & US
- Advance Reading Copies available
- Reading Group Guide available online at [europaeditions.com](http://europaeditions.com)

TP • pp 336 • ISBN: 978-1-60945-078-6 • \$17.00 • Fiction • Ebook available  
Trim Size: 5¼ x 8¼ • Pub Month: October 2012 • Territories: World





**Elena Ferrante** was born in Naples. Though one of Italy’s most important and acclaimed contemporary authors, she has successfully shunned public attention and kept her true identity concealed.

**Ann Goldstein’s** translations for Europa Editions include two novels by Amara Lakhous, two books by Alessandro Piperno, and Elena Ferrante’s three previous novels. Goldstein is head of the copy department at the *New Yorker*. She lives in New York.

***Praise for Elena Ferrante***

“Stunning...The raging, torrential voice of the author is something rare.”  
—*The New York Times*


“Ferrante’s prose is stunningly candid, direct and unforgettable.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*

“Elena Ferrante will blow you away.”—Alice Sebold

“[*The Days of Abandonment* & *Troubling Love*] are tour de forces... They both confirm Ferrante’s reputation as one of Italy’s best contemporary novelists.”—*The Seattle Times*

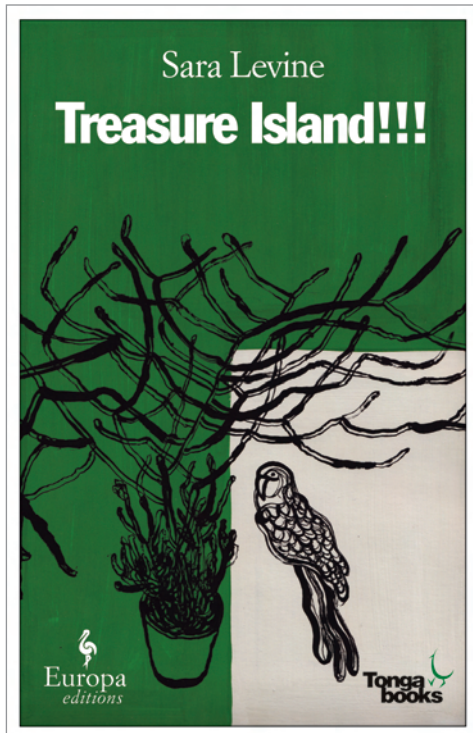
“This piercing novel [*The Lost Daughter*] is not so easily dislodged from the memory.”—*The Boston Globe*

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## Tonga books

### Sara Levine **Treasure Island!!!**

When a college graduate with a history of hapless jobs (ice cream scooper; gift wrapper; laziest ever part-time clerk at The Pet Library) reads Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island*, she is dumbstruck by the timid design of her life. When had she ever dreamed a scheme? When had she ever done a foolish, over-bold act? When had she ever, like Jim Hawkins, the hero of *Treasure Island*, broke from her friends, raced for the beach, stolen a boat, killed a man, and eliminated an obstacle that

stood in the way of her getting a hunk of gold? Convinced that Stevenson's book is cosmically intended for her, she redesigns her life according to its Core Values: boldness, resolution, independence and horn-blowing. Accompanied by her mother, her sister, and a hostile Amazon parrot that refuses to follow the script, our heroine embarks on a domestic adventure more frightening than anything she'd originally planned. *Treasure Island!!!* is the story of a ferocious obsession, told by an original voice—intelligent, perverse, relentlessly self-extricating, and funny.

**Tonga**  
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**Alice Sebald**

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#### Display them together!

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson  
Available from Penguin • 978-0-14043-768-3



### About the Author

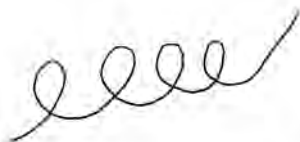
Sara Levine teaches at the Art Institute of Chicago. Her stories have appeared in *The Iowa Review*, *Nerve*, *Conjunctions*, *Necessary Fiction*, *Sonora Review*, and other magazines. *Treasure Island!!!* Is her first novel.

“*Treasure Island!!!* is undeniable: insane, hilarious and irreverent. When someone spikes your rum cocktail you want it to have the punch and the smooth finish that this novel does. Levine is simultaneously politically incorrect yet humane in this wild romp of a modern farce. Avast yee people, open up and let the Levine shine in!” —ALICE SEBOLD

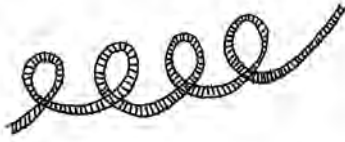
### From *Treasure Island!!!*

In the aftermath of my adventure, I decided to write down the whole thing, starting with my discovery of *Treasure Island* and keeping nothing back, not even the names of the friends and family members whose problems plagued me; and so even though I’d *love* to go into the other room and stab someone with a kitchen knife, I take up my pen—a nifty micro-ball which had been incorrectly capped and would have dried out had I not, at the crucial moment, found it and restored its seal.

### *The Pen*



*Before I Put My Hand To It*



*After a Good Shake, A Lick of the Nib, and Recapping*

Though even with pencil, I could tell this story pretty well.



# CAPELLI BLU

VALERIO NARDONI

VALERIO NARDONI  
CAPELLI BLU



*edizioni e/o*



**CAPELLI BLU**

pp. 144  
euro 16,00  
cod. 978-88-6632-157-6

Una notte Jilium trova una ragazza agonizzante tra due auto, proprio davanti al suo portone. Incerto su cosa fare, finisce poi col portarla dentro casa. Accorgendosi che è morta, viene preso dal panico e compie una serie di gesti assurdi. Fruga nella borsetta e scopre come si chiama e dove abita. Poi lo assale di nuovo il panico, decide di uscire per prendere tempo, ma non riesce ad evitare di passare da quell'indirizzo. Si ferma in doppia fila con la macchina ed assiste ad una scena che lo spaventa molto: un uomo entra in quella casa e ne esce infuriato.

Cosciente dell'assurdità che ha combinato, torna a casa in fretta, per rimettere fuori il corpo, ma appena infila la chiave sente un cellulare squillare. Si fa coraggio, ma ormai è fuori di sé e quando il cellulare della donna riprende a suonare, compie il folle gesto di rispondere e, al sentirsi insultato e minacciato, finge di averla

rapita. Urla, gli esce il sangue dal naso, fa a pezzetti il cellulare, finché, tra incubi e nervi, in qualche modo crolla e si addormenta. Al mattino, però, la ragazza è scomparsa.

Braccato da polizia e brutti ceffi, aiutato dall'inseparabile amico Alvaro e da un improbabile psicologo che riesce a capire ancor meno del suo paziente la differenza tra verità e immaginazione o delirio, Jilium vivrà una disavventura allucinante ma non priva di lati comici.

Capelli blu è una storia fra il giallo e lo straniamento personale, quello condiviso da una generazione che ha perso molti punti di riferimento e che si trova spesso, anziché a viverla, ad assistere alla propria vita, mentre procede distaccata dalle ragioni e le passioni più intime.

Un racconto pieno di suspense e colpi di scena, sorretto da una scrittura poetica.

❖ **Valerio Nardoni** (Livorno, 1977) è un critico e traduttore letterario. Ha tradotto volumi in prosa (Miguel de Cervantes, Javier Marías) e numerose raccolte di poesia spagnola (Pedro Salinas, Federico García Lorca, Pablo Neruda, ecc.). Una sua antologia dell'opera di Mario Luzi, di cui è stato collaboratore, è uscita nel 2005 con il quotidiano "La Repubblica". Ha partecipato come esperto in varie manifestazioni dedicate alla letteratura, fra cui il Festivalletteratura di Mantova 2010.

Nello stesso anno ha fondato il premio di poesia internazionale Premio Ciampi – Valigie Rosse, di cui dirige la rispettiva collana. Per Einaudi sta traducendo il volume di racconti *Mientras ellas duermen di Javier Marías*. *Capelli blu* è il suo primo romanzo.

Collana Dal Mondo

# VITA SEGRETA DI MARIA CAPASSO

SALVATORE PISCICELLI



◆  
**VITA SEGRETA  
DI MARIA CAPASSO**

pp. 320  
euro 18,00  
cod. 978-88-6632-145-3

Napoli 2001. Maria è sposata con un operaio e ha tre figli, fa la manicure e vive con i suoi in un modesto appartamento di case popolari. Una famiglia come tante, relativamente povera ma dignitosa e, malgrado tutto, passabilmente felice. Poi il destino si mette di traverso, il marito si ammala gravemente e muore. Maria però non si arrende: per la sua famiglia è disposta a fare qualsiasi cosa. Ha 37 anni, è una donna attraente e ha coraggio e intraprendenza.

Già durante la malattia del marito, Maria diventa l'amante di Gennaro, ricco proprietario di un autosalone che un giorno le propone di trasportare un carico di cocaina: un lavoretto veloce, con pochi rischi e un ottimo guadagno. Maria è stupita, ma non scandalizzata, quando scopre che l'amante è anche legato a un clan camorristico. Maria è pronta a imparare e a sfruttare le circostanze.

Per realizzare la sua piccola scalata sociale,

dovrà condurre fino in fondo la sua guerra, senza guardare in faccia a nessuno. Eppure Maria non è un mostro; è una buona madre e agisce per amore: la sua unica motivazione è il benessere della famiglia.

*Vita segreta di Maria Capasso* è il ritratto a tutto tondo di una figura femminile fortemente ambigua eppure affascinante nel suo vitalismo, nei suoi dubbi, nelle sue paure, nelle sue speranze, nella sua determinazione. Sarà difficile sottrarci al sospetto che la sua voce ci stia raccontando qualcosa anche di noi, stia illuminando un qualche lato oscuro della nostra coscienza.

La lunga, appassionante confessione di Maria, sincera fino allo strazio, e senza pentimenti, ci consegna anche una precisa chiave di lettura di una città come Napoli, immobile e al tempo stesso in costante trasformazione, viva e dolente, seducente e brutale.

❖ **Salvatore Piscicelli** è un critico cinematografico, sceneggiatore e regista; ha scritto e diretto numerosi documentari e film di finzione, tra i quali: *Immacolata e Concetta*, *Le occasioni di Rosa*, *Il corpo dell'anima*, *Quartetto*, tutti presentati nei principali festival internazionali.

Come scrittore, ha pubblicato una raccolta di racconti e un romanzo: *La neve a Napoli*, Mondadori.

Nato in provincia di Napoli nel 1948, vive e lavora a Roma.

❖ Dal familismo amorale al familismo criminale. Un ritratto a tutto tondo di una figura femminile fortemente ambigua, eppure attraente. Qual è il segreto di Maria Capasso?

Collana Dal Mondo



**DAVIDE LONGO**

***L'UOMO VERTICALE (Vertical man)***

---

Fandango, 2010, 300 pages

**“One of the most important novels published in the last five years” ALESSANDRO BARICCO**  
Rights sold to: **France (Editions Stock); UK (MacLehose Press); Germany (Rowohlt); Holland (De Geus); China (Shanghai 99), Brazil (Editora Octavo)**

In this harrowing and beautifully written novel, Davide Longo tells the haunting story of Leonardo, a man that lives in his own shadow. Once a successful writer and University Professor, he lost his job, his wife and daughter after an affair with one of his students was discovered.

He lives his life in a vacuum barely reacting to the world that is falling to pieces around him. As the banks run out of money, food becomes scarce and immigrant workers are chased out of town, Leonardo appears untouched, unperturbed. Then his ex-wife turns up, asking him to take care of their two children while she tries to make it to Rome to find her husband.

The country's downfall quickly comes to a head and Leonardo is not prepared, especially now that he has his two children on his hands as well as the autistic son of an old friend. They try to escape to Switzerland but are forced to fold back and head to the coast. There is no war, just desolation and sudden spurts of violence. Each town they come across is abandoned, as is the countryside. Until one day they are surprised by a group of teenagers and adolescents who have turned into a primitive gang. They take his daughter hostage and enlist his son.

They beat Leonardo badly and leave him for dead. Worried he will lose trace of his children, Leonardo drags himself after the gang, suffering terrible pain the whole way.

And as things go from bad to worse Leonardo will touch rock bottom but then find the strength to carry himself and his family back towards the living, becoming a beacon for the world around him.

The story of *L'uomo verticale* may sound like something else you've heard about, if Davide Longo hadn't written it better than all the others.” *Daria Bignardi, Vanity Fair*

“There is the suspicion that Davide Longo is the most talented and intense writer of his generation.”

*Valentina Pigmei, GQ*

Davide Longo (1971) is a teacher and lives in Torino

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### GIORGIO MANACORDA

Giorgio Manacorda è nato a Roma nel 1941. Ha insegnato letteratura tedesca all'Università della Calabria e all'Università della Tuscia (Viterbo). Ha scritto vari saggi su autori tedeschi, e si è occupato di poesia italiana contemporanea. Il suo libro più recente è *Scrivo per te, mia amata e altre poesie* (1974-2007), Scheiwiller 2009. *Il corridoio di legno* è il suo primo romanzo.

#### *Il corridoio di legno*

Romanzo, pp. 144

Un poliziotto atterrato a Berlino per un'indagine, torna al collegio in cui ha passato la sua adolescenza. Il collegio in cui si è formato un gruppo di amici che hanno dato origine alla lotta armata, una volta tornati in Italia. Per ragioni del tutto personali, il poliziotto vuole capire cosa è successo, da quale male privato è nato il male pubblico. Così ricostruisce la vicenda di due fratelli, dei loro sodali e delle loro donne tra Berlino, Roma e una piccola isola persa in un lago. Il tutto in uno scenario dominato dalle milizie di un regime autoritario, conseguenza della contestazione e del terrorismo. Nella realtà non è andata così, questo lo sappiamo tutti, ma così poteva andare a finire.

●

Giorgio Manacorda was born in Rome in 1941. He's professor of German literature at the University of Calabria and at the University of Tuscia (Viterbo). He wrote many essays on German writers, he is even a person who occupies themselves with Italian poetry. His most recent publication is *Scrivo per te, mia amata e altre poesie* (1974-2007), Scheiwiller 2009.

#### *The Wooden Corridor*

Novel, 144 pages

A policeman arrives in Berlin to conduct an investigation. He goes back to the college where he passed his adolescence. In that college his group of friends forms what will be beginning of terrorism in Italy. For personal reasons the policeman wants to understand what has happened, what private evil could give birth to public evil. He thus reconstructs the story of two brothers (Silvestro and Andrea), of their associates and of their women between Berlin, Rome and a little island lost in a lake. The whole drama is set on the background of the militias of an authority regime, the aftermath of terrorism. This novel, deep-rooted in the concreteness of the places, all real, is completely fabulous from a politic point of view. The aim is not to portray a reconstruction of terrorism but to show the subjective, personal, deep reasons of the politic violence. The evil is never abstract, is only an individual pain.

