



OH!BOOKS_LITERARY AGENCY

FICTION LIST _FALL 2024



SUMMARY

<i>Tenderness</i>	<u>3</u>
<i>A Simple Fable</i>	<u>4</u>
<i>Psycho-Game</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>The Penske Report</i>	<u>6</u>
<i>Wild Days</i>	<u>7</u>
Backlist	<u>8</u>

PAULA DUCAY

Paula Ducay (1996) has a degree in Philosophy and a Masters in Publishing from the Autonomous University of Madrid. She is an editor and translator and contributes to several magazines and cultural media outlets. She also co-directs the Punzadas project, a cultural space dedicated to philosophy and literature.



«A beautiful, fascinating debut by this young Spanish writer (born 1996) that we absolutely recommend for literary upmarket lists.»

Alexander Dobler, UnderCover Literary Agents

«There is an echo in the text of the atmospheres and domestic routines so well captured by Natalia Ginzburg.»

Nuria Azancot, La Vanguardia

10,000 copies sold
in seven months



Tenderness

Spain / 2024 / 120 pages / Literary Upmarket / Territory: world
Primary publisher: Altamarea

In summer, young Naima travels to Italy invited by Marco, in order to spend a few days in Marco's place, together with his family. Marco is an elder colleague with whom she has developed quite a bond oscillating dangerously between friendship and attraction. She gets to know Elisa, Marco's wife, her in-laws Aldo and Lia, and Martina, the couple's daughter. And it won't be long until some cracks open up and Naima will be dragged into a series of hideous family matters. Tensions will surface and, as the days go by, Naima will see her own indecision and ambiguities replicated in the family's behaviour.

Tenderness plunges fully into the infinite sea that hides human relationships, and explores, through precise and delicate writing, the intricacies of everything that makes us so different and yet so similar.

• English sample available

MATÍAS NÉSPOLO

Matías is an Argentine writer and journalist who has been living in Barcelona for more than two decades. He was born in Buenos Aires in 1975 and studied Literature. He has written and published in various genres: poetry, essays, novels, short stories and children's stories. His best-known novel, *Siete maneras de matar a un gato*, has been translated into English, French, Italian and Dutch, and is forthcoming in German. In 2010 Granta magazine listed him as one of the best young storytellers in Spanish. He has been a cultural journalist for *El Mundo* and *El Periódico de Cataluña* and currently writes for *La Nación*.



A Simple Fable

Spain / 2024 / 192 pages / Literary Upmarket / Territory: world
Primary publisher: Candaya

Behind the mask of a crime plot, this novel tells the story of a few days in the lives of a group of thirty-something aspiring artists who migrated from various Latin American countries to Barcelona. Now, after years have passed, tamed by the unstoppable train of daily life and the need to make a living, they find themselves at that moment when you realize your dreams are no longer going to come true—unless something happens that allows you to reinvent your future. A stash of cocaine that falls into their hands will become that last lottery ticket—an unexpected opportunity that will set them all on a journey to nowhere.

Structured in brief chapters and narrated by the protagonist, Gabriel, the novel delves into universal themes such as the abandonment of youthful dreams and rebirth after failure

and tragedy. The orality, the agility of the prose, and the dialogues, which condense a diversity of accents, make the novel a literary journey dominated by humor—sometimes dark, sometimes cynical, sometimes innocent—where echoes of authors such as Arlt, Saer, Piglia, and Di Benedetto, among others, resonate.

A novel that explores the urban precariousness, corruption, and crime that push the protagonist and his friends into a spiral of paranoia, violence, and frustrated dreams.



Seven Ways to Kill a Cat

Spain / 2009 / 218 pages / Literary Fiction / Territory: world / Primary publisher:
Libros del Lince / Sold: English (Harvill Secker / Vintage), French (Thierry Magnier), Italian (Socrates), Dutch (DeGeus) & German (Polar Verlag, forthcoming).

Buenos Aires, 2001. The economy has collapsed and people are protesting on the streets. But in the barrio, life goes on - the slums of the city are ruled by gangs, drugs and guns. Gringo and Chueco are almost adults, and joining the gang warfare that governs their community seems inevitable. Chueco thinks he can join El Jetita's gang but remain his own man, Gringo knows this can't happen - you obey the leader or else. As the two get drawn ever deeper into the turf war between El Jetita and his rival Charly, Gringo sees an alternative way of life, and love, pass before his eyes. A few days ago he and Chueco were joking about killing cats; now he's fighting to save his skin.

