

# MB

## London Book Fair 2012

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## JUAN LUIS ARSUAGA

Dr. Arsuaga (Madrid, 1954) is a Paleoanthropologist and Professor of Human Paleontology in Madrid, Visiting Professor at the University College of London and co-director of excavations at Sierra de Atapuerca (World Heritage Site). Premio Príncipe de Asturias 1997, Member of the American National Academy of Sciences, Member of the Musée de l'Homme of Paris and vice-president of the Commission of Human Paleontology of the International Union Quaternary Research. He is a regular contributor to *Nature*, *Science*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and editor of the *Journal of Human Evolution*. He is a regular lecturer at the universities of London, Cambridge, Berkeley, New York, Tel Aviv, Zurich, among others.

Dr. Arsuaga's books have enjoyed tremendous success and been widely translated. Among his books, one should mention *El collar del neandertal* (Temas de Hoy, 1999), *La especie elegida* (Temas de Hoy, 1997) –a perennial best-seller– *Amalur: del átomo a la mente* (Temas de Hoy, 2002), *El enigma de la esfinge* (Areté/Plaza&Janés, 2001), *Los aborígenes* (RBA, 2002, Sent Soví Award 2002), *El mundo de Atapuerca* (Plaza&Janés, 2004) and his first novel *Al otro lado de la niebla* (Suma, 2005). Following *La saga humana* (Edaf, 2007), he has written a book for children: *Mi primer libro de Prehistoria* (Espasa, 2008) and, for adult readers, *El reloj de Mr. Darwin* (Temas de hoy, 2009), in which he analyzes *On the Origin of the Species* on the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's revolutionary text. His latest book is the graphic novel *Elemental, queridos humanos* (Temas de hoy, 2010), with illustrations by renowned graphic artist Forges.

«Arsuaga's viewpoint comes as a refreshing and instructive contrast to much of the English-language literature (...) [his works] should be read by anyone interested in their own origins and our extinct relatives.» Dr. Ian Tattersall, Curator in the Dpt. of Anthropology, *American Museum of Natural History*, NY

**El collar del neandertal** (*The Neanderthal's Necklace*). Why did the Neanderthals suddenly disappear? Members of a parallel human race that evolved in Europe over hundreds of thousands of years, they provide a surprising mirror of humanity. The struggle between Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons, our ancestors, lasted thousands of years. In this tale of life and death and the awakening of human awareness, Juan Luis Arsuaga depicts the struggle for survival of two clashing species. Only one is to survive.

Sold to: (Spain, Temas de Hoy / Club: Bertelsmann / Pocket: Temas de Hoy / Catalan: Columna); (Brazil, Editora Globo); (Croatia, Izvori); (France, Odile Jacob); (Germany, Europa Verlag); (Holland, Wereldbibliotheek); (Italy, Feltrinelli); (Japan, Shinhyoron); (Portugal, Gradiva); (UK, John Wiley & Sons); (US, Four Walls Eight Windows)

## JOAN BARRIL

Joan Barril (Barcelona, 1952) has published thousands of editorials, features and stories in the most important Catalan and Spanish newspapers and has been the recipient of many literary awards. Among his books, one should mention, *Parada obligatòria* (Planeta, 1998, Ramon Llull Prize 1998), *Tots els ports es diuen Helena* (Empúries / 62 1999, Ramon Muntaner Prize 1998), *Gairebé una parella* (Planeta, 2001), *Certes mentides* (Columna, 23 d'Abril Prize 2002), *Sobre l'amor* (Edicions 62, 2007), *100 Contes morals* (Amsterdam Llibres, 2008). Following *Sobre els plaers* (Edicions 62, 2009), he published *201 contes corrents* (Ara Llibres, 2009). His novel, *Les terres promeses* (Edicions 62, 2010), won the Sant Joan prize, the third highest endowed award for Catalan literature. His latest novel is *El caçador d'ombres* (Edicions 62, 2012).

**El caçador d'ombres** (*The Shadow Hunter*). Lluís Soley is the proprietor of a Catalan family business. He is approaching fifty, and recently things haven't been going so well - his parents have died and cracks are starting to show in his marriage. He knows he has to start a new life, but doesn't dare face up to it. Suddenly, an offer of a multi-million buyout solves his dilemma. At the same time, a scientist who is about to take part in a trip across the Sahara is kidnapped. Desperate to feel something and in need of a reason to live, Lluís Soley embarks on a journey across Africa to rescue the scientist. With the help of his father's old personal secretary, soon more people become involved in this adventure. *El caçador d'ombres* restores the idea of travel and fiction as spaces where one can live life to the full. A novel about the second chances life offers us, and the need to know oneself in order to face up to them and decide what to do.