CAROLINA CUTOLO

***ROMANTICIDIO (Romanticide)***

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Fandango, 2012, 176 pages

**Rights sold to: Blackie Books (Spain), Proa Edicions (Catalan)**

Marzia Capotorti is a 25 year old bartender, cynical and disdainful, who rejects the sentimentalism and hypocrisy that surround and besiege her both in her private and professional life. Marzia has a small obsession that spills over into an almost unspeakable wish: to die of a ridiculous death. At a certain point, her wish comes true, thanks to the strangest accident at work. From her coma Marzia observes and sarcastically comments the whole parade of characters passing by, family, friends, lovers, enemies, all of them introduced to the reader with their correspondent cocktail. And yet, from her unusual point of view, she gradually discovers how people and situations turn out to be quite different from how she had always thought.

Carolina Cutolo lives and works in Rome.

In 2007 she published her first book, *Pornoromantica* (Fazi Editore), adapted from her blog and sold to Spain (Arcopress) and Portugal (Presença). The book was highly successful, selling 100,000 copies in Italy.

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**Lorenzo Pavolini**

***Tre fratelli magri (Three Thin Brothers)***

---

Fandango, 2012, 160 pages

The highly awaited new novel by Lorenzo Pavolini – whose previous book “Accanto alla tigre” was shortlisted for the Premio Strega in 2011.

Lorenzo, Emanuele and Marco are three thin brothers, so thin that, when young, they all slept in the same bed, in a refuge at the mountains. Once grown up, they each went their separate ways and their destinies are now irrevocably distant. One of them chose the sea, the other the mountains, while Lorenzo decided that it meant more to stay than to leave. Far away but yet so close, they have all come to the crucial moment of their life when they all must go back to the beginning of the story in order to start over.

Lorenzo will start from an old family story, from a box of secrets, from uncle Stefano, who died while climbing, and from the memory of the adventurous life led by the three thin brothers. Will it be enough for them to gather together at the old refuge of their childhood in order to make peace with the world and with themselves? Between fiction and auto fiction, this is an amazing novel about memories, journeys and life.

**Lorenzo Pavolini** was born in Rome in 1964. He is the editor of *Nuovi Argomenti* magazine. He has published the novels *Senza rivoluzione (Without Revolution)* (Giunti 1997, winner of the Grinzane Cavour Prize for Best First Novel) and *Accanto alla tigre (Beside the Tiger)* (finalist for the Strega Prize, winner of the Mondello Prize and of the Biografilm Books Award). He edited *Italville – New Italian Writing* (Exile Edition 2005), an anthology of young Italian authors translated into English, and the unabridged edition of *Le interviste impossibili (The Impossible Interviews)* (Donzelli 2006).

Spanish, Portuguese, Latin American and Brazilian rights available

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**Laura Lamanda**

***Aeroracconto dell'amore fatale (Aerotale of Fatal Love)***

---

Fandango 2012, 192 pages

Laura Lamanda recounts an intimate and universal tale with a brand new style of story-telling.

*Aeroracconto* is a light story, soaring overhead, for it is a story of journeys from Rome to Paris and Paris to Rome, of frightened people who feel the need to flee, as if they were walking upon ground slick with ice.



**Giuseppe Furno**

**Vetro (Glass)**

---

Longanesi, to be published in 2013, approx. 500 pages

Rights sold to: **AufBau (Germany)**

Like *Doctor Zhivago* and *War and Peace*, *Vetro* is a choral novel where you can find war and survival, love and sorrow, and where a passion for history embraces talent in storytelling.

A novel set in one of the most loved cities of the world – Venice – in one of its most fascinating historical periods, brought to life thanks to meticulous research.

In the middle of a night in September 1569 the Arsenale of Venice goes up in flames and an entire neighborhood is burned down. The mystery surrounding this historical fact along with the subsequent build up to the war against the Turks, is the setting in which Giuseppe Furno has woven the intricate plot of this amazing novel. *Vetro* is the result of the author's 4 yearlong studies on original historical sources, and he skillfully takes the reader back in time.

While trade widens its horizons to reach the Americas, Venice is under pressure to secure the protection of the Catholic Church and embrace its belligerent aims. The Most Serene Republic must open its doors to the Inquisition, which culminates in the public book burning in Piazza San Marco. This is the backdrop against which young duty solicitor Andrea Loredan has to prove the innocence of a young lad accused of murdering his younger brother, to unveil the secret message hidden in the words of a nun's last dying words to him and to discover how these two events are tied to the explosion of the Arsenale and to his own personal family history.

Andrea is not just a young idealist but he is also the youngest son of the Doge, and his obstinate search for truth and justice leads him to be involved in an intricate sequence of crimes that puts his own name and very life at risk. To add even more spice and heartbeat to this story, Andrea has to choose between the love of two women: Taddea, a beautiful aristocrat belonging to a powerful family, and Sofia, a poor seamstress, whose love would slide him even more into the arms of danger. In the end his courage forces him to evolve from an idealist but naïve young man, to an adult who is able to make bold, crucial and sometimes harsh decisions.

*Vetro* is a big fresco of humanity with all its contradictions, including the role of fate, that wriggles its way into history often determining its course. The characters are strong and vivid all-rounded figures, meticulously rendered, and evoke the subtle portraits of the time by Lorenzo Lotto.

Last but not least, this is a novel that pays homage to the city of Venice, which ultimately is the real heroine, as it comes to life in such a tangible way in all of its elements: earth, water, fire, air. And glass.

A strong and rich plot which captures the reader's attention, entertains him and will reward him with new historical insight.

Giuseppe Furno (Rome, 1953) is a successful screenwriter for both cinema and RAI television. In 2007 he published *Cronache di un disinfestatore*, longlisted for 2007 Campiello Award and finalist at the Corrado Alvaro Award for the first novel

Fur further information, The Ella Sher Literary Agency, [ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)

**Francesco Zingoni**

*Forte come l'onda è il mio amore (Strong as the waves is my love)*

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Fazi Editore, November 2012, 293 pages approx.

April 9th, 2009. While sailing in the Pacific, a young couple from San Francisco disappears without leaving any traces. April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009. A man awakens on a seemingly deserted island, devoid of all memories. Whatever happened to him, it was devastating enough to erase all thoughts and words from his mind, dragging him to the edge of insanity. Then, one night, a woman appears in his dreams. He doesn't recognize her, but that smile becomes his sole reasons for living, and for getting off the island. Washed ashore, the man finds the remains of a book which contains a mysterious poem that seems to talk about him. The mysterious verses mention Wales and are obviously set in that part of the world. Thus he sets off across the world to reach what he hopes to be his country of origin and the place that holds the answers to his lost identity. Only when he reaches Wales does he discover that the verses were part of one of a famous poems by Dylan Thomas. Thus begins his Odissey: guided by the Welsh poet's verses and by his dreams, he embarks on a voyage that will take him to Dylan Thomas home town where he will come across the mystery of rare first edition of Dylan Thomas' *Author's prologue* and the disappearance of a young boy many years back. He will need to make further journeys across the three continents, and accept the help of people who have taken his destiny to heart, before discovering his true identity and the woman he feels undeniably in love with.

Winner of the 2011 International Città di Cattolica Literary Prize «for the incredible emotions delivered with great mastery in a work that relates an extraordinary journey in search of one's lost identity».

Having self-published his novel, Zingoni convinced the booksellers to put it on sale and instantly gained the attention of the readers and the media.

«The story of a love lost and found in a sea of lost memories. A literary "self-production" that managed to make its way onto the country's best bookshelves». *TgRAI3*

«The story of the search for one's lost identity; moving and utterly absorbing». *Panorama*

«Filled with literary innuendoes, this is the irresistible story of a radical love». *Maxim*

«A prophetic and breathtaking debut novel». *La Sicilia*

«A great metaphor of the odyssey of life». *Il Tempo*

Francesco Zingoni (1978) is a computer engineer specialized in digital communication. He wrote *Demian Sideheart*, his debut novel, between 2008 and 2010.

For further information, The Ella Sher Literary agency, [ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)

**Vito Mancuso - Eugenio Scalfari**

*Conversazioni con Carlo Maria Martini*

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Fazi Editore, 165 pagine

Perché alcuni credono in Dio e altri no, oppure non più? La giustizia di chi crede è diversa da quella di chi non crede? Che cosa tiene uniti, e che cosa divide, i credenti dai non credenti?

Il libro di Eugenio Scalfari e Vito Mancuso esce in concomitanza con l'Anno della fede indetto da Benedetto XVI.

In questo libro si assiste al dialogo intenso e affettuoso tra due grandi del nostro tempo – Eugenio Scalfari e Carlo Maria Martini – tra loro tanto diversi quanto uniti dall'impegno nella ricerca di valori condivisi da tutti, mentre Vito Mancuso riflette sulla natura profonda della crisi che stiamo attraversando e in un'appassionata lettera al cardinal Martini mette in luce come la fede non sia dottrina ma sentimento della vita. Queste conversazioni gettano le basi per una nuova mentalità e un nuovo approccio esistenziale, dove l'amore per il bene e lo sdegno contro l'ingiustizia diventano i cardini attorno a cui impostare la relazione tra credenti e non credenti. I temi toccati sono molti: la situazione morale del nostro tempo, la lotta contro l'ingiustizia, l'unità tra cattolici e laici, l'amore come carità e come eros, l'attesa e la preparazione alla morte, l'origine dell'etica, la situazione del sentimento religioso nel mondo contemporaneo, i problemi della Chiesa, la famiglia e il divorzio, l'essenza della carità, Gesù umano e Gesù divino e altro ancora. In un'epoca di nichilismo e di globalizzazione, questo libro rappresenta il documento di una presa di coscienza della sfida spirituale che i nostri tempi sono chiamati a vivere e un vero e proprio segnavia della direzione su cui incamminarci.

Carlo Maria Martini è stato cardinale, arcivescovo di Milano e presidente del Consiglio delle Conferenze episcopali europee.

Eugenio Scalfari, giornalista, scrittore, fondatore di "Repubblica".

Vito Mancuso, teologo, scrittore, docente universitario.

**A selection of titles**

**for Spain, Latin America,  
Portugal & Italy**

## THE FIVE SEASONS OF LOVE (AS CINCO ESTAÇÕES DO AMOR)

João ALMINO

North American critic Marjorie Perloff defines this novel as “brilliant and thought-provoking”. To fulfill a pact made during her student days, fifty-five-year old Ana Kauffman plans a party to celebrate the new millennium. As old friends resurface and the countdown to the new century draws near, Ana’s past undergoes a series of unexpected revisions – beginning with the arrival of Berta, the newly minted post-op persona of Ana’s former boyfriend Norberto. Set amidst the chaos of contemporary Brasilia, a place where even the most basic human affairs – love, friendship, sex and work – can take unlikely shapes, Ana’s story is both relentlessly modern and profoundly timeless. The book covers a period of three decades. As expressed by North American poet Michael Palmer, “in a work at once of great concentration and vast scope, João Almino has produced a vividly detailed and historically resonant multiple portrait. Pulsing across the background is the entire ungraspable arc of Brazilian history from the time of the dictatorship to the millennium.” Translated into English, Spanish and Italian, awarded with Prize Casa de Las Américas (Cuba), in 2003, and much commented and reviewed (see reviews in [www.joaoalmino.com](http://www.joaoalmino.com)), *The Five Seasons of Love* is an extraordinary novel by a writer at the height of his powers.

**Publication/Status:** Published by Record (Brazil), Host Publications (USA), Alfaguara (Mexico), Corregidor (Argentina), Il Sirento (Italy).

## THE BOOK OF EMOTIONS (O LIVRO DAS EMOÇÕES)

João ALMINO

In a future Brazil, a blind photographer considers a sequence of his old photographs. Isolating in his memory the moments in which they were taken and attempting to analyze them much like a lens, he envisions “a haiku stripped of rhetoric that captures only what is in front of the camera.” Yet, deprived of his sight, the photographer now must reconstruct his experiences as a series of affective snapshots. The result, then, is not only the description of a remembered image, but also of the emotional memory the image evokes. João Almino here gives us a trenchant portrait of an artist trying to close the gap between objective vision and sentimental memory, leafing through a catalog of his accomplishments and failures in a violent, artificial, universal city, and trying to reassemble the puzzle that was his life. As a review in *Publishers Weekly* states, “Almino succeeds in capturing the essences of these photographs — loneliness and longing — through language, and readers will sympathize with the artist who never receives the love or respect he seeks and deserves.” A review in *BookForum* states that “an existentialist in the manner of Clarice Lispector, Almino writes from the confines of his narrator’s consciousness in a blunt, unadorned prose.”

**Publication/Status:** Published by Record (Brazil) and Dalkey Archive Press (USA).

## FREE CITY (CIDADE LIVRE)

### João ALMINO

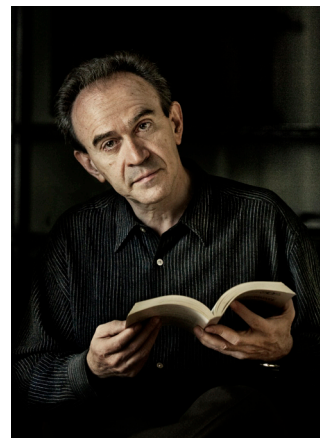
Six months after his father's death, the narrator, João, recounts the conversation he had with his dying father, during seven nights, between four dirty white walls (which by the end of the book the reader will understand are the walls of a prison). João's narrative is a way of accomplishing what his father had failed to do: to recount the founding and construction of a city, Brasília, between 1956 and 1960. His book will be about foundation – and about the creation of the narrative itself. As he narrates his conversation with his father he narrates his own memories of childhood, when he had sexual fantasies of his two aunts in the Free City, the village that was built to receive the workers, the engineers, the businessmen, the mystic sects and adventurers during the time of the construction of Brasília. He will also confront his father's confessions with the papers his father had buried the day of the possible death of a worker and friend of the family, Valdivino, papers that João recently unearthed. Among the stories revealed in the conversations between son and father, the reader will know that the Prophetess Iris Quelemém, the woman in Valdivino's life, is in fact Lucrecia, the now former prostitute, with whom the narrator's father once had an intense affair. João tries to understand what might have happened to the worker Valdivino on the day after Brasília's inauguration. **Free City** won the Zaffari & Bourbon Literary Award for best novel published between May 2009 and May 2011 and was shortlisted for both Jabuti and Portugal-Telecom literary awards.