• English & French translations available

VERÓNICA NIETO

Verónica (Argentina, 1978) lives in Barcelona. She holds a degree in Spanish Philology from the University of Málaga and in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature from the University of Barcelona. She is the author of the novels *La camarera de Artaud*, *Kapatov o el deseo* and *Qué haces en esta ciudad*. She participated in the anthologies *Barcelona-Buenos Aires: Once mil kilómetros* (2019) and *Boleto de ida y vuelta* (2023). She edits and coordinates the humanities magazine *La Maleta de Portbou* and writes about her readings and literary impressions on her blog *Rumiar la biblioteca*.

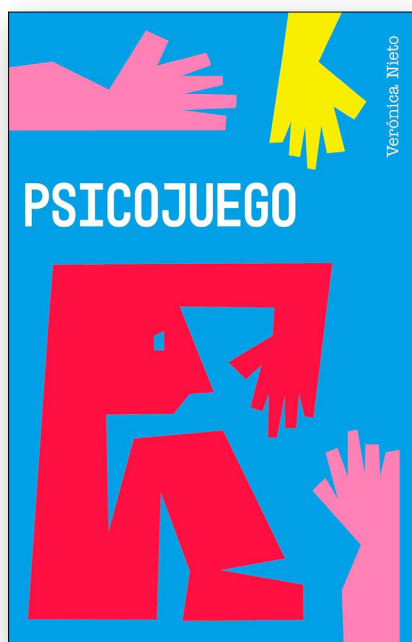


«A disturbing novel in its premise, parodic and profound, written with skill and a playful spirit, of fierce metaphorical power, shedding (digital) light on the darkness of our unconscious.»

Carlos Robles, *Kopek Magazine*

«A text that exudes dramatic tension, eroticism, moments ripe for sociological reflection, and even body horror. The codes of the thriller, science fiction, and the world of video games serve her to create an extensive treatise on our social behavior, our evolution toward beings that prioritize rationality over emotionality, our technological dependence, and the generational shift.»

Ale Oseguera, *Zenda*



Psycho-Game

*Spain / 2023 / 176 pages / Literary Upmarket Thriller/ Territory: world
Primary publisher: Salto de Página*

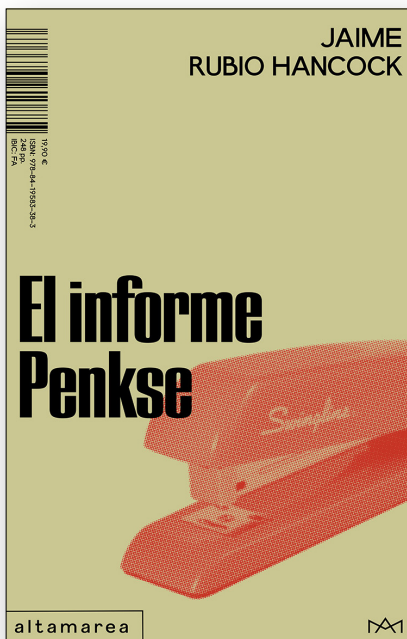
The psycho-game, a more evolved version than any other relational application that has ever existed, creates a replica of the players' unconscious and uses that material to craft scenes and scenarios. Its sophistication reaches such a point that it even seems to have a life of its own. But it seems that this creation may be making its own decisions and one of the best players, who also works for the company that developed the program, is found dead. Thus begins a criminal investigation aimed at clarifying the causes of her death. Authorities, family, the company that owns the game, friends, and the player's romantic and ex-partners all participate in it. The novel is, in fact, this investigation. The text consists of police interrogations, descriptions of the virtual scenarios in which the deceased carried out her last actions, detailing her sexual interactions; medical and psychological examinations regarding the

therapeutic possibilities of the psycho-game; and technical explanations about the functioning of the program.

A thriller that fuses the genre of anticipation through new technologies, criminal investigation, and a metaphorical reflection on the romantic and sexual relationships of our time.