Sold to: (Spain, Edicions 62 – Catalan)

**Les terres promeses** (*The Promised Land*). Robert Miranda is a Barcelona native who makes his living laundering money. When preparing to make his final delivery and retire, a hurricane disrupts air traffic and Robert is caught, along with other passengers, at the airport in Cayo Tendido, a small island in the Cuban archipelago. During the long hours of waiting, Lucia, an old woman of Cuban descent, explains the events that occurred on that same island over the last week of 1958, when Fidel Castro was about to enter Havana.

Sant Joan Novel Award 2010

«A work of maturity.» Lluís Muntada, *El País*

«A perfect novel.» Sam Abrams, *El Mundo*

«A historical fresco of the 20th century: from major disasters and from its hopes and contradictions. A deep reflection on individual causes and the great collective cause.» Ana M. Moix

Sold to: (Spain, Edicions 62 - Catalan / Ediciones B - Spanish)

## NURIA BARRIOS

Nuria Barrios (Madrid, 1962) is an author and PhD in Philosophy. She has published the book of poems *El hilo de agua* (Algaida, 2004), which won the Premio Ateneo de Sevilla; the novel *Amores patológicos* (Ediciones B, 1998); a book of short stories *El zoo sentimental* (Alfaguara, 2000) and a travel book, *Balearia* (Plaza y Janés, 2000). She has also participated in several anthologies of short stories. Her works have been translated to Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, Croatian and Esperanto. She contributes to the literary supplement of *El País*. As a columnist, she has been awarded by the Fundación Mastia. Her latest work is the long-awaited novel *El alfabeto de los pájaros* (Seix Barral, 2011) and has been short-listed for the Troa Award to the Best Fiction Book with Values 2012.

**El alfabeto de los pájaros** (*The Alphabet of the Birds*). Nix is six years old, she was born in China and she's adopted. She loves her family very much, but the pain of being abandoned torments her. Only the stories her mother invents makes her feel better. But the pain always returns. The little girl believes that the secret of happiness lies in the belly in which we live before we're born and that, in order to be happy, she must return to the womb of her Chinese mother, the place where it all began. Only by going back to the beginning will she be able to learn who she is, to make sense of her new life and finally be able to eliminate the angst of so many unanswered questions. But the journey isn't possible. Or is it?

A novel about what it means to be an adopted child, about forgetting and remembering, about the ferocious wounds provoked by abandonment and about the moving strength of love. But above all, it's a novel about the power of the imagination.

«An amazing multicultural fable.» Margarita Rivière, *El País*

«For the first time, a novel that deals with adoption. A beautiful mixture of poetry, stories and a novel, written with exquisite sensitivity. The best kind of fiction.» Ricard Ruiz Garzón, *Qué Leer*

«A good novel that needs no other adjective.» J.M. Pozuelo Yvancos, *ABC*  
 «Rarely is the power and generosity of love told with such tenderness, as it is in this soothing novel about the power of words and the imagination.» Guillermo Busutil, *Mercurio*

Sold to: (Spain, Seix Barral / Pocket, Booket)

## JOAN - DANIEL BEZSONOFF

Joan-Daniel Bezsonoff (Perpignan, 1963) is a teacher of Catalan language in Perpignan and writes for *El Punt* and *El País*. His first novels were published by the Rossellonese publisher Trabucaire until Empúries took over to great literary success and published *La presonera d'Alger* (2002), *La guerra dels cornuts* (2004, winner of the Just M. Casero Award 2003 and the Mediterranée Prize 2004), *Les Amnésies de Déu* (Empúries 2005, winner of the Salambó, Crexells and Maria Àngels Anglada awards), *Els taxistes del Tsar* (Empúries, 2007) and *Un país de butxaca* (Empúries, 2010). After *Una educació francesa* (L'Avenç, 2009), his latest work is *La melancolia dels oficials* (Empúries, 2011).

