

The
Ella Sher
Literary Agency

A selection of titles

for all territories

The
Ella Sher
Literary Agency

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HOJAS DE DEDALERA

(**Foxgloves Leaves**)

Victoria Álvarez

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

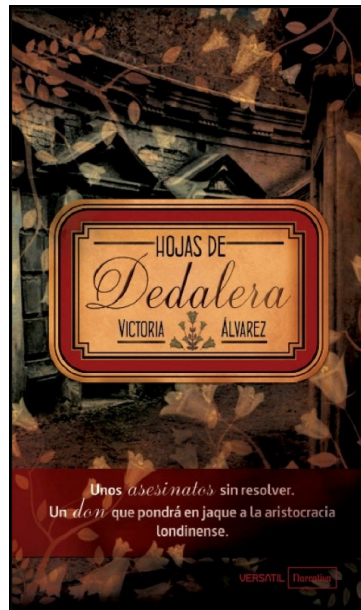
Years later, a series of mysterious accidents will turn her into the most influential medium of the British Empire.

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.



For further information, please contact The Ella Sher Literary Agency, ella@ellasher.com

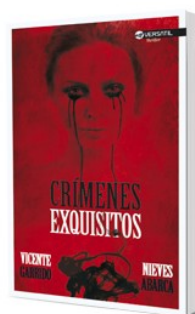
Crímenes Exquisitos .

El primer caso de la Inspectora Valentina Negro

(Exquisite crimes. The first case of Inspector Valentina Negro)

Vicente Garrido and Nieves Abarca

Ediciones Versatil, 2012, 800 pages



Inspector Valentina Negro and journalist Lúa Castro are completely different women, like day and night, but they both are impressively brave. Together with them, criminologist Javier Sanjuán will be Valentina's right hand helping her with the investigations, always without casting a shadow over Valentina's bravery and perceptiveness.

There is a serial killer who recreates sinister works of art through murders.

On the background, women's exploitation and political corruption, and a love story that is growing as the narration goes on.

This crime novel portraits with unusual realism a criminal mind, with strong elements such as eroticism and violences beyond any limit, as a demolishing portrait of corruption in the high sphere of public life.

Nieves Abarca is a journalist and she is currently studying criminology.

Vicente Garrido is a professor of Forensic Criminology and Pedagogy applied to delinquency

Daniel Moyano

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

Introduction by Mario Benedetti

Tropo Editores, 2008, 232 pages

Italian Rights: 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 can create 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.

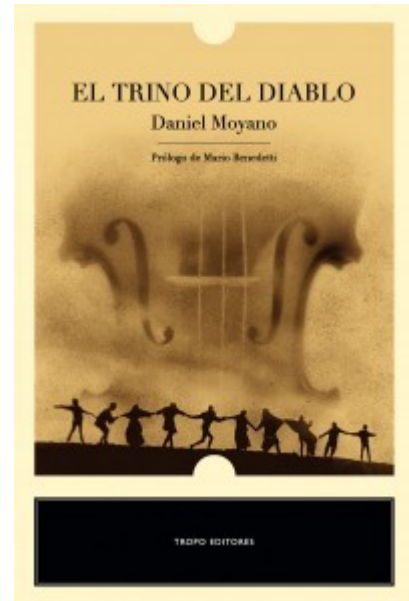
From “Tia Lila” to “Desde los parques” or “Tiernmusik”, the anecdotal detail is soon dissolved into a symbolic orchestration that brings us to the best pages written by **Pavese or Kafka**.

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



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MARC PASTOR

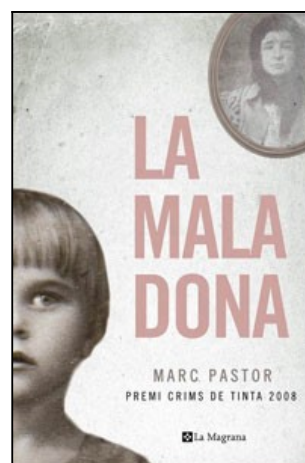
LA MALA DONA

(Bad woman)

La Magrana, Catalan, 256 pages – Crims de Tinta First Prize, 2008

Spanish – RBA; Italian – Neri Pozza; German – Lübbe

French – 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.

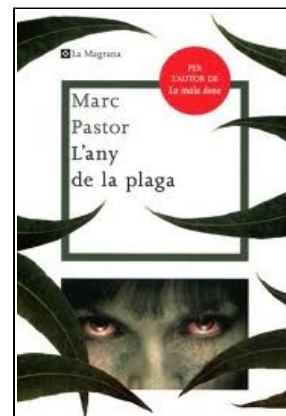
L'ANY DE LA PLAGA

(The year of the plague)

La Magrana, 2010, Catalan, 366 pages

Spanish: RBA Libros

Movie Rights: Zentropa; 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.



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 in the scientific police of Barcelona. He is currently writing his next novel.