JAIME RUBIO HANCOCK

Jaime (1977) is a writer and journalist for *El País* specializing in humor, philosophy and social networks. He is the author of the essays *¿Está bien pegar a un nazi?* (Is it okay to hit a Nazi?, 2019) and *El gran libro del humor español* (The great book of Spanish humor, 2022). This is neither his first novel nor his first report.



The Penske Report

Spain / 2023 / 248 pages / Novel / Territory: world / Primary publisher: Altamarea

The protagonist of this novel is an exemplary employee: he is only fifteen minutes late for work - not for lack of time, but for lack of desire - and he knows the names of almost all his colleagues, whose e-mails he sometimes even answers. His aspirations are also exemplary: driven by the desire to make a career, he decides to take part in a tough selection process in another company. After passing a crazy and bloody group test and a demanding interview with a cat, all he has to do to take up his new position is notify Human Resources of his voluntary resignation and finish writing up the Penkse report, a task he has been putting off for almost a year for just one afternoon. However, the afternoons and weeks go by, the report is still open and the editor is unable to leave an office where meetings last for months and business trips are made with Sherpas.

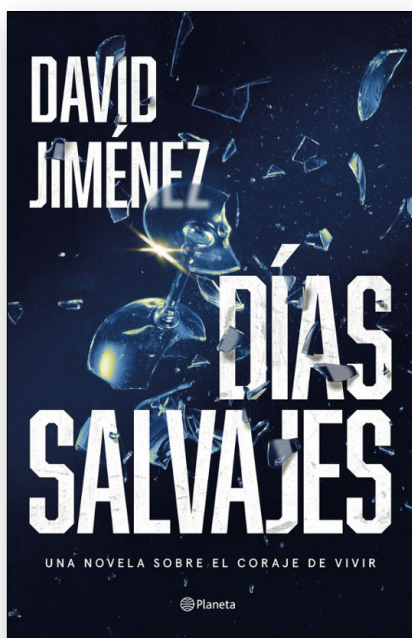
Between the Kafkaesque and the absurd, Rubio Hancock writes a hilarious novel about work and the senselessness of labor servitude. In the company of *The Penkse Report* coexist stories and characters built with a surgical comic pulse that, following the tradition of Eduardo Mendoza or Miguel Gila, highlights Rubio as one of the greatest experts in humor in our country.

DAVID JIMÉNEZ (FICTION)

Born in Barcelona in 1971 is an award-winning author and journalist, a columnist for the Spanish edition of the *New York Times* and a feature writer for *Vanity Fair*. He is a former editor-in-chief of *El Mundo*, the second largest newspaper in Spain. Praised by critics as the “Spanish Kapuściński”, he has covered conflicts, revolutions and crises in more than twenty countries. His reports have been published in *The Guardian*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Toronto Star* and *Corriere della Sera*, and he has contributed to CNN and the BBC. A Nieman fellow at Harvard University, Jiménez is the author of four books and has been translated into English, Chinese, German, Italian and Catalan.



People are fed up with the sons of bitches winning. In politics, business or journalism. One of the few reparations we are offered is justice. But what happens when it also fails?



Wild Days

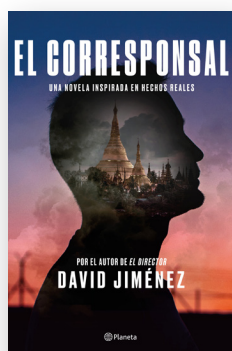
Spain / 2024 / 352 pages / Novel / Territory: world / Primary publisher: Planeta

Madrid, 2000s. The young millionaire Bosco Zabala, heir to a dynasty of bankers, causes a terrible kamikaze accident after another night of wild partying. The accident kills one of his best friends and a young working girl who was on her way to work in his car, but Bosco escapes almost unharmed. The tragedy will shake three families living in opposite worlds, link their destinies and drag them into the abyss where our most extreme feelings nestle.

What would we be willing to do to repair the fatal mistake of a child? When the system protects the powerful and fails the innocent, where are the limits in the search for justice? Can revenge soothe the unbearable pain of loss?

Wild Days is a moving novel about grief, guilt, inequality in the face of justice, friendship and the struggle against forgetting,

and also a stark portrait of an increasingly polarized and unequal Western society, where the rich control more and more levers and accumulate more and more power.