**La melancolia dels oficials** (*The Soldiers' Melancholy*). France fighting to keep its Algerian territories at the end of the Fifties is the historical setting for this novel. A tragic story of love and espionage in which the reader will discover the horrors and miseries of war. The author takes us from Algiers to Paris, Tangiers to Frankfurt, always with an ironic, tender gaze and, through the modest stories of anonymous people, reveals little-known aspects of the Algerian war in a tale full of perfume, colours and laughter.  
 «A good novel. Modern and attractive.» Julià Guillamon, *La Vanguardia*

Sold to: (Spain, Empúries – Catalan)

**Els taxistes del tsar** (*The Taxi Drivers of the Tsar*). This is a family chronicle that tells us of a Russia which has been lost to history. Researching the life of his grandfather, Joan-Daniel Bezsonoff explores the contradictions that are involved in a spirit divided among three nations: Russia, France and Catalonia.

«An interesting, entertaining novel.» Antoni Puigverd, *El País*

«Bezsonoff is part of the best Catalan narrative of the new century.» Ricard Ruiz Garzón, *El Periódico*

Sold to: (Spain, Empúries – Catalan / Barril & Barral - Spanish)

\*\* FRENCH SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE \*\*

## JUAN BONILLA

Juan Bonilla (Jerez de la Frontera, 1966) is the author of the following short story collections: *El que apaga la luz* (Pre-Textos, 1994), *La compañía de los solitarios* (Pre-Textos, 2000), *La noche del Skylab* (Espasa Calpe, 2000), *Je me souviens* (Algaída, 2005), a special homage to G. Perec, *El estadio de mármol* (Seix Barral, 2005) and the compilation *Basado en hechos reales* (Berenice, 2006). As a novelist, he has published *Nadie conoce a nadie* (Ediciones B, 1996), which was made into a very successful film, and *Cansados de estar muertos* (Espasa, 1998). *Los príncipes nubios* (Seix Barral, 2003), his latest novel, was awarded the Premio Biblioteca Breve 2003 and the Prix littéraire des Jeunes européens 2009, and has been widely translated. After the publication of *Tanta gente sola* (Seix Barral, 2009), a selection of stories, his latest book is *El tiempo es un sueño pop* (RBA, 2012), a biography of the Spanish writer Terenci Moix that was awarded the Gaziel Biographies and Memoirs Award 2012.

**El tiempo es un sueño pop. Vida y Obra de Terenci Moix** (*Time is a pop dream. The life and work of Terenci Moix*). Terenci Moix was one of the most-read and best-loved authors of his age. He started out as an enfant terrible who revolutionised the Catalan literary scene with the publication of seven books (novels with a fiery eroticism that also took a long, hard look at the Catalan middle classes, while documenting the 'pop generation' the author belonged to). However, he ended up as the author whose Egypt novels remained at the top of the best-seller lists for months. How did he move from being an avant-garde writer to a commercial one? What's more, his life was full of extravagant, impassioned, almost implausible episodes and formidable cities: London in the Swinging Sixties, Paris before May 1968, and a Rome in which Moix counted Pasolini as a lover and people like Rafael Alberti and Elsa Morante as friends, and where he discovered that the true avant-garde was to be found in the classical world. Juan Bonilla searches for Moix in his books, in accounts for those who knew him, in the cities he spent time in, from his childhood as a spoilt little boy in the Raval neighbourhood of Barcelona to his later years when a smoking-related disease prevented him from taking more than ten steps in a row, and rehabilitates the figure of a writer who is in no way merely the super-seller he became, and whose power as a writer – obscured by his own spectacular life-story – remains as fresh as it was at the outset.

Sold: (Spain, RBA) – just published

**Los príncipes nubios** (*The Nubian Icons*).

«Intelligent, witty, graceful and original.» J.A. Masoliver, *La Vanguardia*  
 Sold to: (Spain, Seix Barral / Club: Bertelsmann / Pocket: Booket); (France, Galaade Éditions); (Germany, Rogner & Bernhard); (Holland, Bruna / Signature); (Italy, Frassinelli); (Portugal, Temas e Debates); (Russia, Inostranka); (World English, Metropolitan / Pocket: Picador)  
 Film rights sold to: Liam 2004 Films LLC

## JAVIER CALVO

Javier Calvo (Barcelona, 1973) is a novelist, screenwriter, translator, and literary critic. *Risas Enlatadas* (Mondadori, 2001), his literary debut, was followed by his first novel, *El Dios Reflectante* (Mondadori, 2003), which cemented his reputation as one of the most original and provocative voices of contemporary Spanish literature. His next work was the short-story collection *Los ríos perdidos de Londres* (Mondadori, 2005). *Mundo Maravilloso* (Mondadori, 2007) was short-listed for the Fundación José Manuel Lara Novel Award to the Best Book of the Year 2008 according to Spanish publishers. After the publication of the novel *Corona de flores* (Mondadori, 2010) and the novella *Suomenlinna* (Alpha Decay, 2010), his latest published title is the novel *El jardín colgante* (Seix Barral, 2012), winner of the Biblioteca Breve Award.