**Publication/Status:** Published by Record (Brazil) in 2010 and Métailié (France), under the title *Hôtel Brasília*, in 2012.

**Sold to:** Coming out in 2012, Dalkey Archive Press (USA).

### THE AUTHOR

João Almino, whose novels have been highly praised by Brazilian critics, has received some of Brazil's most distinguished literary awards. **The Five Seasons of Love**, translated into Spanish, English and Italian, also received the Casa de las Américas 2003 Literary Award. Dalkey Archive Press recently published the English translation of **The Book of Emotions**. **Free City** received the Zaffari & Bourbon Literary Award for best novel published in Brazil from May 2009 to May 2011, was shortlisted for both the Jabuti and the Portugal-Telecom awards, was published in French by Éditions Métailié and is forthcoming in English by Dalkey Archive Press. João Almino has been described as "one of the most brilliant authors of his generation" (*Folha de S.Paulo*) and "one of our country's best authors". From his first novel, critics have recognized the quality and inventiveness of his language. In the words of Mexican writer Alberto Ruy Sanchez, "he is a unique writer, who knows how to get across profound ideas without letting them suck the life out of his stores".





## SUDDEN DEATH (MORTE SÚBITA)

**Marcelo BACKES**

A football manager makes a confession, bearing his soul as he tries to understand why he committed a terrible crime. He does not love his son, who lacks any talent as a player, but out of a feeling of guilt he ends up choosing him as one of the starting eleven, leaving a talented centre-forward on the bench. For the championship's deciding match, for the first time the manager makes a fair choice – before letting blood flow. He is a fool who suddenly wants to change his life and realizes that football – his whole life – has only brought him disillusionment and misfortune. During the twists and turns of his escape, he finds out much about Brazil and its recent changes along the way, revealing that football is the best metaphor for life and helps to understand the world in even its most complex and contemporary aspects.

**Publication/Status:** Sold to Companhia das Letras (Brazil) to be published in March 2013.

English sample chapters.

### THE AUTHOR

Born in 1973 in Campina das Missões, south of Brazil, Marcelo Backes completed a doctorate in German and Romance Studies at Freiburg University, after studying Journalism and Brazilian Literature. He is an author, translator and lecturer, having edited over twenty classic and contemporary international writers, and translated more than thirty German and Austrian authors, often in the context of annotated editions, including Goethe, Schiller, Heine, Nietzsche, Kafka and Arthur Schnitzler. Several of these editions have won prizes. In 2010, he won a scholarship as a writer in the Academy of Arts of Berlin, where he started to write *Sudden Death*. As an author, his published works include two novels; a collection of aphorism, epigrams and narrative fragments; a book on the history of German literature e his doctoral thesis on Heine.



## THE PARROT AND THE DOCTOR (O PAPAGAIO E O DOUTOR)

Betty MILAN

This is a novel about the Lebanese immigrants in Brazil, derogatorily called “turks” by the traditional “paulistas”, the old clans from São Paulo. The story is narrated by one Lebanese descendant, Seriema, who goes to France to undergo psychoanalysis with a renowned doctor inspired by Jacques Lacan. Recovering her immigrant past in analysis, she liberates herself from doctor and ancestors in order to become the woman she wants to be. In her irreverence, Seriema evokes Brazil’s national hero, Macunaíma. Like him, she scoffs at feelings of guilt and laughs at herself and others in order to be free. Except that unlike Macunaíma, she does not die, but ends the novel happy to be Brazilian, mixed-race and a woman. The story can be summed up in a single proposition: Seriema goes in search of her soul in the capital of the spirit, where she discovers that it is in her country of origin that the spirit is everywhere.

**Publication/Status:** Published in second edition by Record (Brazil).

Sample Spanish translation by Argentinean writer Alicia Dujovne Ortiz.

## SOLACE (CONSOLAÇÃO)

Betty MILAN

A Brazilian woman married to a Frenchman, Laura witnesses the agony of her husband in a Paris hospital, trying in vain to persuade the doctor to cut short the patient’s suffering. After the funeral, she flies to São Paulo, her hometown that she loves to love and hate. There, Laura does not go to her family home, unable to bear the idea of hearing “my sympathies”. She heads directly from the airport to the cemetery where she speaks to the living and the dead, to Mario and Oswald de Andrade, the writers who because of their independence and their relationship to Brazilian culture influenced her. Her deceased father urges her to break out of the shell of mourning and to listen to others, “the people of the street”, those who live in São Paulo without being seen or heard. Laura then discovers the city that no one knows and reveals to the reader the world of its invisible dwellers. Her odyssey is interrupted by the voice of her husband who tells her that, as a mother, she must care for herself and that “losing does not mean not having” – she has him so long as she does not forget their love.

**Publication/Status:** Published by Record (Brazil) in 2009.

English sample chapters.

## THE AUTHOR

Born in São Paulo, Betty Milan is the author of novels and essays and has written for the theater. Her works have been translated into French, Spanish and Chinese. She has contributed to major Brazilian newspapers and has been a columnist for weekly *Veja* for four years. She worked for the International Parliament of Writers, housed in Strasbourg. Before becoming a writer, she received a medical degree from the University of São Paulo and studied psychoanalysis in France with Jacques Lacan.



## THE MASTER OF THE LEFT SIDE: The Tale of a House of Ill Repute (O SENHOR DO LADO ESQUERDO: O Romance da Casa das Trocas)

**Alberto MUSSA**

Rio de Janeiro, 1913: the secretary of the Brazilian president Hermes da Fonseca is killed in a bedroom at the House of Exchanges, an old mansion that once belonged to the Marquess of Santos, later reformed to become a luxurious brothel and nest for secret lovers, that works under the façade of a medical clinic, led by a scientist obsessed by the study of women's sexual fantasies. During the criminal investigation, a detective from the forensic police, patron of the House, meets and suspects a rascal from the docks and starts a long intellectual duel with him to find out, between the two, who is the greatest seducer and lover.

Recipient of the 2011 editions of prestigious prizes like the National Library Award for Best Novel and the Brazilian Academy of Letters Award for Best Fiction Book, **The Master of the Left Side** was also honored by the Rio de Janeiro newspaper O Globo as the “best Brazilian book” published last year. Using crime as the point of departure for a plot that rummages through erotic mythology against the backdrop of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Rio de Janeiro, this novel will compose a five-book series on crimes through the city's history from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The novel on the 17<sup>th</sup> century was released in 2007, the highly praised **Queen Jinga's Throne**.



**Publication/Status:** Published by Record (Brazil) in 2011.

**Sold to be published in 2012/2013:** Phebus (France), Kapi Yayinlari (Turkey).

Offer in Germany.

English sample chapters.

## QUEEN JINGA'S THRONE (O TRONO DA RAINHA JINGA)

**Alberto MUSSA**

Rio de Janeiro, 17<sup>th</sup> century: a wave of inexplicable violence terrifies the city – kidnappings, mutilations, killings. A secret brotherhood of African slaves, propagators of a strange heresy that troubles church authorities, is suspected. At the same time, in Africa, surprising events that seem to evoke the crimes in Brazil are taking place around the enigmatic reigning queen Jinga. Then Mendo Antunes, a former slave trader and personal friend of the queen, enters the scene. He translates the verses of a mysterious African poem and joins the chief magistrate in investigating the crimes – the solution to which is tied to the mystery of the poem.

About this novel, it has been written: “The men and women brought to us by Alberto Mussa are not just Africans dressed on ‘congós,’ ‘ambundos’ or ‘imbangalas,’ but they are characters that tell in our ears the different secrets that determine, to them, life and the universe.”

**Publication/Status:** Published in second edition by Record (Brazil) in 2007.

**Sold to be published in 2013:** Univers (Romania).

## THE RIDDLE OF QAF (O ENIGMA DE QAF)

**Alberto MUSSA**

The search of a woman by a man through the desert, **The Riddle of Qaf** narrates a simple story that fascinates thanks to the talent of the author to wed erudition with the creation of an intense and touching language. In this book, Mussa tells the search for the fictitious solution to the riddle of Qaf, famous in Arabic culture, and builds a novel through different narrative lines. Poetic prose of great beauty interspersed with teachings from a vast and ancient East. Recipient of awards such as the Cuban Casa de las Américas and the São Paulo Association of Art Critics, it was published to great acclaim in France and Turkey.

**Publication/Status:** Published by Record (Brazil) in 2004.

**Sold and published:** Anarchasis (France), Kapi Yayinlari (Turkey), Editora Casa de las Américas (Cuba), Campo das Letras (Portugal), Fabula (Italy), Univers (Romania), CNT (Egypt), Edhasa (Argentina), Delakort (Bulgaria), Aflame (United Kingdom).

Complete English translation, as well as French, Italian and Spanish.

## THE BALANCE OF THE PENDULUM (MOVIMENTO PENDULAR)

**Alberto MUSSA**

Obsessed with stories of adultery, the erudite narrator of this novel begins to compile a catalog of all possible three-way relationships, constants in literature and mythology, from all cultures and time periods. He soon realizes that his plan is impossible but his research leads him to come up with a surprising theory about love triangles. Like a Scheherazade, he tells a series of tales one generating the next, spanning six continents and ranging from the origin of humankind to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Hailed as “the most relevant release of the ‘rentrée’”, when published last year in France, these stories end up revealing that Homo Sapiens live in an eternal balance between the impulse to betray and the fear of being betrayed; and that adultery – not incest – is the oldest human institution.

**Publication/Status:** Published by Record (Brazil) in 2006 and Anarchasis (France) in 2011.

**Sold to be published in 2012/2013:** Kapi Yayinlari (Turkey).

## THE AUTHOR

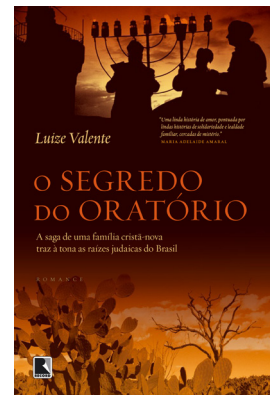
With titles translated into English, French, Spanish, Italian, Turkish, Arabic and Romanian, and awards such as Casa de las Américas, Brazilian National Library, and the São Paulo Critics Association, Alberto Mussa is one of the most creative writers in Brazilian literature today. Described as a “genius” by French magazine *Télérama*, Mussa uses his refined literature and his knowledge of Brazilian popular culture to great effect.



## THE SECRET OF THE SHRINE (O SEGREDO DO ORATÓRIO)

Luize VALENTE

**The Secret of the Shrine** is a novel that mixes adventure, mystery and a love story. The narrative reveals Brazilians' Jewish roots through the saga of a "New Christian" family that crosses three centuries. (Jewish families made to convert to Christianity by the Portuguese Inquisition were called "New Christians".) In order to discover the origin of her ancestors, the protagonist, a young doctor named Ioná, starts a journey in the backlands of the Northeast, passes by São Paulo and ends in New York where converted Jews from Brazil founded the first North American Jewish community. The journey is marked by revelations and encounters. When Ioná discovers a secret kept for almost ten generations inside a shrine, her life is forever changed.



**Publication/Status:** Published by Record (Brazil), in August 2012.

English sample chapters.

### THE AUTHOR

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Luize Valente is a filmmaker and journalist, with more than two decades of experience in television, currently working at Globonews, Globo TV cable channel. Luize has always been fascinated by History, with a special interest on themes related to Judaism, what led her to Israel in 1998. With photographer Elaine Eiger, she published the book **Israel Routes & Roots**, in 1999. Again with Elaine Eiger, she produced and directed the documentaries *Paths of Memory: The Trajectory of the Jews in Portugal* (2002) and *The Star Hidden in the Backlands* (2005.) The documentaries were exhibited in national and international film festivals. **The Secret of the Shrine** is her first novel. She is working on a new novel built around the personality of the Portuguese diplomat Aristides Sousa Mendes, a historical character, who, serving in Bordeaux, France, during the II World War, gave hundreds of passports to Jewish families, saving their lives.



## AMONG WOMEN (ENTRE AS MULHERES)

**Rafael CARDOSO**

Sixteen stories – each focusing on a female character and a neighborhood of Rio – are woven together to form a tapestry of the life of a great city, observed from the multiple viewpoints of its women inhabitants. The characters range from Maria, 93, forced to cope with yet another armed robber in her home, to Jade, 6 years old, left in the care of her mother's latest boyfriend for the day. Their neighborhoods cover the gamut of the city's social extremes – from the luxury condominiums of Ipanema and Barra da Tijuca to the *favelas* of Rio's peripheries. Each story captures a turning point or moment of truth in their lives: Renata, 34, a dentist's receptionist who decides to take revenge for her husband's infidelities; Helena, 16, who must choose between the thrill of a Romeo-and-Juliet-style romance with a drug dealer and the upper-middle-class existence into which she was born; Jamilly, 25, struggling to break free of her life as a prostitute; Rosana, 50, who faces the task of getting rid of a corpse on the day before her daughter's wedding; or Mariellen, 24, waxing philosophical on the difficulties of being young and gay and poor. Threading these strands, a shadowy masculine character, the DJ-*cum*-Casanova, Rafael, weaves in and out of their lives, often wreaking havoc as he goes along.

**Publication/Status:** Published by Record (Brazil) in 2007.

**Sold to be published in 2013:** Fischer (Germany), Siruela (Spain).

## THE REMNANTS (OS REMANESCENTES)

**Rafael CARDOSO**

History and fiction intertwine in the tale of Hugo Simon, Jewish banker, influential art collector, socialist politician and a leading light of Weimar Germany, declared enemy of the State in 1933, after Hitler's rise to Power. Fleeing initially to Paris, Simon was forced to seek refuge in South America after the fall of France in 1941. The untold story of his exile in Brazil, where his path crossed with other famous exiles such as Stefan Zweig and Georges Bernanos, provides a unique and fresh perspective on the events of the Second World War. The narrative unfolds to flesh out the experiences of Simon and his family, living out of the aftershocks of exile against the backdrop of a rapidly changing Brazilian society. From the authoritarian regime of Vargas in the 1940s to the military dictatorship of the 1960s, the specter of fascism looms in the distance as Simon, his wife Gertrud, their two daughters, their artist and adventurer son-in-law, and their grandson, all face the challenge of carving out a new life from the ruins of the one left behind. Authored by Simon's great-grandson, this is a veritable family saga over three generations, shedding light on the great 20<sup>th</sup>-century theme of individuals struggling to maintain their identities in the face of adversity.