The Correspondent

Spain / 2022 / 352 pages / Contemporary Fiction / Territory: world / Primary publisher: Planeta (Spanish)
Sold: Portugal (Almedina)

Rookie journalist Miguel Bravo is sent to Burma to cover the Saffron Revolution, led by Buddhist monks. In a country on the brink, Bravo becomes entangled in the intense world of veteran foreign correspondents, filled with rivalries, dreams, and fears. When the military junta violently crushes the protests, killing dozens, Bravo witnesses the murders firsthand and has the evidence. But the journalists are confined indefinitely to their hotel in Rangoon. Bravo's friendship with the legendary, battle-worn journalist Daniel Vinton and his love for the enigmatic translator Nann Lay serve as a prelude to

a tragedy that will deeply challenge him. This novel explores the intimate world of war reporters, set against the backdrop of a country in turmoil.

• [English sample available](#)

DAVID JIMÉNEZ (NON-FICTION)

Born in Barcelona in 1971 is an award-winning author and journalist, a columnist for the Spanish edition of the *New York Times* and a feature writer for *Vanity Fair*. He is a former editor-in-chief of *El Mundo*, the second largest newspaper in Spain. Praised by critics as the “Spanish Kapuściński”, he has covered conflicts, revolutions and crises in more than twenty countries. His reports have been published in *The Guardian*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Toronto Star* and *Corriere della Sera*, and he has contributed to CNN and the BBC. A Nieman fellow at Harvard University, Jiménez is the author of four books and has been translated into English, Chinese, German, Italian and Catalan.



A combination of history, culture and geopolitical analysis that will delight anyone interested in travel, literature or Asian culture. A journey through the depths of human nature and a thrilling search for the elusive mystery of the Orient.

More than 10,000
copies sold



The Opium Diaries

Spain / 2023 / 272 pages / *Literary journalism* / *Territory: World*
Primary publisher: Ariel (Grupo Planeta) / *Sold: Russia (Alpina)*

Rudyard Kipling found doom in the brothels of colonial India; Conrad discovered in Borneo a destiny made for “men without guts” and Graham Greene was trapped between clouds of opium in the decadence of Saigon.

David Jiménez follows in the footsteps of legendary writers who were bewitched by the magic of the Orient, travels through the settings of their books and embarks on an odyssey to solve the great mystery: what is the secret that has driven travelers, explorers and writers to the East since the time of Marco Polo?

The author delves into the Burma where George Orwell lived as an imperial policeman; the China where the mythical reporter Martha Gellhorn suffered her “trip to hell” in the company of Hemingway; and the crazy Philippines described by Manu Leguineche.

Legendary war hotels, remote islands, lost worlds and fascinating characters are the protagonists of a journey in which Jiménez reveals what remains - and what has vanished - of the Asia that inspired literary figures. The result is an adventure through a continent in turmoil, a journey through the depths of human nature and a fast-paced, obsessive search for the mystery of the Orient.



More than 85,000 copies sold



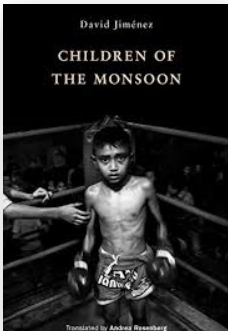
The Editor-in-chief

Spanish / 2019 / 296 pages / Journalism / Territory: world / Primary publisher: Libros del KO (Spain)
Sold: Catalan (Navona), China (Ecus Publishing Group) and Taiwan (Readers 99).

After 20 years as a war reporter and correspondent, Jiménez was appointed editor-in-chief of *El Mundo*, one of Europe's leading newspapers. He would soon discover that the hazards of the Afghan front can pale in comparison to the plotting and trickeries of the power-hungry. What seemed like an exciting challenge became a battle to defend the newspaper's independence against a political and economic establishment determined to destroy it. *El director* is a tell-all book about the secrets of those who reveal the secrets of others, a unique take on the intrigues, despairs and triumphs of a newsroom, and an intimate account of the moral tests facing an editor-in-chief, in charge of a legacy newspaper fighting for survival. A non-fiction long seller thriller that has taken the Spanish book market by storm. The book has shown it wide appeal to all audiences thanks to the writer's talent for storytelling and the strength of real-life characters that not even a novelist could have imagined.