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LA CAMARERA DE ARTAUD

(Artaud's waitress)

Verónica Nieto Foco

155 pages // Winner of the first literary prize Villa del Libro

Set in Rodez, France, during the Occupation, *La camarera de Artaud* portrays a period of time in the life of Amélie Lévy, a young woman of Jewish origins that has been admitted to the psychiatric hospital due to some personality disorder she suffered. Her life follows without any encouragement until the day Doctor Ferdière, the director, introduces her to a new patient that is a famous artist from Paris. From then on, and from when Doctor Frèdiere appoints her as Artaud's personal waitress, Amélie is able to dispel any doubts about her own identity that lie in wait for her since then, forming a tissue of memories and hallucinations that contribute to create her as a person and focus the narrative attention on the construction of her identity.

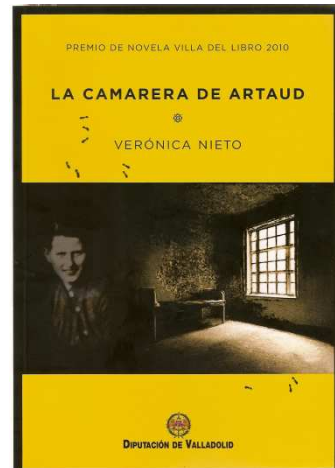
Half way between a psychological and a coming of age novel, *La camarera de Artaud* takes us, by the hand of the main character, through the life and work of one of the most versatile artists of the XX century.

Luis Mateo Díez said that *La camarera de Artaud* is “a simple but complex novel, where all historical documents have been gathered together under a style of extreme sensibility”.

Verónica Nieto Foco (Córdoba, Argentina) lives in Barcelona, where she writes and works as free lance editor.

She has written many short stories, which have been awarded with different prizes. Many of them have been included in various anthologies.

She is currently writing a new novel



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MERCEDES CEBRIÁN

La nueva taxidermia

(New taxidermy)

Mondadori, 2011, 148 pages

Swedish rights sold to Astor Forlag



La nueva taxidermia is made of two stories that center on the reconstruction of an idealized past and on the process of managing our inner selves in the complex contemporary world in which we live in.

In “*Qué inmortal he sido*” (“*How immortal I’ve been*”) the narrator and main character does her best to dissect spaces from the past in which she enjoyed something similar to happiness and she flirts with the idea of being someone else: the girl of her own past.

In “*Voz de dar malas noticias*” (“*Voice to bring bad news*”) Belinda, the main character, is also trying to be someone else, using her dolls that as “orthopedic voice”, so to explore the difficulty of being responsible of her own voice, a medium to communicate with others.

Mercedes Cebrián (Madrid, 1971) published the books *El malestar al alcance de todos*, *Mercado Común* (both in Caballo de Troya, 2004 y 2006), *13 viajes in vitro* (Blur Ediciones, 2008) and *Cul-de-sac* (Alpha Decay, 2009). Her short stories, poems and essays have been published in *Revista de Occidente*, *Eñe*, *Turia*, *Diario de Poesía*, *Quimera* o *Circumference* (Universidad de Columbia), and in anthologies such as *Mutantes* (Berenice, 2005), *El arquero inmóvil* (Páginas de Espuma, 2006), *La España que te cuento* (Funambulista, 2008) and *Pequeñas resistencias 5* (Páginas de Espuma, 2010).

She was a columnist for *Público* and she is a contributor to *El Viajero de El País* and *Cultura/s de La Vanguardia*. She translated Georges Perec, Alan Sillitoe y Alain de Botton to Spanish. Her version of *L’Infra-ordinaire* by Perec was awarded with the Mots Passants de la Universitat de Barcelona as the best translation from French, in 2008. She had a scholarship at the Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid (2002–2004) and at the Academia de España in Roma (2006–2007), and she was a visiting writer at the Civitella Ranieri Center and in the Ledig House International Writers Residency.

Jaume Benavente

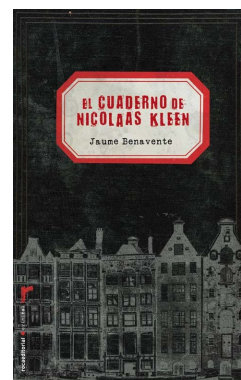
El quadern de Nicolaas Kleen // El cuaderno de Nicolas Kleen

(The diary of Nicolaas Kleen)

Columna, 2010, 360 pages

Roca Editorial, 2010, 304 pages

English extracts available



This is the first title of an atmospheric crime fiction set in Amsterdam with Marja Batelaar, a young police inspector, as its main character.

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 neighborhood. 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.

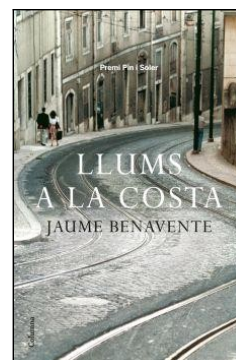
Marja can't stop thinking about it. Without any friends among the police corp, who thinks she is an intellectual, Marja steps into a world of shadows in which the city high level society and the cosmopolites are mixed with criminal interesstes and the presence of ghosts from her own past, like her brother's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

Llums a la costa // Lucas en la costa

(Lights on the shore)

Premi Pin i Soler 2006

Columna, 2007, 336 pages; Bruguera (Spanish) 2007, 384 pages



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 hale 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 lyricism.

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