**Publication/Status:** Proposal in English. Ms to be delivered in 2013.

**Option publisher:** Fischer (Germany).



## THE AUTHOR

Rafael Cardoso is a writer and art historian, based in Rio de Janeiro. PhD in art history from the Courtauld Institute of Art (University of London), he is currently employed as visiting professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (Uerj) and is also active as an independent curator. He contributes widely to periodicals, journals and catalogues in Brazil and abroad, and is the author, co-author or editor of ten books: three fiction titles and seven non-fiction ones, mostly written in Portuguese. Raised in the USA, he is a native English speaker.



**A selection of titles**

**for Spain & Latin America**



## Adriana Lunardi Brazil

Adriana Lunardi was born in Xaxim, in the Brazilian state of Santa Catarina, in 1964. She studied Communications and literature and worked as a journalist and in the advertising industry. She currently writes texts and screenplays for Brazilian television.

Her literary career began with the well-received volume of short stories *As meninas da Torre Helsinque* (1996), which won two Brazilian literary awards. The author lives in Rio de Janeiro. *A vendedora de fósforos* (2011) is her second novel.



### **A vendedora de fósforos (The Little Match Girl)**

After years of separation the narrator of *A vendedora de fósforos* who lives as a writer in Rio de Janeiro receives the news of her sisters suicide attempt. Long suppressed memories are promptly revived. The journey to her sisters in a small town in Southern Brazil, where her father had finally settled down with his wife and three children after numerous relocations, also becomes a voyage back to childhood. The nomadic life of the father who cannot establish himself as a bookkeeper and who is always on the run from debts, makes it impossible for his children to develop a bond to other family members, friends or even places. The mother lives in her own phantasy world and accepts a subordinate role to her husband, the older brother jumps at the first chance to escape his family.



Adriana Lunardi portrays the conflict between a never-ending childhood and the borders experienced by the characters who struggle for an identity as they come of age. It remains unclear which of the two sisters is the first-person narrator or whether they take turns in an artful game of reflection. *A vendedora de fósforos* is a gripping, poetic and dense mosaic of a relationship between two sisters, who share the dream of being a writer, rival each other but also share numerous secrets.

**Adriana Lunardi  
Brazil**

*In her novel Adriana Lunardi intricately deals with the clash between reality and imagination. The fight for an identity becomes a soundless struggle with death.*

Valor Econômico

*With A vendedora de fósforos Adriana Lunardi once again pursues a literary project, which not only stands out due to the undeniable skill of her prose, but moreover investigates the borders of what literature is able to relate.*

O Globo

**Rights sold:**

**Corpo estranho**, Rio de Janeiro: Record 2006, 272 p.

France: Joëlle Losfeld/Gallimard

**A vendedora de fósforos**, Rio de Janeiro: Rocco 2011, 192 p.

Sample translation in German

stories:

**Vésperas**, Rio de Janeiro: Rocco 2002, 130 p

Argentina: Bajo la luna 2008

Croatia: Alfa 2006

France: Joëlle Losfeld/Gallimard 2005

Portugal: Bico de Pena 2006

## Altair Martins Brazil

Altair Martins was born in Porto Alegre in 1975. He studied Literature and works as a teacher in Porto Alegre. His collections of stories have been awarded numerous prizes. *A Parede no escuro* (The Wall in Darkness) is his debut novel and has won him in 2009 the renowned São Paulo Prize for Literature in the debut category.



### **A Parede no escuro (The Wall in Darkness)**

It is pouring down with rain and Adorno the baker is delivering his bread with an estate in the early hours of the morning. Mathematics teacher Emanuel is also on the road on the way to his fatally ill father, who needs accompanying to the doctors. In the darkness Emanuel is not aware of the baker, runs him over in a hit and run accident.

In a most skilful manner Altair Martins interweaves the stories of both Adorno's and Emanuel's families to create a metaphorically dense novel. While Adorno's wife Onira and his daughter Maria do Céu are both unaware of who killed their husband and father and too afraid of searching for the culprit, Emanuel is not sure whether his father who witnessed the accident from his window was able to recognise him. *A Parede no escuro* is a gripping account of inner conflicts and touches on the topics of guilt and responsibility, escape and abandonment. It portrays the difficult relationships of Maria do Céu who studies veterinary medicine and Emanuel who has an affair with one of his pupils to their fathers. The role of the father, of both the authoritarian and absent kind, is illuminated from all sides. In short chapters, the characters speak for themselves and from their own perspective, lending the novel an impressive complexity.

*He is one of the very few writers with the ability to capture the meaning of the inner voices of his characters and to weave them into a literary text, a beautiful literary text.*

Zero Hora

*After quite some time without publishing, we are now presented with his first novel A Parede no escuro. Its opening pages already reveal the combination of captivating story line and powerful language which is so rare in Brazilian fiction, and which despite being forged with utmost care flows naturally without acrobatics or needless concoctions. The qualities of A Parede no escuro are of an infinite number.(...)and the final product is a dense universe, made up only of the most necessary elements, a universe where everything falls into place harmoniously. On top of this lies an almost hallucinatory rhythm which pushes along the story.*

Aplauso

**Altair Martins  
Brazil**



*It can be claimed without fear that with this debut novel he (Altair Martins) has become one of the most qualified contemporary authors and that his novel rates among the best of those published in Brazil in 2008.*

Aplauso

*He raises the minimal to become sublime, transforms coincidence into fatality and increases suspense by simultaneity of actions reminding of a crime thriller.*

Zero Hora

**Rights sold:**

**A Parede no escuro**, Rio de Janeiro : Record 2008, 253 p.  
Sample translation in German  
Argentina: Adriana Hidalgo

Stories:

**Como se moesse ferro**, Porto Alegre: WS Editor 1999  
**Dentro do olho dentro**, Porto Alegre: WS Editor 2001  
**Se choverem pássaros**, Porto Alegre: WS editor 2002  
**Enquanto água**, Rio de Janeiro: Record 2011, 151 p.

## Ana Paula Maia Brazil

Ana Paula Maia was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1977. She has published numerous collections of stories. Her second novel *A guerra dos bastardos* was published in 2007. The novellas *Entre rinhas de cachorros e porcos abatidos* and *O trabalho sujo dos outros* (2009) along with her third novel, *Carvão animal* (2011) make up the *Saga dos brutos* (Saga of Brutes).



© Marcelo Correa

### **A guerra dos bastardos (The War of Bastards)**

*A guerra dos bastardos* tells the story of forlorn and failed individuals. There are murderers, drug dealers and porn actors who always choose the worst solutions to save their skins. It all begins when the seedy porn actor Amadeu comes across a bag of cocaine in his influential boss's office. He tries to sell it and comes across a range of strange people, such as the impoverished Horácio, who works in the film industry, Edwiges D'Lambert, a limping mafia-style movie producer and Gina Trevisan, a debt-ridden boxer.

*A guerra dos bastardos* tells of the wars in gangland intelligently, ironically and with plenty of dark humour. Maia reveals the absurd element of violence. The characters that live at the shabby bottom of society aren't evil, they are psychopathic, schizophrenic and have a different set of values. There is no way out for them.



*A woman one can't get away from. She reads Dostoevsky and spits out Tarantino.*

Rolling Stone Brasil

*Ana Paula Maia's characters are not troubled by their souls, nor their hearts, but by their livers.*

O Estado de São Paulo

*Maia, whose style draws on pulp literature, is one of the most interesting writers to emerge in recent times.*

Folha de São Paulo

*One has to understand a great deal about fiction, reality and the representation of reality in order to be able to write like that.*

O Globo

*What makes her style so fascinating is her ability to create images of a cinematic quality by the medium of text.*

O Globo

*Ana Paula Maia writes like a veteran, but with the force of a debutante.*

Cult

**Ana Paula Maia  
Brazil**

**Carvão animal (Animal Carbon)**

*Carvão animal* is the story about the fireman Ernesto Wesley and his brother Ronivon, who works at the crematorium in the fictive city of Abalurdes, which always seems to be aflame. The brothers lead a simple life. One of them fights the fire, the other depends on it to dispose of the bodily remains of human existences.

*Carvão animal* confronts the reader with a shocking reality that is all too often pushed aside. Maia uses an unadorned style to describe how these peoples' lives on the edge of society are very much coined by their work. Not wanting to raise attention, the brothers search for a way to make their lives a little more bearable without losing their dignity.

Despite its straightforwardness *Carvão animal* is also a poetic novel that deals with the physical universe and material, rather than metaphysical death.



**Rights sold:**

**O habitante das falhas subterrâneas**, Rio de Janeiro: 7 Letras 2003, 192 p.

**A guerra dos bastardos**, Rio de Janeiro: Língua Geral 2007, 300 p.

Sample translation in German

Serbia: Rende 2011

**Carvão animal**, Rio de Janeiro: Record 2011, 160 p.

stories:

**Entre rinhas de cachorros e porcos abatidos**, Rio de Janeiro: Record 2009, 160 p.

## **João Tordo Portugal**

### **José Saramago Prize 2009**

João Tordo was born in Lisbon in 1975. After graduating in Philosophy in Lisbon, he studied Journalism and Creative Writing in London and New York. In 2001 he received the *Young Talents Literature Award*, given by the Portuguese Institute for the Youth.

Between 2002 and 2004 he lived in New York, where he attended the Creative Writing workshops of the City College of New York. He lives in Lisbon and works as a freelance journalist.



### **Hotel Memória (Memory Hotel)**

Set in New York, *Hotel Memória*, mystery novel that puts together a down and out young college student consumed by guilt and a broken heart, a long vanished Portuguese *fado* singer that is being searched both by a rich art collector and by the Mafia and a mythical recording that is the object of desire of every jazz rarity collector. Ending up in a strange place in the darkest alleys of Manhattan – Hotel Memória – the student finds himself trapped into surviving as an incidental detective, being commissioned by Samuel, the wealthy art collector, to find out what has become of Daniel da Silva, the singer. Forced to revive memories and ghosts that would better be untouched and come from fifty years ago, the student finds himself swept into a succession of events that lead him to understand the death of the girl he was in love with and the dark and complex relations between those people.

*Hotel Memória* is a fast paced crime and mystery novel that pays tribute to two masters of the American novel who clearly inspire it: Allan Poe and Melville. João Tordo, on its turn, is an author specially cherished by all the readers of Paul Auster's novels.



*I'm just finishing reading Hotel Memória, João Tordo's second novel (and we have a writer indeed!), a very nice mystery novel that deals with guilt and atonement.*

Visão

*Tordo's universe is close to Auster's in its capacity to lead the reader through paths he couldn't imagine at start and in doing it in a solid manner. Everything makes sense. The reader finds himself caught in the trap set by Tordo.*

Público

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## **João Tordo Portugal**

### **As Três Vidas (The Three Lives)**

What secrets enclose the life of António Augusto Milhouse Pascal, an old gentleman that hides himself from the world in an old country manor, surrounded by three insolent grandchildren, a sullen gardener and a long list of customers, as wealthy and influential as they are dangerous and insane? The narrator of this novel — a young man from a humble family — will try to unravel these mysteries for more than a quarter of a century, unable to guess that the job that was offered to him by that strange character will turn into an obsession that will ultimately consume his life.



With an action that spreads from the Alentejo countryside, to Lisbon and New York during the 80'— the decade of every possible greed —, intertwining the bloody History of the Twentieth Century with the stories of the characters themselves, *As Três Vidas* is, simultaneously, a self-discovery journey, the account of the passion nurtured by the narrator for Camilla, the granddaughter of Milhouse Pascal and the revelation of the secret destiny that lies waiting for her. A destiny that will be — same has her grandfather's — inexorably connected to that of a world that threatens to slip, at any moment, from the tight rope that sustains it.

*What is extraordinary about João Tordo is that he possesses, all at a time, the precocious mastery of style, the perfect crime and suspense novel technique, the uncommon capacity to build a climate [...] and, at the same time, there is in his novels something of an agony.* Sol

*Although being a novel that follows the line of the former two, The Three Lives goes further when it comes to draw the narrative structure, [...] an act of creative courage in which the author knew how to take the chance, like a funambulist walking on a razor-edge. [...] João Tordo possesses a singular universe, a novelist's endurance and plenty of imagination.* Expresso

*We are facing a huge novelist, one who redeems us from the horror, like the great masters — Poe, Kafka, Melville and Conrad — did: through the mysterious power of writing.* Sol

*João Tordo réussit à nous faire tourner les pages au rythme angoissé de l'impossible quête. (...) un thriller poétique où la tristesse l'emporte encore sur le suspense et le désir de vérité.* Livres Hebdo



**João Tordo  
Portugal**

**O Bom Inverno (The Good Winter)**

The frustrated and hypochondriac author and narrator of *O Bom inverno* travels to a writers congress in Budapest without a clue where literature will actually lead him. Having planned only a short visit he soon comes across a younger, more energetic and very irrational Italian writer who persuades him to join him on a trip to Sabaudia in Italy. The famous film producer Don Metzger has invited a range of eccentric guests to his house tucked away in the woods. Cinema though is not the only obsession of Don Metzger. From his property rise empty hot air balloons, artfully designed by the Catalan artist Andrés Bosco. Boscos relationship with the film producer remains a mystery until the very end. At Metzgers residence, nothing is what it seems. After a first particularly restless night, the narrator wakes up to the worst possible news: Don Metzger has been found dead in his lake. Bosco takes over the charge of finding and punishing the culprit. He isolates all visitors and locks them up in the house. The guests, subjected to their worst fears, terrorised, weak and self-centred, begin to suspect and betray each other - it is a nightmare which only seems to come to an end when nobody is left to tell the story.



*Like the great masters, this tremendous author saves us from the horror by the mysterious power of literature.*

Sol

*A beautiful and tellurian scenario, mesmerising yet equally claustrophobic and dead-end. (...) Inspired by the strong images of classic crime and cinema, João Tordo presents a plot which deepens his most important personal literary challenge: to tell a good story.*

Jornal de Letras, Artes e Ideias

**Rights sold:**

**O livro dos homens sem luz**, Lisbon: Temas & Debates 2004, 201 p.  
Brazil: Rocco 2006

**Hotel Memória**, Lisbon: QuidNovi 2007, 219 p.

**As três vidas**, Lisbon: QuidNovi 2008, 304 p.  
Sample translation in English

Brazil: Língua Geral 2010  
Croatia: Ljevak  
France: Actes Sud 2010  
Serbia: Dereta 2011

**O Bom Inverno**, Alfragide: Dom Quixote 2010, 290 p.  
Brazil: Língua Geral  
France: Actes Sud  
Italy: Cavallo di Ferro 2011

## **David Machado Portugal**

David Machado was born in Lisbon in 1978. Having studied Economics, he published his debut novel *O fabuloso teatro do gigante* in 2006 as well as collected stories and childrens' books, for which he was awarded numerous prizes. His second novel *Deixem falar as pedras* was published in 2011.