• English sample available

• Detailed English report available

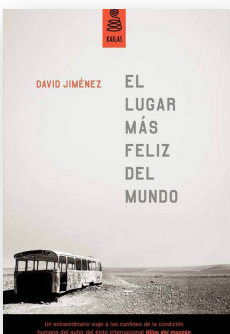


Children of Monsoon

Spanish / 2008 / 74.000 words in English / Journalism & Travel / Territory: world / Primary publisher: Kailas
Sold: English (Autum Hill), Italian (Marco Tropea), German (Campus), China (Ecus Publishing).

Prize for the Best Travel Literature Book in Spain in 2009. Haunted by the memories of the children he had met on his travels as a correspondent, Jiménez went in search of them many years later, in the hope of discovering what had become of them. The result is this exceptional account, in which we accompany Jiménez on his return to the Cambodian hospital where he last saw Vothy, a young girl with AIDS; we visit the children who survive the pitiless Mongolian winter by creating an underworld in the sewers of Ulaanbaatar; we travel to North Korea, where young Kim struggles to save his village from starvation; and we are taken to the fight rings of Thailand, where The Invincible seeks a route out of poverty by competing in brutal child boxing contests.

• English full text available



The Happiest Place in the World

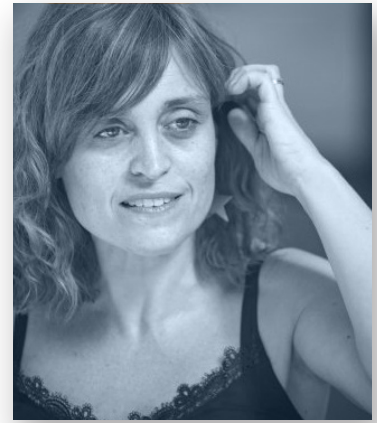
Spanish / 2013 / 57.500 words (English) / Journalism & Travel / Territory: World / Primary Publisher: Kailas
Sold: China (Ecus Publishing Group).

David Jiménez returns to the literary reportage that made *Children of the Monsoon* an international success, and takes us to a world of lost paradises, forgotten wars and unlikely heroes. "The Happiest Place in the World" is how North Korea's ruler describes his country, the most brutal and despotic tyranny of our times. This is just one of the places Jiménez visits, on an itinerary that takes him from the Cambodian prison that houses the country's most dangerous child-abusers, to the remote kingdom of Bhutan, where he witnesses the arrival of television. Or to Japan, where he hangs out with yakuza who are eager to erase their tattoos and abandon a life of crime, and spends three days alone in a deserted Fukushima, following the nuclear accident in that city. It is often in the midst of darkness, in places that appear to have lost hope, where the author encounters the most fascinating individuals and witnesses acts of bravery that allow us to believe that a better world is possible. This book is at once a detailed guide to reporting and a perceptive portrait of the human condition.

• English sample available

LAURA GONZALVO

Laura Gonzalvo (Mataró, 1978) has followed an interdisciplinary path that straddles the publishing world, communication and marketing. After working for ten years as editor and in charge of communication in several publishing houses, in 2010 she began to collaborate with Batec Mobility, a company that was born out of the needs of Laura's husband, Pau Bach, who is an inventor and businessman with a spinal cord injury, and has become an international benchmark in the field of mobility aids for people with disabilities. In 2020 Batec Mobility was sold to a multinational investment fund and Laura decided to return to what she considered "her thing": books.



The List of Impossible Things

Spain / 2022 / 352 pages / Inspirational fiction / Territory: World / Primary publisher: Columna Edicions (Catalan). Sold: Spanish (Plataforma)

Guim is a teenager who, at 18 years old, suffers a serious accident that leaves him tetraplegic. Clara was his partner until six months before the accident, when Guim decided to break up with her. From the painful moment Guim goes through, things will change drastically for both of them, not only for Guim due to his new condition and the apparent impossibility of achieving all the dreams he used to fantasize about, but also for Clara, who will now live a life marked by Guim's difficulties and the need to live out his dreams for him. A story of overcoming, love, and life. It is not a melodramatic novel,

but rather a story in which disability is just one element. Young readers may identify more with Clara, but high school teachers and others who influence young people's reading choices will also appreciate the literary quality of the text. Furthermore, the novel will appeal to adult readers who identify with life in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

• [English sample available](#)

• [Grants for translation and promotion available](#)

BEATRIZ GARCÍA GUIRADO

Beatriz (Barcelona, 1983) is a journalist, screenwriter, and teacher. She has published the novels *The Silence of the Sirens* (2016) and *The Hollow Earth* (2019), for which she won the Amaltea Award for Best Fantasy Novel, and is co-author of *Ballard Reloaded* (2023), an essay-fiction on the British writer. Her stories and articles have appeared in anthologies such as *The Great Book of Satan* (2021) and *Hidden David Lynch* (2022). Heir to a long tradition of often invisible Spanish magical and weird realism, she has also coordinated the anthology *They, the Strangers* (2023), dedicated to publicizing the work of Spanish female authors of weird literature.