**El jardín colgante** (*The Hanging Garden*). In the midst of the rainy autumn of 1977, the Spanish Transition is in full force but all the attention of the newscasts is focused on the recent fall of a meteorite. Meanwhile, Lao Aristides, a socially awkward agent with a prodigious mathematical mind, along with his assistant, Meliton Muria, are appointed to combat the TOD, a left-wing terrorist organization. Their mission is to locate and contact with Teo Barbosa, an undercover agent who's quite close to gain the trust of the guerrilla armed leaders. But plans drastically change when Lao has a great and crazy idea that will bring along unimaginable consequences. Transgressive and provocative, *El Jardín Colgante* proves how Javier Calvo is becoming one of the strongest Spanish narrators. With this novel the author adds a completely new dimension to the Contemporary Spanish narrative while maintaining his distinct style and the powerful singularity of great writers.

«A combination of intrigue, history, parody and purpose that hooks the reader.» Jordi Gracia, *El País*

«Calvo is a pure writer.» Ángeles López, *La Razón*

«A novel that should finally propel Calvo's work beyond the constellation of cult authors.» Milo J. Krmpotic, *Qué leer*.

Sold to: (Spain, Seix Barral / Club, Círculo); (France, Galaade)

**Corona de flores** (*The Wreath of Flowers*).

«Protean and virtuoso.» C. Brendlé, *Le Matricule des Anges*

«A beautiful walk.» I. Fontaine, *Courrier de l'Ouest*

Sold to: (Spain, Mondadori); (France, Galaade / Pocket, Livre de Poche); (Italy, Baldini Castoldi)

**Mundo maravilloso** (*Wonderful World*).

«Surreal, sexy, wildly funny and wretchedly excessive (...) has all the earmarks of a cult favorite in the making.» Booklist – Starred Review  
 Sold to: (Spain, Mondadori / Pocket: DeBolsillo); (France, Galaade); (Italy, Fanucci); (World English, HarperCollins)

## NICOLÁS CASARIEGO

Nicolás Casariego (Madrid, 1970) is author of the novel *Dime cinco cosas que quieres que te haga* (Espasa Calpe, 1998), the books of stories *La noche de las doscientas estrellas* (Lengua de Trapo, 1999) and *Lo siento, la suma de los colores da negro* (Destino, 2007) and the essay *Héroes y antihéroes en la literatura* (Anaya, 2000). In addition, he has published stories in various anthologies and newspapers, travel articles for *El País* and *El Mundo*, and is co-scriptwriter of several feature films. *Cazadores de luz* (Destino, 2005), his second novel, was finalist for the Nadal Award 2005. He is also author of the children's books *Marquitos detective* (SM, 2007) and *Marquitos caballero* (SM, 2009). After the novel *Anton Mallick quiere ser feliz* (Destino, 2010), his latest title is *Carahueca* (Temas de hoy, 2011), a movie tie-in book of the screenplay he co-wrote for Clive Owen's new project, *Intruders*. The film, that has been directed by Juan Carlos Fresnadillo and produced by Universal Pictures, was released worldwide in Fall 2011.

**Carahueca** (*Hollowface*). Seven-year-old Juan lives in Madrid. In his nightmares he is attacked by a faceless intruder, and his mother Luisa can do nothing to stop it. Meanwhile Mia, a twelve-year-old girl from London, reads to her classmates the mysterious story of a monster named Hollowface. Separated by thousands of miles but closely linked through fear, both families will have to face that the intruders are already inside their homes and won't leave till they get what they want from their children. A horror fast-paced, dark, claustrophobic plot that reflects on the destructive power of guilt and fear.