### **Deixem falar as pedras (Let the Stones Talk)**

Young Valdemar is fascinated by the stories of his grandfather, Nicolau Manuel, who has recently moved into his family home. Valdemar is keen on heavy metal music, never laughs and beats his classmates. His best friend is the anorexic Alice. Despite Valdemar's father's disapproval, the bitter grandfather won't refrain from telling his grandson about his tragic life. He recounts how as a young man he was arrested on his wedding day and only returned to his home village many years later. Though innocent, he repeatedly falls into the hands of the Portuguese intelligence service PIDE during the Salazar dictatorship and is gruesomely tortured by his tormentors. The person whom he accuses of denouncing him, a young tailor, married his fiancée shortly after. When Valdemar reads the obituary of this same tailor in the newspaper, he believes it is time to organise a meeting between his grandfather and his true love. However, soon it emerges the tailor is still alive after all. Had his grandfather been lying to him? Valdemar's father had long doubted the verity of his adventurous tales.

*Deixem falar as pedras* is a novel full of suspense and depth, irony and black humour. It portrays the urge of an adolescent to find out the truth about the past and to look beyond the smooth surface, which obscures the memories and the questions about the true victims and culprits. After the sudden death of his grandfather, Valdemar must choose which truth to live with in the future.

*There is something deeply humane about this story of the Pide and fascism, love and strokes of fate; about how to lose a life where the goats graze and how to influence the future of a grandchild many years later.*

Público

*We sincerely believe that Deixem falar es pedras will be talked about for a very long time.*

Jornal de Letras

*Read this novel and be swept away by a mercilessly ironic story penned by an exceptional writer. As only great literature is capable of, this story first seduces its reader then leaves him behind, bewildered and enriched.*

Sol

#### **Rights sold:**

**O fabuloso teatro do gigante**, Lisbon: Presença 2006, 212 p.  
Italy: Cavallo di Ferro 2009

**Deixem falar as pedras**, Lisbon: Dom Quixote 2011, 334 p.  
Italy: Cavallo di Ferro

Stories:

**Histórias possíveis**, Lisbon: Presença 2008, 99 p.  
Morroco: Racines Editions

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## L'ENERGIA DEL VUOTO

(The Energy of Vacuum)

**Bruno Arpaia**

Guanda, 2011, 260 pages



**Finalist at the Strega Prize**

Rights sold to: Russia (United Press)

**A spy story on the adventure of Modern Physics . An international intrigue at Geneva's Cern (European Centre of Nuclear Research).**

On a Swiss motorway, by night, a car swiftly proceeds towards Marseille. On board, a man, Pietro Leone, member of Geneva's UN, is racing away in the night with his child Nico. Pietro himself does not really know why he is escaping and from what. All he knows is that, for several days, somebody is checking all his movements and his family's. His Spanish wife, Emilia Vinas and Cern researcher, hasn't come back home from office the night before. She is responsible for one of the experiments on *Large Hadron Collider, LHD*, the most powerful particles accelerator ever built in the world...

The adventure of physics, from Einstein to the string theory, is a fascinating subject. This is what a young, beautiful journalist from Madrid also discovers: she has come to the Cern to write an article for her paper and she is totally fascinated by these theories and the world of physics. Thanks to her questions we start being involved in a world that might sound mysterious to most people but that, in these pages, is the background of a real adventure novel and thriller. Because in this center of studies and researches, many passions, intrigues and personal interests find place.....Where is Emilia? What are Pietro and Nico running away from....?

**“Bruno Arpaia is one of those rare writers who face art and literature with the only ambition to be coherent with life and with his own times...” Luis Sepulveda**

**Bruno Arpaia**, born in Ottaviano (Naples) in 1957, is journalist, editorial consultant and translator of Spanish and Latin-American literature. He published several novels which got many literary awards (Hammet Italia Award, 1997 for *Tempo perso*; Premio Selezione Campiello 2001; Un Autore per l'Europa 2001 for *L'Angelo della Storia*; Premio Napoli and Premio Comisso 2006 for *Il passato davanti a noi*. All his books are published by Guanda – including a book on Conversations with Luis Sepulveda, *Raccontare, resistere*, and the essay *Per una sinistra reazionaria*.

For further information on Spanish and Latinamerican rights, please contact The Ella Sher Literary Agency,

[ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)

**A selection of titles**

**Italy**

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE FICTION

2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### HOW TO STOP LOVING SOMEONE – Joan Connor

**Literary Fiction** (short stories) | Leapfrog Press | 208 pp. | Oct. 2011

*How To Stop Loving Someone* explores the vagaries and vicissitudes of love and lust, of loneliness and loss. Tonally they range from the dark to the darkly comic, from the optimistic to the outright silly. Wherever its characters find themselves, whether lucky or unlucky in love, whether in their teens or middle age, they cling tenaciously to the belief that the quest for love is self-validating, that love is yet possible.

**[Connor] is an excellent wordsmith who understands the power of language ~ Kirkus Reviews | Sprightly, sanguine writing [...] a compelling energy and likeability ~ Publishers Weekly**



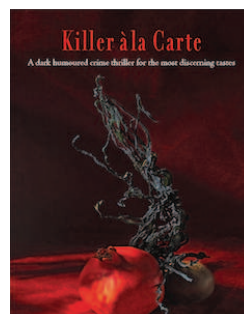
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### KILLER A LA CARTE – Gerry Galvin

**Commercial Fiction** (Culinary Crime) | Doire Press | 240 pp. | Fall 2011

*Killer à la Carte* is a 3 star Michelin gourmet feast written in language that soothes, seduces, and hypnotizes. It introduces us to James Livingstone Gall, a respected restaurant critic, creative chef and serial killer, matched in evil by Claudia Catalano, heiress to a hotel empire. We wine and dine with them and watch as they kill with ease and impunity. This is the first book from Gerry Galvin, first class chef, restaurateur and poet.

**Anthony Bourdain meets Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho!**



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### FOUND OBJECTS – Peter Gelfan

**Literary Fiction** | Nortia Press | 280 pp. | April 2013

Aldo Zoria is a successful commercial photographer who lives in a happy ménage à trois with his wife and their lover, along with the lover's two young children. But domestic bliss shatters when an unexpected guest arrives and threatens to turn their world upside down. *Found Objects* is a novel about the struggle between values and instincts, ideas and reality, whom we strive to become and whom we were born to be.

PETER GELFAN



**A wise, rueful tale for our times, unerringly told, by a masterful writer ~ Tony Cohan, bestselling author of Canary (a New York Times Notable Book of the Year)**

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE FICTION

2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### DEATH MY OWN WAY – Michael S.A. Graziano

Literary Fiction (novel) | Leapfrog Press | 122 pp. | December 2012

*One night, one life...*

A naked, terminally ill man wanders into Central Park on a rainy night. His final hours serve as a brilliant, extravagant, and often funny metaphor for the trajectory of a life. When he strips off his clothes in the rain, he is born. Every rambling step he takes through the paths of the park is a step through life. He loses a mother, finds friends, a place in society, an overblown sense of importance. He grows old, he dies. This book is about the mental acrobatics we all employ to invent meaning for ourselves, and failing at that, to accept narratives from the people around us. In the end the rationalized purposes and grandiloquent arguments abandon him. But somehow—and this is the mystery—everything is worth it. Even the last meaningless moment is worth it.

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### MALENA – Edgardo David Holzman

Literary Fiction | Nortia Press | 364 pp. | April 2012

Set in 1979 in Buenos Aires and Washington, D.C., 3 years after the demise of Argentina's Peronist democracy, Holzman's stunning debut novel follows two men clamoring for a woman's heart as they weather the country's descent into brutality. It shows how Argentina's Dirty War (1979-1983) impacted lives outside of that nation as well.

*Holzman, an Argentinian himself, has crafted a beautiful tale grounded in history and propelled by fast-paced storytelling ~ Publishers Weekly*

*A harrowing portrait of the human cost of oppression. [...] A powerful piece of historical fiction, this gripping testament to the brutality of Argentina's military dictatorship may shake readers to their core ~ Library Journal*



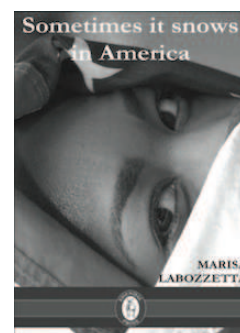
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### SOMETIMES IT SNOWS IN AMERICA – Marisa Labozzetta

Literary Fiction | Guernica Editions | 324 pp. | October 2012

Combining fable, storytelling, and the grubbiness of harsh reality, Marisa Labozzetta tells the story of Fatma, a young woman from a storied family in Somalia.

Born into Somali royalty and Saudi Arabian wealth, Fatma is given away in infancy and, at age 12, forced into an arranged marriage with a young Peace Corps worker. Prejudice and cultural demands lead to a number of painful promises that will dictate the course of her life on two continents.



*The story of a rebellious young girl from Somalia who comes to America is a searing and vividly intimate portrait that feels painfully real and yet never succumbs to sentimentality. You want to reach out and help her, but you know you cannot. She has to find her own path to redemption ~ Jonathan Harr, A Civil Action*

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE FICTION

2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### DANCING AT THE GOLD MONKEY – Allen Learst

Literary Fiction (linked stories) | Leapfrog Press | 134 pp. | October 2012

#### Winner of the 2011 Leapfrog Fiction Contest

A young naval officer crashes his fighter jet in the South China Sea, forever changing the lives of the five soldiers who find his body. They move through gritty post-Vietnam Detroit with the women they love in this linked collection of psychological drama, sexual escapades, and latent violence tinged with compassion, grief, and love, arriving finally at the death of one man's son in Iraq. Learst's writing explores an interior war, the war of the psyche fought by all returning soldiers, and their attempts to adapt and survive without the knowledge it takes to heal or alleviate their pain.

*Each of these stories contributes to a larger whole, an understanding of a community and the men and women trying to make their way within it. These men spend their lives stumbling from women, whiskey, and each other. Learst writes of them with both clarity and compassion ~ Foreword Review*

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### THE WANDERING HEART – Mary Malloy

Literary Fiction | Leapfrog Press | 396 pp. | 2009 | 1<sup>st</sup> part of a trilogy

When historian Lizzie Manning is invited to Britain to study the Hatton family's history in their ancestral home, she can have no idea where her research will take her. Before long she finds herself traveling backward in time. Her findings lead her into three interrelated mysteries, her own family's history, and a search for a Crusader's disembodied heart.

A forensic thriller like A.S. Byatt's *Possession* that pursues secrets going back to the Crusades.

*An impressive fiction debut [...] Malloy mixes history and fantasy with flair and delivers a wonderfully satisfying puzzler ~ Publishers Weekly*

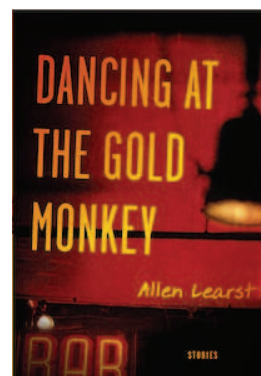
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### THE TENANTS OF THE HOTEL BIRON – Laura Marelo

Literary Fiction | Guernica Editions | 300 pp. | April 2012

Laura Marelo writes through the voice of American photographer Eduard Steichen. The French sculptor Rodin, his lover Camille Claudel, Picasso, Rousseau, Nijinski, Matisse, Rilke and others, all tenants of Hôtel Biron, and all brilliantly and excitedly human, are presented by manuscripts fictionally collected. The result is an appropriately cubist look at each, because we see each from several subjective vantages. We get to imagine, as World War I is coming on, the confusions and certainties of competing artists, conflicting and collaborating geniuses in a world of misunderstood avant-garde where gallery patrons sometimes slashed canvases.

*This is a compelling story on a real and imagined Paris – the ravishing bohemian Paris of the early 1900s ~ Jennifer Clement*





## ENGLISH LANGUAGE FICTION

2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### REBEL STREETS – Tom Molloy

Literary Fiction | Nortia Press | 216 pp. | October 2012

Set in Northern Ireland, *Rebel Streets* takes an unblinking look at what happens when ordinary people are thrust into a world of violence, extremism and betrayal—where options are few and consequences severe. Without resorting to caricature and stereotypes, Tom Molloy invites the reader back to a time of religious violence known as the Troubles.

*Molloy's style is impressive in its tense self-control, conveying impacted emotion with a bare minimum of words. [...] The characters are vividly drawn, the whole thing is painfully realistic...* ~ Publishers Weekly on Molloy's debut *The Green Line*



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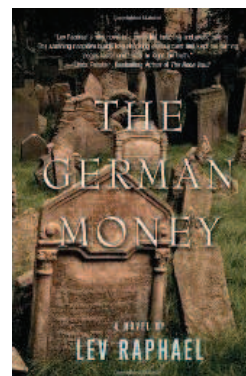
### THE GERMAN MONEY – Lev Raphael

Literary Fiction | Leapfrog Press | 208 pp. | 2003

Sold: Germany (Parthas) | *A Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Finalist*

Paul has spent his life running from New York, the city of his birth; from his beautiful beshert; from contact with his brother and sister; but mostly from his mother, a Holocaust survivor of inexplicable coldness. Upon her death, the children face shocking questions.

*One of the most powerful suspense novels in years, a kind of Kafka meets Philip Roth meets le Carré* ~ The Washington Post

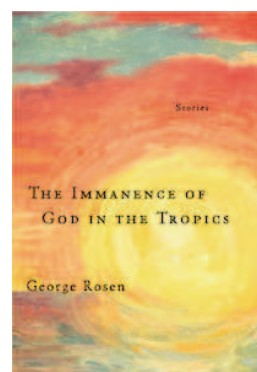


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### THE IMMANENCE OF GOD IN THE TROPICS – George Rosen

Literary Fiction (short stories) | Leapfrog Press | 170 pp. | November 2012

Tales of soccer, death, hot water, lost love, and the presence of God in Africa, Mexico, and the coast of New England. Told with a vivid, pungent sense of place, whether on a bumpy soccer pitch carved from an African forest or a tall ship in a dazzling sea, and with a clear eye for how ridiculous even some of our most important moments can be, these are tales of unexpected encounters far from home, where reality has a habit of washing over—and sometimes washing away—the traveler, and where the lessons learned may be brilliantly right or, just as often, disastrously wrong.