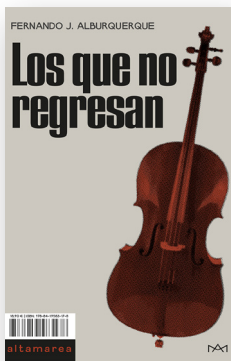


Cold Feet

Spain / 2022 / 210 pages / Literary Noir / Territory: world / Primary publisher: Sloper

Harry Butterfly Santana, a death row inmate, relives his past through visits from various people, including his daughter and former officer Olivia Wendley. His memories come in flashes like nightmares: his childhood in El Paso del Escorpión, his stepfather's millenarian sect, and his love for the enigmatic Deanna Grinner. A fire turns him into a fugitive, and an "angel" incites him to commit violence. Is Deanna dead? Was it his fault? Shortlisted for several prestigious literary prizes in Spain, this novel is a fantastical and nightmarish noir sprinkled with black humor, violence, and death that haunts the landscape of American border stories.

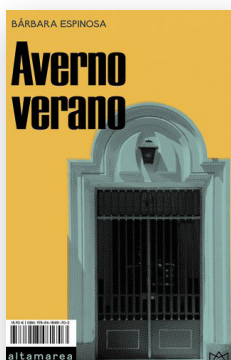
FICTION (SELECTED BACKLIST)



Those who do not Return

Spain / 2022 / 200 pages / Noir / Territory: world / Primary publisher: Altamarea

After a career of twenty-five years and "a heart hardened by life", Ben Vargas is constantly wrapped in a cloud of blue smoke of Ducados and always has a glass of Lagavulin next to him. He is an old detective that reluctantly embodies the cliché of the investigator. Towards the end of 1987, the visit of the wife of a wealthy estate developer does not seem like an unusual case to him. However, the woman brings a cassette tape that will launch Vargas into an unexpected investigation. Esoterism, mystery and class struggle, the harsh reality of the streets and the pretentious false image of the high class: despite the apparent incompatibility of the two spheres that coexist with no communication in the big city, at the end everything is connected in the cold and hostile Madrid of the novel, that does not represent the festive and mythical image of the eighties.

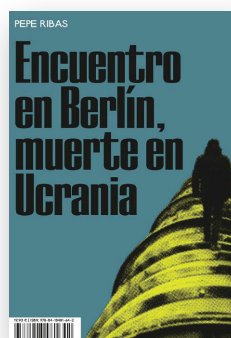


Hell of a Summer

Spain / 2022 / 200 pages / Contemporary Fiction / Territory: world / Primary publisher: Altamarea

Madrid rises relentlessly in August as a city in ruins. It does not collapse, but phagocytizes everything in its path to form a single cemetery of souls and rubble. All the cracks are exposed, material and human. An underground current in this novel unites the most diverse characters from the new to the old world, who flee from the past, the present, and from an unwanted future, from places that trap them between their jaws and refuse to release them. A father, a philologist disguised as a stewardess, an opponent of a good family, a mother and a son who escaped from Colombian poverty.

- [English sample available](#)

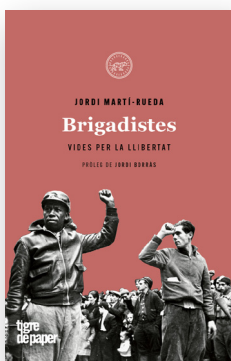


Berlin Meeting, Ukrainian Death

Spain / 2022 / 272 pages / International thriller / Territory: World / Primary publisher: Altamarea

Ernesto Usabiaga is a young Chilean activist, son of a tortured woman, who leaves his country. He settles in Berlin, a city which brings him the possibility of starting a new life and discovering the secret family history. The geopolitical chessboard of the old Sovietic bloc, the refugee drama due to wars, the family love and the search of the individual and collective identity are the essence of this novel -at the same time a hectic story about espionage and a brutal journey along the last hundred years of the European and South American history- inviting us to refresh our memory and follow reconciliation.