«A powerful novel, which moved me despite knowing the denouement. The humanity of its characters transcends their fears and our own.» Juan Carlos Fresnadillo, director of *Intruders*

«A cleverly constructed chiller from Spanish screenwriters Nicolas Casariego y Jaime Marques that succeeds in creating a polished psychological drama that should sustain the appeal of Spanish scary movies in the global market.» Allan Hunter, *Screendaily*

Sold to: (Spain, Temas de Hoy)

**Anton Mallick quiere ser feliz** (*Anton Mallick Wants to Be Happy*). An action-packed book, with a refreshing tone, a sharp outlook and, above all, plenty of humor, Casariego offers us an extremely comical novel about the hilarious search for happiness following the usual recipes. A delicious story about love, relationships and family secrets.

Sold to: (Spain, Destino), (World English, Hispabooks)

## MARIO CUENCA SANDOVAL

Mario Cuenca Sandoval (Sabadell, 1975) is a writer and high school teacher. He lives in Córdoba, where he is a professor of philosophy. He has published the poetry collections *Todos los miedos* (Renacimiento, 2005), *El libro de los hundidos* (Visor, 2006), and *Guerra del fin de sueño* (La Garúa, 2008). As a fiction writer, he is the author of the novels *Boxeo sobre hielo* (Berenice, 2007) and *El ladrón de morfina* (451 Editores, 2010), that has received praise from many critics.

**El ladrón de morfina** (*The Morphine Thief*). This story takes place in Korea, in the heart of war. On a night in 1951, Flaco Bentley, one of 187 airborne recruits from the United States, descends by parachute over the battlefield, eight thousand miles from home. In the war, he's found death and horror, sure, but also a Colombian angel; an officer-artist who draws tanks with his typewriter; and morphine-traffickers and sex. And he understands that whenever there are two levels of war—one fought in the trenches, at ground level, and another up high—the result is hallucination, intoxication, and the curse that forces us to ask ourselves what we want and who we are: an added punishment, because it is always the case that we want what we cannot have and we are what we had not even suspected. In the end each man fights his particular battle in the field of desire and identity.

«He has an immense literary talent, writes like a master, his prose is of the highest quality, he is at a level of the literary greats (and I speak not of the best in Spain, but the best in general) (...) This is literature. This is the literature. This is the literature of the twenty-first century.» Andrés Ibañez, *ABC*

«A wonderful novel.» María José Obiol, *El País*

«Captures an atmosphere of violence, irrationality, absurdity, terror, and anguish in the vein of the greatest pages of anti-war and anti-military literature.» Santos Sanz Villanueva, *El Cultural*

«A splendid, hypnotic, demanding, and hallucinatory revisitación of the horror of Joseph Conrad, sampled from Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* and Denis Johnson's *Tree of Smoke*.» Ricard Ruiz, *El Periódico*

Sold to: (Spain, 451 Editores); (France, Passage du Nord-Ouest)

## CRISTINA FALLARÁS

Cristina Fallarás (Zaragoza, 1968) is a journalist and a writer. She has worked as a journalist for newspapers, radio and TV, among others: *El Mundo*, *El Periódico de Cataluña*, *ADN*, *Cadena Ser*, *RNE*, *Antena 3 Televisión* and *Cuatro Televisión*. Currently, she works as a consultant on online communication issues for the publishing sector and the media. Her books published to-date include: *La otra Enciclopedia Catalana* (Belacqva, 2002); *Rupturas* (Urano, 2003); *No acaba la noche* (Planeta, 2006); and *Así murió el poeta Guadalupe* (Alianza, 2009), shortlisted for the International Dashiell Hammett Prize for Detective Fiction. Her novel, *Las niñas perdidas* (Roca, 2011) is the winner of the L'H Confidential International Noir Novel Prize 2011. Her story *The Severed Hand* was published in the US anthology *Barcelona Noir* (Akashik Books, 2011). Her latest work is *Últimos días en el puesto del Este* (DVD, 2011) awarded with the City of Barbastro LXII International Short Novel Prize.