*A Publishers Weekly Top 10 Travel Book, fall 2012 and Publishers Weekly pick of the week, September 10, 2012*



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE FICTION

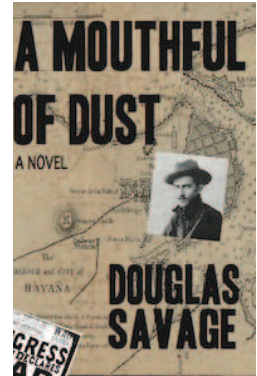
2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### **A MOUTHFUL OF DUST – Douglas Savage**

**Literary Fiction** | Nortia Press | 364 pp. | June 2012

The portrait of a writer in search of his own red badge of courage.

Through historical fiction Douglas Savage has created a psychological portrait of novelist Stephen Crane (*The Red Badge of Courage*). Against the backdrop of the lush countryside and treachery of Cuba just after the Spanish-American War, *A Mouthful of Dust* does what no biographer can do—examine the heart and soul of a 27-year-old writer grappling with his own death.



*Powerful, and haunting. A tour de force, and a real treat ~ Perry Lentz, PhD, author of Private Fleming at Chancellorsville: The Red Badge of Courage*

~

### **BILLIE GIRL – Vicky Weaver**

**Literary Fiction** | Leapfrog Press | 240 pp. | Fall 2010

Abandoned as an infant because of her incessant crying, Billie Girl is raised by two women who are brothers. Her life, a gender-bending puzzle filled with dark humor, is a series of encounters with strangers who struggle along with what they are given: a bigamist husband, a long-lost daughter named after a car, a lesbian preacher's wife, a platonic second husband who loved her adoptive father. Twin themes of sexuality and euthanasia run throughout. In a journey from hard-dirt Georgia farm to end-of-life nursing home, Billie Girl comes to understand the mercy of killing.



*Featuring dark humor, quirky characters, and ambitious themes, this novel has all the ingredients for cooking up a Southern gothic novel ~ Library Journal*

## DUTCH LANGUAGE FICTION

2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### CHICKEN BOY (De kippenjongen) – Gerard van Emmerik

Literary Fiction | Nieuw Amsterdam | 224 pp. | September 2012

English sample soon available

Chicken farmer Lucas, a childish spirit in a strong body, lives together with the much younger Noor, completely isolated on their farm. He has his chicken, she has her pen-pals and her dreams. And they have each other. Unexpectedly, after twenty years, a baby is born, and their love comes to an end. There is something wrong with the child. And moreover: with the parents. In act of desperation, Lucas permanently drives the child into the arms of Noor.

*The Chicken Boy* is an impressive novel in which yearning, jealousy and finally love are the central themes. A wonderful psychological novel in the spirit of Gerbrand Bakker's *The Twin*.

*Lovely, very surprising and extraordinarily tense ~ Trouw | A very special novel on love, jealousy and yearning ~ Winq | Tense and gripping [...] psychology and suspense are a good couple. It's a page-turner to read in one sitting ~ De Stentor*

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### CHILDREN OF THE SAVAGE LAND (Kinderen van het ruige land) – Auke Hulst

Literary Fiction | J.M. Meulenhoff | 336 pp. | August 2012 | English sample available

In this alternately poignant, perplexing and humorous autobiographical novel, Auke Hulst depicts the decline of a family who are out of touch with reality—for better and for worse. Four children grow up surrounded by chaos, somewhere in the northern countryside, in a rough area that is referred to as the Savage Land. They live alienated from their family and the village a little further down the road. Their mother is a high-spirited yet deceitful woman who is haunted by creditors. Can the children escape from the growing problems around them, or has their fate already been decided on?

*[Hulst] slides smoothly through his youth from scene to scene, using a clear, rhythmical style and only sporadically a beautiful metaphor ~ BOEK | This book is an ode to the landscapes of youth ~ De Groene Amsterdammer*

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### AS IF I'M CRAZY (Of ik gek ben) – Michiel Stroink

Literary Fiction | J.M. Meulenhoff | 208 pp. | February 2012

English Sample Available | Rights Sold: Russia (Text)

Successful young artist Benjamin is baffled when he is sentenced to involuntary psychiatric treatment. He did not commit the crime that he is accused of. Or did he?

Life at the clinic is absurd and merciless. Despite his attempts not to get involved with anyone, the confrontations between the other patients do affect him.

Film Rights Sold – Three reprints within a couple of weeks of its publication | *This spring's fastest growing literary diamond ~ De Pers*



## DUTCH LANGUAGE FICTION

2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### FATAL FALL (Fatale val) – Daphne Timmers

**Commercial Fiction** | Bertram + De Leeuw | 272 pp. | March 2012

Two close friends, both called Daphne and journalists with the same daily news show, decide to go a 3-month trip through the Middle East. When they're in Jordan visiting the old town of Petra, a local advises them to take a hike up the rocky mountains nearby. From the top, they'll have a fantastic view overlooking the city. Their adventure comes abruptly to a halt when one of them makes a fatal fall.

**A gripping account about friendship and dealing with loss, inspired by a true story.**



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### I, HOLLYWOOD (Ik, Hollywood) – Jan Van Loy

**Literary Fiction** | Nieuw Amsterdam | 640 pp. | Oct 2011

**English sample available**

**Shortlisted for the Libris Literature Prize, Longlisted for the AKO & Golden Owl Prizes in Holland**

In his compelling, much-admired style, Jan Van Loy sketches the key episodes from the American film industry (1909-1969). *I, Hollywood* is a rich novel about films and the first movie stars, power and intrigues, recklessness and financial debacles, but also about love, success and hidden kinships. Early Hollywood, once the world's leading dream factory, was a legend itself.



***A flawless novel [...] a narrative that sparkles up to the last page ~ Jury Libris Literature Prize 2012 | I, Hollywood swings from the first page to the last [...] Van Loy has made this reading experience so pleasant that you really start to love Louis Peters ~ Knack***

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE NON-FICTION

2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### **THE LOVE LIVES OF THE ARTISTS. Five Stories of Creative Intimacy – Daniel Bullen**

**Literary Essay** | Counterpoint Press | 336 pp. | 2011 | **Sold:** Brazil and Korea

Five artist couples, five open relationships: Lou Andreas-Salomé and Rilke, Stieglitz and O'Keeffe, Sartre and Beauvoir, Diego and Frida, and Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin. *The Love Lives of the Artists* follows these artists' relationships from childhood and artistic development through years of shared vision, affairs, crises of conscience, deepening intimacy and continued creativity. Taken together, these five stories examine the challenges and the rewards of practicing creativity in love.



*A captivating exploration ~ Kirkus | Totally engrossing ~ Amity Gaige, author of The Folded World | The Love Lives of the Artists will have significance for anyone with a creative streak ~ The Erotic Review Magazine*

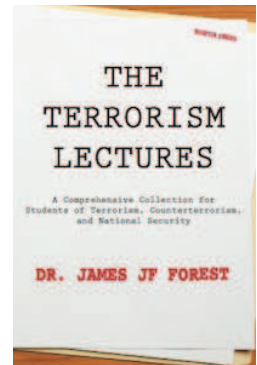
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### **THE TERRORISM LECTURES – James J. F. Forest**

**Security Studies, Political Science** | Nortia Press | 352 pp. | August 2012

This is a collection of timely and engaging lessons by terrorism expert Dr. James J. F. Forest. Written in an approachable style and without the sensationalism which often accompanies the subject, the book provides a comprehensive introduction to the history of terrorism, its root causes, and its many forms and organizations.

**James J. F. Forest, Ph.D. is an associate professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and the former Director of Terrorism Studies at the United States Military Academy (2001-2010).**



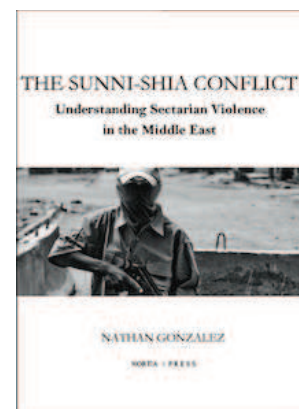
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### **THE SUNNI-SHIA CONFLICT – Nathan Gonzalez**

**History, Political Science** | Nortia Press | 200 pp. | 2009

The battles within Islam are not rooted in theology, but in timeless geopolitical struggles. Moving beyond tired descriptions of the Middle East as an exotic land of ideological purists, Nathan Gonzalez provides a realist account of the history of the Sunni-Shia conflict—a schism of tribal and political interests that threatens to escalate into a regional war.

*Nathan Gonzalez has written the first general, accessible account of the conflict within the 'House of Islam' and its continuing impact on the politics of the region ~ Anthony Pagden, author of Worlds at War: The 2,500-Year Struggle between East and West.*



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE NON-FICTION

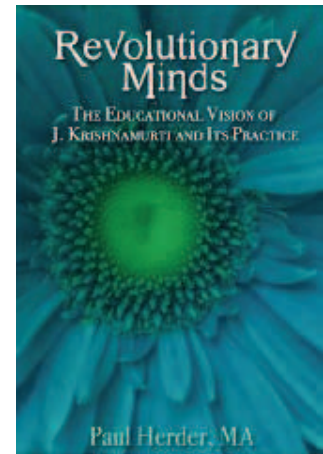
2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### REVOLUTIONARY MINDS – Paul Herder

Philosophy – Educational Science | 200 pp. | July 2011

*Revolutionary Minds* lays out the core of Krishnamurti's educational approach and offers a path to implementation. Written for teachers, parents and student of education, it explores Krishnamurti's central assertion that education is a matter of "awakening intelligence" and that such an awakening can only come about when the process of inquiry is valued above all else. The book spells out the conditions for nurturing a deeply inquisitive mind, a mind that's capable of not just academic excellence, but self-discovery and ultimately the creation of a new kind of society.

The book is a combination of pedagogical theory, research in the cognitive sciences and a firsthand understanding of Krishnamurti's educational vision. The result is both a critique of our current approach to education as well as a bold re-framing of the meaning and practice of teaching.



*Revolutionary Minds will be an eye opener to all children, parents and teachers, who are involved in the sacred responsibility of proper education for the future humanity. I am deeply impressed by the way Mr. Herder has systematically summarized the essence of Krishnamurti's teachings, making them understandable to everyone. I highly recommend this book for educators as well as general readers. ~ Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche*

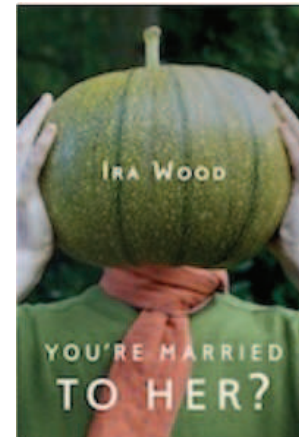
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### YOU'RE MARRIED TO HER? – Ira Wood

Essays, Memoir | Leapfrog Press | 170 pp. | August 2012

As the anti-Vietnam war movement drew to a close, a 26 year-old unknown playwright began an affair with a glamorous older woman, a feminist activist and acclaimed poet/novelist. What she saw in a neurotic, sexually naïve, poorly educated but very sweet guy was apparent to no one, especially him. In a wildly self-skewering but oddly sympathetic narrative voice, Wood reimagines his early years with Marge Piercy in a series of chronologically linked essays, never failing to raise the question that few failed to ask, *You're Married to Her?*

With the brazen candor of Toby Young's *How to Lose Friends and Alienate People*, and the wicked lunacy of David Sedaris, Wood tells tales of his first true love, who he told his parents were dead; his disastrous affairs; his childhood dependence on speed; running for public office on a lark—and winning—only to find himself responsible for the government of a small town. Thirty years later he's still married to Her, confident enough to share, and laugh at, what men do when their behavior slips to the level of their self-esteem.



*A hilariously brazen memoir, a raucous and richly detailed saga of one man's erotic pratfalls en route to a marriage made in heaven inside a Garden of Earthly Delights. Ira Wood lets his delirious inner Portnoy off its leash, no holds barred, and what a romp! His past life, loves, tribulations, and remarkable sustainability are a blessed antidote to all that currently ails us. It's really fun, laugh-outloud, and I couldn't put it down. It's f\*\*king delightful ~ John Nichols, Author of The Sterile Cuckoo and The Milagro Beanfield War*



## DUTCH LANGUAGE NON-FICTION

2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### THE ILLUSTRATED ATLAS OF THE AFTERLIFE (De geïllustreerde Atlas van het Hiernamaals) – G. Derksen et al.

History, Religion | Nieuw Amsterdam | 224 pp. | Fall 2010

English sample & Italian translation available | Rights Sold: Italy (Mondadori)

This beautifully illustrated work maps the Afterlife for the very first time in the history of mankind. Guido Derksen and Martin van Mousch have examined the images that humanity has produced in the last 5,000 years of (continuing) life after death, from ancient Mesopotamia to today's depictions. It shows the results of this exploratory expedition into cultural history. Cartographer Jop Mijwaard has cartographically reproduced a large number of representations of heaven, hell and other postmortem worlds. All maps are accompanied by clear texts that explain how the different images find their origins in five millennia of cultural history.

*A stunningly illustrated Atlas of the Afterlife [...] with nearly every believer's vision of the hereafter, [...] an absorbing journey into the end of days ~ The Holland Times*

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### MEET THE FOKKENS (Ouwehoeren) – Martine & Louise Fokkens

Commercial Non-Fiction, Memoir | Bertram + De Leeuw | 192 pp. | October 2011

Our best-selling title! Rights Sold: Finland (Minerva), France (Fleuve Noir), Germany (Blanvalet), Poland (Bellona) | More than 50,000 copies sold in Holland

English Reading Sample Available | French & German translations available soon

Twin sisters Louise and Martine Fokkens have been working in the Amsterdam red-light district for 50 years. Despite many setbacks and a great deal of negativity from those outside the world of prostitution, these strong, optimistic and humorous women have managed to survive all those years with verve. The twins tell amusing tales of how they came to be in this line of work, how they eventually went into business for themselves, and how relationships in the world of prostitution have changed over the years.

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### ROMA – Kemal Rijken

Narrative Non-Fiction | Bertram + De Leeuw | 336 pp. | 2012

The Sinti and Roma minorities are among the oldest in Europe, with a long history of exclusion and persecution. How come that this group, which is often referred to as gypsies, still causes so much controversy in our society? In *Roma* Kemal Rijken gives us a unique glimpse into the history of the gypsies. From the moment the first gypsy wagons entered The Netherlands and Europe to the human trafficking and the cases of insurance fraud in which Roma King 'Koko' Petalo was involved in the 1970s. His son Rocca Petalo and Sinti activist Lalla Weiss have also been interviewed. How do they see the future of the group?