- [English sample available](#)



Brigadistas. Lives for Liberty

Spain / 2020 / 160 pages / Narrative non fiction / Territory: World / Primary publisher: Tigre de paper (Catalan) / Sold: English (Pluto Press)

Brigadistas gives us 60 stories on those who took part in the International Brigades. They could be fictional material but the tales are real. And they tell us how during the epic events of the Civil War people loved, dared, and were scared. They wanted to cry and even laugh. Keeping their memories alive is more necessary than ever.

- [English full text available](#)
- [Grants for translation and promotion available](#)

FICTION (SELECTED BACKLIST)



As Long as We Could

Spain / 2021 / 208 pages / Literary Novel / Territory: World / Primary publisher: Altamarea

Eve Friedman is an old playwright who lives by her own leading a very routine-driven life based in a chaotic apartment in the heart of Manhattan. When she meets Jorge, a young foreign guy who has come to New York to find success as a screenwriter, her world shakes abruptly. An intimate story that talks openly and through a delicate writing about complex issues such as intergenerational friendship, senility and death. High writing quality: the style is clean, surprising, full of pathos to explain an intimate and tender story that talks about topics that are not very common in literature such as senility, intergenerational friendship, Alzheimer and both physical and mental decay.

• English sample available

• Optioned for a film adaptation



An Ending

Spain / 2021 / 176 pages / Dystopian Literature / Territory: World / Primary publisher: Raig Verd

A scientist is locked in a laboratory, obsessed with finding the definitive formula for the product that has subjugated society: pills that contain human experiences to feel other people's emotions and experiences. Consumer society, unable to create or produce, has broken the mechanism that made it work. Man has replaced his capacity to imagine, cooperate and share with a selfish and insatiable thirst for a superior experience. The cult of the self is also reflected in the body, in the possibility of changing any part of oneself, and ceasing to be in order to "appear to be". The determination to live the lives of others causes the opposite effect: the other no longer exists, no longer matters.

• English sample available

• Grants for translation and promotion available



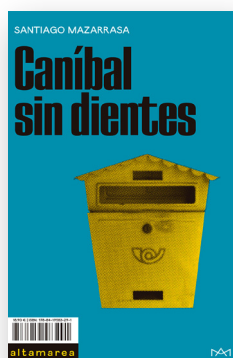
Sex Beyond the Norms

Spain / 2022 / 352 pages / Adult fiction / Territory: World / Primary publisher: Rayo Verde

From a feminist perspective, we offer erotic literature that is beyond the norm but normal in a compilation of erotic stories that respond to the diversity of sexuality and eroticism in society. These twelve literary pieces deal with themes such as consent, onanism, partner swapping, gender ambiguity, individual freedom, exploration, consent, adventure and rediscovering your lifelong partner. We avoid the phallogocentric sex of porn, we get closer to more real stories and more related to reality with characters that captivate us with their aspirations, desires and ambitions.

• English sample available

• Grants for translation and promotion available



Toothless Cannibal

Spain / 2023 / 196 pages / Literary Fiction / Territory: world / Primary publisher: Altamarea

Mr. Roguera is a self-inducted decadent renowned writer, that lacks ambition but not inspiration. Tired of the publishing industry but not of writing, he receives the letter of an impertinent admirer: a writer aspirant that works in a post office, and has sent with the message, what it seems to be a manuscript. At first, the letter surprised the author, but then it felt close, even intimate and made the dedicated author realize about the futility of his occupation, his moral miseries and his most unconfessed fears. This book dissects the relationship among the aspirant, the successful author and his assistant, Mrs M., who will be the connection between the two. Mazarrasa constructs a sharp and absorbing debate about the existence of limits and the price of literary ambition.



OH! BOOKS LITERARY AGENCY
LLUÍS ANTÚNEZ 6, 2ND FLOOR
08006 BARCELONA (SPAIN)

JUANJO BOYA
juanjoboya@ohbooks.es
(34) 656 392 482

OH!BOOKS_LITERARY AGENCY

FICTION LIST _FALL 2024