**Últimos días en el puesto del Este** (*Last Days at the Eastern Post*) 'I've been asked to write a blurb for the jacket of this devastating novel. What can I say? That it's a post-apocalyptic novel whose brave author has imagined that, rather than some vague nuclear catastrophe, the cause of the disaster is instead the violent global victory of Catholic fundamentalism? Should I say that those who love definitions will not be able, try as they might, to classify this apocalyptic-engagé-emotional-politically-radical-tender-anticlerical-melancholic-beautiful novel? No. All I can say to you is that if you consider yourselves 21st-century readers and you believe in the literature of ideological resistance, and are interested in novels that ask profound questions it's frightening to answer, then this is the novel for you.' Fernando Marías

Sold to: (Spain, DVD)

**Las niñas perdidas** (*The Lost Girls*). There is another Barcelona: the one far removed from tourism and fashion. It is in this other, villainous city that detective and ex-journalist Victoria González moves confidently. And being heavily pregnant doesn't make it any easier. Victoria or Vicky was born in the suburbs and has her office in the neighbourhood of El Chino, is five months gone and has a case of two dead little girls on her hands. Dead and tortured. Her faithful friend Jesús warns her it's not the case for her, not in her condition. The commissioner says the same, as does her instinct. But this is enough for her not to give up. Winner of L'H Confidential International Noir Novel Prize 2011. «An intense and merciless novel.» Lilian Neuman, *La Vanguardia* «A dark, very dark and bitter novel that almost sweats blood through its pages.» Milo J. Krmpotic, *Qué Leer*

Sold to: (Spain, Roca)

## MIGUEL GALLARDO

Miguel Gallardo (Lleida, 1955) lives and works in Barcelona. As a press illustrator, he is a regular contributor to *La Vanguardia* and various other magazines and publications both in Spain and abroad, including *The Herald Tribune*, *The NYT* and *The New Yorker*. Among other titles, he has published *Tres viajes* (Edicions de Ponent, 2006) and *Un largo silencio*, a graphic novel about the Spanish Civil War (Edicions del Ponent, 1997 – soon to be reissued by Astiberri). *María y yo* (Astiberri, 2007) won the National Book Award granted by the Catalan government and was shortlisted for the Goya Award to the Best Documentary. His latest works are *Emotional World Tour* (Astiberri, 2009), with co-author Paco Roca, and *La fuga de la Modelo* (La Cúpula, 2009).

**Emotional World Tour.** A couple of years ago, Miguel Gallardo and Paco Roca each published a graphic novel (*Arrugas* and *María y yo*), both of which reached a huge readership. This book, which started as a simple journal of a joint book tour, ended up as a very meticulous album with high doses of healthy rivalry. An unexpected graphic novel with the makings of a blockbuster.

Co-author: Paco Roca

Sold to: (Spain, Astiberri); (Italy, Tunué)

**María y yo** (*María and I*). In this tender and amusing memoir of a summer vacation with his autistic daughter, the author uses his expertise as an artist to communicate with her through his drawings and tell us a beautiful story, thus shattering most of the clichés about children with autism. A revealing and cathartic read.

**AWARDS:** National Award of the Catalan government. Best Work and Best Script at the Barcelona International Comic Book Fair

«A moving and candid work, but also an amusing and ironic one.» E. González, *El País*

Sold to: (Spain, Astiberri); (France, Rackham); (Germany, Reprodukt); (Italy, Comma 22); (Poland, Egmont); (Portugal, Asa BD); (Russia, Guprus)

Film rights sold to: Bausan Films / Director: F. Fernández de Castro

\*\*SAMPLE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE\*\*

## MARCOS GIRALT TORRENTE

Marcos Giralto Torrente (Madrid, 1968) is author of the book of stories *Entiéndame* (Anagrama, 1995), which was his celebrated literary debut, the novel *París* (Premio Herralde de Novela 1999, published by Anagrama), and the novella *Nada sucede solo* (Ediciones del Bronce, 1999). *Los seres felices* (Anagrama, 2005) was his second novel. *Tiempo de vida* (Anagrama, 2010), his third novel, has been acclaimed both by critics and readers and it's in its 5<sup>th</sup> reprint. His latest book is the collection of short stories, *El final del amor* (The End of Love - Páginas de espuma, 2011), winner of the International Short Fiction Award Ribera del Duero 2011, the highest endowed award for story collections in Spain.

**Tiempo de vida** (*Life Time*). Narrative, even when trying to imitate life, is fictional. An artifice. With this premise in mind, Marcos Giralto Torrente confronts a universal subject in this true story: the death of his father. Using his concise prose, the author manages to turn his own experience into everybody's experience. The result is a truly moving book that will comfort and knock you down at the same time. A life inventory in which nearly nothing is left unsaid and –due to this honesty- showing life like it is: with its sadness and crossroads but also with its joyous discoveries. Marcos Giralto Torrente has written a great book. A brave and beautiful confession that will not go unnoticed.