Sequel *Meet The Fokkens on the Road* published in Sept 2012



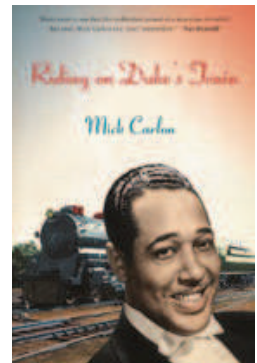
## YOUNG ADULT

2 Seas Agency | World Rights Catalog | Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

### RIDING ON DUKE'S TRAIN – Mick Carlon

**Children's Fiction, Adventure (9+)** | Leapfrog Press | 176 pp. | January 2012

Nine-year-old Danny stows away on a Georgia train—the train of Duke Ellington. Through Danny's eyes, we meet some of America's finest musicians as he accompanies them on their 1939 European tour, when the train was briefly held in Nazi Germany.



*In schools where students are lucky enough to experience classroom jazz studies, this title, combining rich musical history and a "you are there" approach, is a natural ~ Kirkus*

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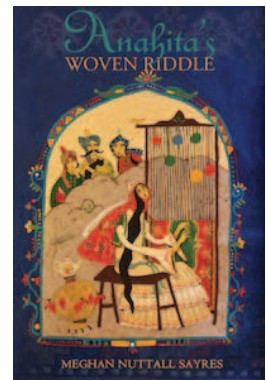
### ANAHITA'S WOVEN RIDDLE – Meghan Nuttall Sayres

**Literary Fiction (12+)** | Nortia Press | 354 pp. | November 2012 (reissue)

**Rights Sold:** Israel (Keter), Italy (Rizzoli), Spain (Roca Editorial), Turkey

American Library Association Top Ten Best Books | American Booksellers Association Book Sense/Indie Pick

An enchanting tale set in Persia rich with romance, adventure, and Sufi poetry in which a young woman is determined to weave her own fate. When Anahita, a nomadic weaver in 19th century Iran, learns that her father wants her to wed the leader of her tribe, a man she finds repulsive, she is determined to design her own fate. She devises a contest in which suitors must guess the meaning of a riddle woven into her wedding carpet.



*A richly textured, carefully researched novel [...] excellent use of Sufi poetry and a strong cast of characters make this more than memorable. Romantic, delightful and educational too! ~ Kirkus*

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### NIGHT LETTER – Meghan Nuttall Sayres

**Literary Fiction (12+)** | Nortia Press | 224 pp. | November 2012

Anahita, a nomadic weaver living in 19th-century Iran, is kidnapped on the eve of her wedding and thrown into the world of slavery and the mystical Sufi faith. Tinged with the fairytale quality of Sayres' award-winning *Anahita's Woven Riddle*, its sequel *Night Letter* weaves details of Persian culture with poetry to create the story of a damsel in distress determined to save herself.



*On Anahita's Woven Riddle: [The book] offers a glimpse into a world not many books enter. Sayres does an excellent job developing characters that intrigue and tug at the heart ~ Historical Novels Review*

Viktor Horváth

## TURKISH MIRROR

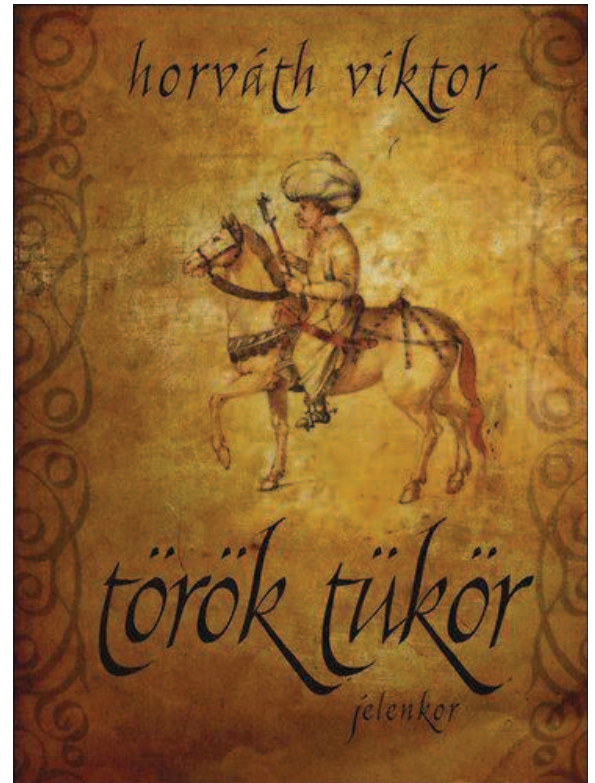
Novel (Jelenkor), 2009, 560 pages

***“You can have no idea, my heir to the true faith, what this prosperous city was like when I was a boy, so listen, for I am now going to tell you.”***

*Turkish Mirror* takes the reader on an adventurous journey back in time to 16<sup>th</sup> century Hungary, when the country was still a new suzerainty of the victorious Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent, an unstable borderland situated between two great empires, a colorful cavalcade of calendars, taxation systems, languages, writings and sacred writings; kings and emperors, mighty sultans, Hungarian nobles and Ottoman Beys, merchants, city burghers, village magistrates – and from time to time, even angels and djinns and peculiar flying machines.

In the novel we see the city of Pécs gradually giving way to the world of the *Thousand and One Arabian Nights* where camels walk the streets, apricots and dates hang from the trees in abundance, thieves roam the woods, and the first mosque and Turkish bath are built. Indeed, the great charm of *Turkish Mirror* lies in its uninhibited flair for story telling, while its ingenuity lies in showing us the world of Hungary through the eyes of the occupying Ottoman Turks, which is thus presented as a complex, puzzling multinational land froth with danger and ruled by complex power relations as opposed to the Padishah’s civilized and refined empire. Thanks to this surprising point of view, the reader suddenly finds himself on a terrain where everything that was familiar is now foreign and exotic.

*Judith Sollosy*



**Viktor Horváth** was born in 1962 in Pécs. He was a potter, teacher, and babysitter, then between 2003 and 2006 he studied for his Ph.D. at the University of Miskolc. Since 2003 he has been teaching the theory of poetic structure and the history of form in medieval and late-medieval times at the University of Pécs. He is a translator from English, German, and Spanish. His guidebook, *Over There, or New York Variations* (Át avagy New York-variációk) appeared in 2004.



## FROM THE PRESS

„To teach and to entertain. The author bends the parameters of his book according to this double cause, which is obvious from the title too. The *Turkish Mirror* on one hand evokes the traditional, didactic genre of aristocratic biographies («mirrors») of the time, but at the same time reflects on the fresh aspect from which the story is told: the well-known historical times are presented here from the other side, as seen in a »turkish mirror«, being the same, yet utterly different. Because in this mirror, the »last bastion of the cultured world« is the meeting point of the Danube and the Sava rivers at Belgrade, after which begins the realm of »degenerate men« – that is to say, the faithless Hungarians.”

*Sándor Bazsányi, Élet és Irodalom*

„We see here an army of characters, each trying to get through life with cunning, lies, aggression and corruption – they are all frail and mortal from the graceful Padishah to the last slave-girl, like in the machinery of a turkish-style mystery play. The main point of the novel is not the human being in itself, but the place: Pécs, the turkish stronghold, where Isa is drawn by chance (by the will of Allah through the Padishah), and where every important thing in his life – love, war, enlightenment – has to happen. We are at home in Pécs, and that is why we can call this blood-stained chronic a »friendly read«. For the author, Pécs is the place of multiculturalism, a notion often evoked in a shallow and deprecating manner. People of the same faith but of different nations, people of the same language but coming from different parts of the world, people of different fates are struggling to survive in the same earthly confinement, where even the solitude of the rogue princes is an illusion, according to the laws of fate. And still, says the author, the Place is there so that we can find the indispensable past in it, a past we can always remold to our own fashion.”

*József Tamás Reményi, Népszabadság*

„The main feature of *Turkish Mirror* is its laid-back and unstoppable way of storytelling, and because of this it can easily be read as the series of adventures by the young Isa; however, the real virtues of the book lie not in the events, but in the world the author has created and in which the events are happening. We are talking about the turkish suzerainty of the 16th century, the sanjak of Pécs to be more precise. The novel’s great invention is that it draws up its world from the point of view of the faithful invaders. Hungary, with its many nations and complex political landscape is a chaotic, dangerous and unruly territory compared to the civilized and sophisticated empire of the Padishah. And with this turn of the point of view, the reader also finds him- or herself in an unpredictable realm: everything that seemed to be familiar, suddenly becomes alien and exotic.”

*József Keresztesi, Revizor Online*

**Ervin Lázár**

***Csillagmajor ( The Little Town of Miracles)***

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Osiris Kiadó, 1998, 107 pages

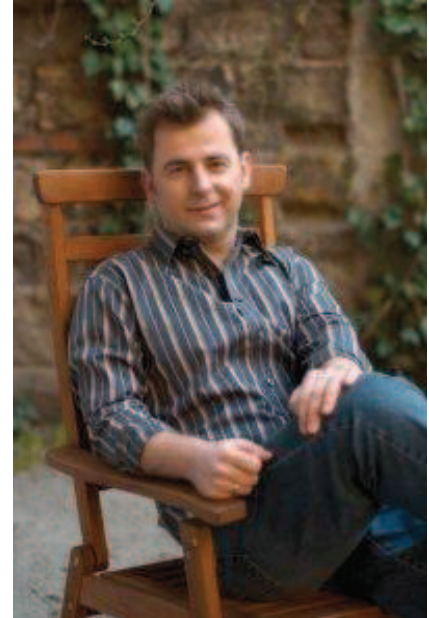
**The Little Town of Miracles** is based on the author's experiences as a child growing up in a remote Hungarian village where the people were poor in goods, but rich in tales. Through the telling of fifteen stories, it brings to life the wondrous world of the countryside as people experienced it, which throbs to a different rhythm than the world of city folk. From a naked angel boy who sneaks into a kitchen to pilfer kitchen utensils at night ("The Sneak Thief"), through a village blacksmith who shoes the Devil's horse ("The Blacksmith") and the tale of a Party functionary who comes to portion out the land among the peasants but dazed by his power over them leaves with a promise to resurrect the dead ("The China Doll"), each story takes on the quality of a hallucinatory exploration into that part of the soul where beauty, hope, and yearning live in close proximity, and where miracles are a way of life.

The lively story-telling, the sparse yet evocative beauty of the language, the persistent yet nonintrusive narrative presence, make *The Little Town of Miracles* a memorable and highly enjoyable example of a very special brand of folk surrealism, the Central European counterpart of the magical realism of Gabriel García Márquez, but most especially, Isabel Allende – and as such would make an important addition to the corpus of imaginative literature now available in English.

**Ervin Lázár** (1936 - 2006) was a writer and dramatist. His books for children have made him renowned and much-loved household name, while his novel, *The White Tiger* (1971), established him as a major writer for adults. (In *White Tiger*, a huge white tiger casually walks up to the hero of the story and refuses to leave his side, fulfilling every wish of its new master, who thus becomes omnipotent. As the story unperceptively slides into the political arena of Communist Hungary, it poses the question: Given the power to do good, why does man revert, time and again, to aggression instead?) Since 1971, Lázár has also written a number of children's plays and radio plays. Two anthologies of his stories for adults appeared in 1994 (*My Seven Lovers*) and 1997 (*Little Angel*) respectively. His latest book, *The Golden Bird of Youth*, contains the stories told by an illiterate Gypsy and adapted by the author. Ervin Lázár has been awarded a number of prizes for his works, among them the Andersen Prize and the Hungarian Kossuth Prize.

For further information, The Ella Sher Literary Agency, [ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)

**KRISZTIÁN GRECSÓ** was born in 1977. He is a writer, a dramatist and an editor; his unique voice and storytelling made him one of the most successful authors of the new generation of Hungarian literature. His works often relate the seemingly irreconcilable differences between life in Budapest, the Hungarian capital and the countryside with its little towns and isolated village communities. He works as an editor for *Élet és Irodalom*, the most prestigious literary magazine of the country. Grecsó has written five books and won the most prestigious Hungarian literary prizes. He lives in Budapest.



## ROOM FOR YOU BESIDE ME (MELLETEM ELFÉRSZ)

Novel, 2011 (february 10), 290 pages

*“His wandering motifs and marvellous depiction, cast in his own personal ‘Grecsó idiom’, with everyday miracles familiar from the works of magic realist authors, propel the author to the forefront of younger fiction writers in Hungary.”*

– Népszabadság on *Long time no see*



When the protagonist and narrator of the novel – a tax expert in his thirties recently left by his lover – is asked by a local newspaper to write an incidental article about an old family photograph, this seemingly harmless task entangles him in a web of family mysteries and long-forgotten stories.

Turning to his all-knowing, beloved grandmother for advice, he succeeds in making her confess all the secrets behind the photograph, no matter how the old woman wants to hide behind her illness to keep silent. It is revealed that the highly respected family member uncle Benedek was in fact never a monk, only a servant at a monastery, and he even had to leave that position because of a scandal, when it became known from a letter that he was not only fond of one of his childhood friends, but was undoubtedly and passionately in love with him. The story of the reunion of these two men in their old age is breathtaking, painful and beautiful at the same time.

Every character of the book is driven by some kind of stubborn and never satisfied desire for love: one of the grandfathers, in the Budapest of the fifties, desperately falls in love with a bourgeois girl, despite being a simple construction worker, and they almost start a new life together when the woman decides to stick by her former husband, a doctor working in the Soviet Union, although she knows very well that he is a coward and the informer of the secret service. The father of the protagonist never recovers from losing Irina, a Russian woman who suddenly leaves him for one of his best childhood friends, whom she will leave also... The lives of the two men collapse when they realise that it was the same woman who made their life miserable, and they become mortal enemies for life: the childhood friend's biggest ambition is to steal the wife of the other.

The narrator tries to indulge his love-lust with prostitutes, only to put himself in more and more humiliating situations, and it is only by the end of the novel that, after uncovering all the family secrets, his own life seems to get better: but we never know whether the girl invited ever gets to show up at the rendez-vous.

This novel of Grecsó resonates with the heavy and magical tone of Central Europe, taking it's reader through all of the twentieth-century Carpathian Basin from Romania and Transylvania through Hungary and to the Alps of Austria. Starting from the servant-world of the Hungarian countryside of the thirties and showing the working-class milieu of Budapest in the fifties, we even reach our contemporary times of ruin pubs and next-generation hipsters.