Shortlisted for the National Critics Prize 2011 and Las Américas Award 2011 for the best literary work published in Spanish and English

«A superb book.» Javier Cercas, *El País*

«Perfect and essential.» Rodrigo Fresán

«An excellent book, a great life lesson.» A. Caballé, *ABC*

«Very sophisticated, very literary, and with unusual sincerity. A text, to some extent, curative.» Rosa Montero, *El País*

«Beautiful, elegant, brave and damn well written, with heart and soul in each grammatical sentence.» A. López, *Qué Leer*

«A novel full of truth, intense and stark, without any of the topics that frequently follow books about families.» J.A. Masoliver Ródenas, *La Vanguardia*

Sold to: (Spain, Anagrama); (Portugal, Teodolito)

\*\* SAMPLE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE\*\*

**El final del amor** (*The End of Love*)

International Short Fiction Award Ribera del Duero 2011

Sold to: (Spain, Páginas de Espuma); (US, McSweeney's)

**París.** Sold to: (Spain, Anagrama / Club: Bertelsmann / Pocket: Compactos); (France, Balland); (Germany, Luchterhand); (Greece, Diigisi); (Italy, Fazi); (Portugal, Teorema); (World English, Hispabooks)

## JAVIER GUTIÉRREZ

Javier Gutiérrez (Madrid, 1974) has a degree in Economics from the Complutense University in Madrid. He has worked as an economist and publisher. He currently spends most of his time writing. He is the author of the novels *Lección de vuelo* (Ópera Prima, 2004. New Narrators Prize) and *Esto no es una pipa* (Salvador García Aguilar Prize, 2009). He is also the winner of the 2008 José Saramago Short Fiction Award and finalist of the 2010 Tiflos Short Story Collection Prize, which he entered under the pen name Rubik, in reference to the creator of the famous Rubik's Cube.

**Un buen chico** (*A Nice Guy*)

"It's ok," - Polo tells himself-, "everybody has a past".

And it's true, everybody has a past. But seriously, Polo, no one keeps in their past what you keep.

Polo runs into Blanca, an old friend, on a street in Madrid. What begins as a casual conversation soon results into an extremely painful trip into the past and a horrifying revelation of devastating consequences.

A raw, intense and fascinating story that reveals itself through multiple conversations and recollections, in a perfect clockwork mechanism that engages the reader from the very first page. Violent and lyrical at once, *Un buen chico* is a rare display of literary ambition and a deeply disturbing read.

«Violent and lyrical at the same time, a hypnotic and deeply disturbing novel.» Benito Garrido, *Culturamas*

«Much darker than it seems at first (...) a hypnotic, disquieting descent into the depths of guilt and desire.» Andrea G. Bermejo, *El País*

«A hundred-and-forty-page cliffhanger with an interesting story about the need to free oneself from the past.» E. Rodríguez Luque, *NEO2*

«A novel that approaches horror through triviality, and which is more striking for what it does not say than for what it does; a living painting made up of almost overwhelmingly subtle brushstrokes. In Gutiérrez we have a great writer who is trying to reach an audience who traditionally have been aesthetically disregarded: those born in the 1970s.» Guillermo Ortiz, *Sigueleyendo.com*

Sold to: (Spain, Mondadori); (Italy, Neri Pozza)

## NAJAT EL HACHMI

Najat El Hachmi Buhhu was born in Morocco in 1979 and from the age of eight she has lived in Spain. She has a degree in Arab Studies from the University of Barcelona. In 2004 she published a book entitled *Jo també sóc catalana* with Columna. Her first novel *L'últim patriarca* (Planeta, 2008) won the Ramon Llull Prize 2008 and the Prix Ulysse. It was also shortlisted for the Prix Méditerranée étranger 2009 and has been published in 11 languages. Her latest novel is *La caçadora de cossos*, published by Columna and Planeta in Catalan and Spanish respectively.

**La caçadora de cossos** (*The Body Hunter*). A woman hunts for bodies. She collects all different kinds from many different sources, because she believes this is what fulfils her and makes her free. However, something is wrong; she's not happy. The protagonist of this novel is really a woman who hunts in order to flee herself, and it is only when she meets a man who simply watches and listens to her that she starts to realise what is happening to her. Gradually she sheds these hunted bodies and comes to discover her own - desired and desiring, loved and loving. And it is then that she will be ready to learn that hers is a story of infinite love.