## EXCERPT FROM THE NOVEL

The way Imre spoke about my Uncle Márton, you just had to feel sorry for him. Imre gave him the role of the unfortunate, cheated man and it suited his character. His face held a form of born humbleness, his futures remained fine even when he drank or shouted. He was a sensitive, touchy-feely type and you could see it on his face, behind his beard, behind his glasses, behind his inebriated eyes. He'd somehow managed to inherit his father's care and attention, the family's excruciating neuroses, and a kind of unmanly joy from somewhere. Finding herself in a conflict such as this, any woman would categorise them thus: Imre's to be desired, Márton's to be pitied. A couple of palinkas and the now aged childhood friend was happy to tell a tale or two. He never intended to insult my uncle, he just wanted to recapture belief in his own glory passed. He also had his doubts as to whether such a past had ever actually existed. I bore witness to the fact the world he described was real as were the figures, families, stories, desires and disputes he described. So was the sports field that now forms part of the village. And the factory, that closed down, and the endless stacks of bails, and the donkey train that have all long since gone. Gone along with my grandparents, his parents and all the others, who I thought of as old men who had fought on the Russian front, but were just real and had lived just like the rest of them. Then I thought for a minute, *Who could he tell this to there?* We stood in the outer room of the new pub, there was a disco inside, thickly made-up boys and girls were strutting their stuff, ordering sweet drinks, staring at us with suspicion. Death cut through all comparisons, the competition was no

## György Spiró: Fogság (Captivity)



**GYÖRGY SPIRÓ** was born in 1946 in Budapest. He is one of Hungary's leading contemporary authors, a writer, a dramatist, a translator and a scholar of Polish literature. He is one of the most frequently played contemporary playwrights of Hungary.

### CAPTIVITY (FOGSÁG)

Novel, 2005, 770 pages

(FULL AND AUTHORISED ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN TRANSLATION AVAILABLE)



**AN INCREDIBLY ENTERTAINING AND EXCITING, PLOT- AND ACTION-PACKED BESTSELLER**

**while**

**AT THE SAME TIME, A DEEP AND PHILOSOPHICAL MASTERPIECE!**

*In his book CAPTIVITY, a story playing out in 1<sup>st</sup>-century Roman Empire, Jerusalem, Alexandria – the Middle East – and presenting the life, adventures and intellectual and physical travels of Jewish Roman citizen Uri,...*

*“...György Spiró aspired at nothing less than write the history of the origin of Christianity, present a theory in novelistic form about the interweavedness of religion and politics, lay bare the inner workings of power and give an insight into the art of survival.*

*This book is an incredible page turner, it reads easily and avidly like the greatest bestsellers while also going as deep as the greatest thinkers of European philosophy”.*

**(Aegon Literary Award 2006: From the recommendation of the Jury)**

**The Aegon Literary Award is given yearly for the past year's outstanding literary achievement.**

**With 50,000 copies in print and 13 reprints, Captivity belongs with the most successful books ever published in Hungary.**

*The story takes place in the 1st century in ancient Rome, Jerusalem and Alexandria, it embraces an enormous amount of historic knowledge, but history, politics, philosophy and numerous other facets of the culture of humankind are all included in the coming of age and the story of the personal destiny of its main hero, Uri, a Roman Jew.*

*It is both an extremely entertaining, superbly written, exciting tale and a very deep, thoughtful, philosophical masterpiece – a historical page turner and a marvellous piece of absolutely contemporary literature.*



Spiró's fourth major novel became the literary sensation of 2005 in Hungary. Set in the first century after the birth of Jesus Christ, the novel is set in the Roman Empire when Christianity is first emerging as a religion. The hero, Uri (Gaius Theodorus), is a Jew who was born and grows up in Rome's Jewish community. He is a puny, unprepossessing, short-sighted young man, whom his father, in return for risking his entire tiny fortune as a loan to a high imperial official, gets instated as a member of the delegation that takes the ritual tax for the Jewish community of Rome to Jerusalem every year. Travelling through the eastern half of the Roman Empire, the first great global economy in history, Uri spends time in Judea and Alexandria before finally making his way back to Italy. Along the way, he is imprisoned by Herod's officials for a week in Jerusalem (being joined by two thieves and, it would seem, Jesus himself shortly before their crucifixion) before dining with Pontius Pilate. He is then forced to work among peasants in the Judean countryside before making his way to Alexandria in Egypt. There, he wins a place for three years at the city's elite grammar school, indulges in the pleasures provided by the local prostitutes, and lives through a pogrom with the erection of the first ghetto in history. Uri returns to Rome to find that his father has died during his absence and that he is now obliged to take on repayment of the money which his father borrowed to 'bribe' the high official into instating his son in the delegation. He works first as a secretary to some of the richest Jewish dignitaries and later as a labourer on a palace for the Emperor Nero, before he is unjustly labelled as being a Nazarene and exiled from his birthplace as a penniless outlaw. Although he eventually finds a family, he dies a lonely, neglected figure in wretched circumstances. The very last sentence of the book runs: "I still want to live, he thought to himself, and was lost in wonder." He therefore leads an exciting, varied, and truly adventure-packed life, which offers him the opportunity to become versed in a dozen or more very different occupations. During the course of events, he transforms himself into a true intellectual of his time, reading widely, learning a clutch of languages, acquiring first-hand knowledge of a thousand and one things, and honing a first-class intellect.

At the close of the book, it remains up to the reader to answer various important questions. What is the point of all the battles and religions? What is the point of struggling? Is there any sense? Why, in the final analysis, is history a litany of mass slaughters? Why does mankind continue to place his faith in ever newer things when they disillusion is often lurking round the corner?

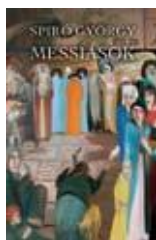
As criticism has put it, 'this book is an incredible page turner, it reads avidly like the greatest bestsellers while also going as deep as the greatest thinkers of European philosophy'.

Rights sold to: Russia, Inostranka



Also in the Backlist:

*The X-es* (*Az Ikszek*, novel, 2007, 542 pages) Set in a fractured Poland at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this novel tells the story of struggling theatre director Osiński and the return of a legendary actor long past his prime, whose pursuit of popularity is disturbed by mysterious critical articles signed simply with „x-es”.



*Messiahs* (*Messiasok*, novel, 2007, 646 pages) In the Polish émigré community of Paris in 1840, a mysterious figure appeared and established a religious sect, claiming to be the Lord himself, and seducing such literary greats as Mickiewicz and Slowacki. This gripping novel tells the story of their social and political machinations. *Rights sold to: Poland, W.A.B.*



*Brideride* (*Feleségverseny*, novel, 2009, 337 pages) An utopian vision of what Hungary may become in the near future, this satirical novel recounts the events of a country where the communist king elects his wife through a TV show, the country loses part of its territory, and everything becomes even more absurd than it is today.

**MIKLÓS VAJDA** was born in 1931 in Budapest. He is a writer, essayist and translator: his works include a great number of translations from British, American and German authors, and about five dozen plays for the theatre. He was the editor of the review *The New Hungarian Quarterly* until 2005. *Portrait of a Mother in an American Frame* is his first novel which contains his own family story and the fatal history of Hungary in the 20th century.



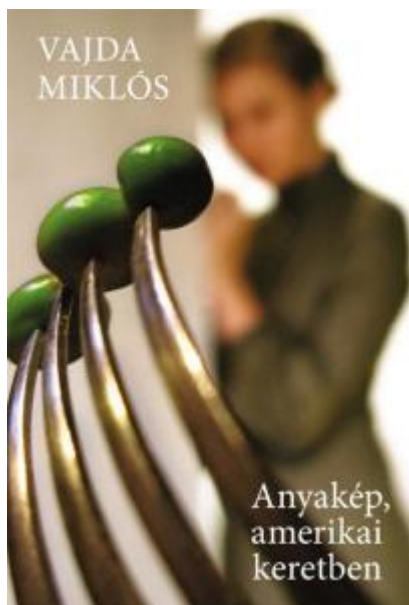
## PORTRAIT OF A MOTHER IN AMERICAN FRAME

(ANYAKÉP, AMERIKAI KERETBEN)

Memoire-novel, 2009, 207 pages

*„Elegant, reserved but not unemotional. Ironic, but not cynical. So this portrait, or this fragment of an autobiography is the triumph of good taste and the sense of proportions. But above all, it is touching. And we can also add, without further ado, that it's beautiful.”*

– Litera.hu



Vajda grew up in a rich family in the first half of the century. His father was a lawyer who represented the Hungarian investments of the Habsburgs. His mother was born into a noble family. Because of the special family background they were fugitives during the WWII and after that in the communist era alike. His father died right after the war and his mother spent years in prison than moved to America immediately after her release. Their son stayed in Hungary because he fell in love with somebody else's wife. Since that time mother and son lived their lives far from each other.

The key figure of the family's hard years was a beautiful woman, the most famous actress around the middle of the century, Gizi Bajor – the godmother of Miklós Vajda. Gizi Bajor also died tragically in 1951, murdered by her husband. She, as the favourite actress of the two dictators Horthy and Rákosi, tried to do everything to save her friend, Vajda's mother and her godson. She hid the whole family during the war and then frequently wrote letters to the dictator Mátyás Rákosi pleading for her friend's release (those letters are the supplement of the book).

The three of them are the protagonists of the novel – the antagonist is the History itself. Vajda as narrator tries to tell the memories of the mother and understand her years in America as well as the death of his godmother. The novel is a confession of a son who couldn't tell how thankful he is to these women.

**Rights sold to:** Austria (Braumüller Verlag)  
Czech Republic (Havran)

## Pál Závada



PÁL ZÁVADA was born to a Hungarian-Slovak family in 1954 in Tótkomlós, in the south-eastern corner of Hungary. He is a writer, a sociologist and the editor of the prestigious Hungarian literary review *Holmi*.

### OUR ALIEN BODY (IDEGEN TESTÜNK)

Novel, 2008, 390 pages

„Pál Závada's latest novel is his best and most mature work to date.”  
– Könyves Blog

The novel's scene is set in a photographer's studio in September 1940 at a gathering of relatives, friends and lovers all linked by the single figure of a house wife called Janka Weiner – her cousin who works in a fashion boutique, her seminarian brother, a military attaché, a young poet, a reporter, girlfriends, journalists, some Swabish, some Hungarian, some Jewish and many less simple to define. They are enthralled by news of regained territory lost in the First World War and mystified by the race laws. Where have they come from and what will become of them when the war is over?

Pál Závada gathers his cast for a single evening in which he skilfully portrays the mental, physical and spiritual trauma created by the trials and tribulations of the 20th century. He looks at how elements of society become fragments. What does it mean to lose your country to war and how are the seeds of a new dictatorship sewn? This novel is close-up and provocative.



### Also in the Backlist:

**Jadviga's Pillow** (*Jadviga párnája*, novel, 1997, 448 pages) This best selling novel portrays a Hungarian village with a Slovak minority and spans the period from the First World War, through the national awakening of the Slovaks, the Hungarian Soviet Republic, to the Second World War. Told in the intricate form of several overlapping diaries, it is also an unforgettable love story between András Osztatni and Maria Jadviga Palkovits. Rights sold to: Germany, Luchterhand – Netherlands, Wereldbibliotheek – Slovakia, Kalligram – Czech Republic, Argo – Serbia, Laguna



**Milota** (*Milota*, novel, 2002, 700 pages) Another story of a family, a village and a love rolled up in one in the form of parallel and alternating texts, *Milota* is set in a similar Slovak-speaking community as *Jadviga's Pillow*, but this time in the 1990s, depicting the complex love life of two narrators remembering at the same time, both in full knowledge of the other's texts.

**The Photographer's Legacy** (*A fényképész utókora*, 2004, 413 pages) The photographer of the title is deported to be killed in a Nazi death camp in 1944 because of his Jewish descent. He may no longer be present himself, but the novel concerns his legacy and specifically a photograph that he took in 1942, in which all the main figures can be seen. The photo eventually ends up in the hands of Ádám Koren, grandson of the Slovak woman who appears in the picture and we follow the story of Ádám's life right up to the present day. Rights sold to: Germany, Luchterhand – Slovakia, Kalligram





## Judit Kováts

### *Denied*

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Magveto, 2012, 255 pages

Judit Kováts's extremely anticipated, new novel – a fictive memoir based on the most authentic eyewitness-accounts of the war.

Written as a fictive memoir entirely based on authentic events, the matter-of-fact, yet captivating storytelling brings us to the front rows of the tragic and life-changing spectacle and experience of World War II Hungary, through the personal destiny of a young girl, Anna. And while doing so, in a way it also makes us seriously reflect on the necessity of finally confronting a past too long denied.

The story begins in **1942** but the teenage Anna Somlyóí and her girlfriends are more interested in love than the war. They are initially smitten with Governor Miklós Horthy's son, a young and handsome pilot, and they secretly carry his picture with them wherever they go. Platonic infatuation is eventually replaced by true love in Anna's last year at school when she loses her heart to András, a boy she has known since early childhood. Sadly, their love fails to flourish as war pulls the young couple apart.

As the front gets closer, local residents spend more and more time in underground hideaways as families try anything they can think of to keep their daughters safe from the evil clutches of Soviet troops: Anna manages to stay protected for the longest while but is eventually caught and raped on a daily basis from then on. They later take her to do "remunerative labour" from where she manages to escape several weeks later.

Judit Kováts' fascination for oral history has led her to interview eyewitnesses about the war, the front and the Russian occupation as well as kulak persecution and forced collectivization. She collected over one hundred hours of material from twenty-three interviewees and this then became vital source material for her novel, which takes the Second World War as its theme and is narrated by an eighty-five-year-old woman who was a young girl about to graduate from grammar school in 1944.

This novel presents us with a picture of the war through a girl's broken life in a way that history books and archive materials never could. Anna Somlyóí is a fictional character but all that she tells us did actually take place in Hungary during World War II.

The author's documentarist approach results in a rather minimalistic style as Kováts presents us with events and leaves us to draw our own conclusions. Facts are stubborn things: events follow on one after the other and deeds rather than theories do the talking. Everyone struggles to stay alive in what is a critically reduced existence as they try to gain even the tiniest advantage for themselves, which could mean the difference between life and death.

This book forces us to confront our past in a fascinating story with meaning of equal weight to its literary merit

Judit Kováts – a writer and historian-archivist - has had numerous academic articles published on the 19<sup>th</sup> century including several on the Age of Reform and has a particular interest in war history and military ordinance. She has had a number of essays and short stories published in various literary journals and internet portals. *Denied* is her first novel.

For further information, The Ella Sher LiteraryAgency, [ella@ellasher.com](mailto:ella@ellasher.com)

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