With the strength, sensuality and freshness she demonstrated in her first novel *L'últim patriarca*, Najat El Hachmi presents us with a magnificent feast for the senses and confirms herself as the most interesting and original voice of her generation.

«The text, in its freeing exploration of a socially turbid sexuality, is incredibly valiant; and its style shines for its powerful adroitness. A greatbook.» Jordi Gracia, *El País*

«Attractive, original, contemporary and strong.» Sam Abrams, *El Mundo*

Sold to: (Spain: Columna-Catalan - Planeta-Spanish / Club, Círculo); (UK, Serpent's Tail)

**L'últim patriarca** (*The Last Patriarch*).

«A story that skillfully blends drama and comedy, seriousness and humour.» Pierre-Robert Leclercq, *Le Monde des Livres*

«El Hachmi's narrative poise, humour and fresh, unrepressed language turn her painful subject matter into a pleasure to read.» Michael Eade, *The Independent*

«A wonderful and necessary book which comes at the right time. Najat El Hachmi shows in her autobiographical novel how to overthrow a patriarch: through literature.» Ernst von Osterkamp, *Frankfurter Allgemeine*

Sold to: (Spain: Planeta - Catalan and Spanish / Pocket, LaButxaca); (Arabic World Rights: Tatany Book Services); (France, Actes Sud / Club, Le Grand Livre du Mois); (Germany, Wagenbach); (Holland, Orlando); (Italy, Newton & Compton); (Portugal, Planeta Manuscrito); (Romania, Curtea Veche); (Turkey, Sel Yayinlari); (World English, Serpent's Tail).

TV Film Rights sold to: Diagonal TV

## USE LAHOZ

Use Lahoz (Barcelona, 1976) is a novelist. His career began with *Leer del revés* (El Cobre, 2005), honoured at the Festival du Premier Roman de Chambéry (France). In 2009 he published *Los Baldrich* (Alfaguara, 2009) to both critical and popular acclaim, followed by his third novel, *La estación perdida* (Alfaguara, 2011). He has published the poetry collections *Envío sin cargo* (Renacimiento, 2007) and *A todo pasado* (Prames, 2010). His most recent work is a children's book, co-authored with Josan Hatero, *Volverán a por mí* (La Galera, 2012). The book won the 2011 La Galera Young Readers Prize.

**La estación perdida** (*The Lost Station*). This is a story of the love between a go-getter and a one-man woman. An unexpected piece of news disrupts Santiago Lansac's life. He is forced to leave his small village and make his way first in Madrid, later in Barcelona, and then wherever fate takes him, in a long journey full of adventures that sees him cross paths with people whose intentions he fails to figure out in time. In the face of so much misfortune, only love can save him. *La estación perdida* is a story of losers, but above all a human drama with unforgettable characters: Santiago, a likeable madman, tormented by fear and his own scatterbrained personality, and Candela, the personification of naivety, strength and unconditional love in a time when women were taught to serve. In supple, precise prose with no shortage of humour, Use Lahoz describes the changes Spain suffered in the second half of the 20th century through his antiheroes who are forced to emigrate to be launched into the unknown in a novel full of feeling.

«An uncommon ability to write powerful fiction.» S. Sanz Villanueva. *El Cultural*

«Tender, profound and beautifully articulated.» B. Gutiérrez, *Qué leer*

«A novel about innocence and forgiveness.» Gustavo Martín Garzo

Sold to: (Spain, Alfaguara); (Holland, Karakter)

**Los Baldrich** (*The Baldrichs*). Jenaro Baldrich has had clear goals from an early age: to have a family, set up a business in crumbling post-war Barcelona, and get as close to the top as he can. Nothing will stop him from achieving his aims, even if he forgets the dream of a stable, close family on the way. A bittersweet tale of 20th century Spain with all the mastery of the great classic sagas.

«An elegy to a generation.» E. Ayala Dip, *El País*

«An entertaining, exciting read.» J.A. Masoliver Ródenas, *La Vanguardia*

«His prose fluctuates between the two nineteenth-century poles of Balzac and Pérez Galdós, but filtered through the prism of the Young British Novelists.» J. Alonso Prieto, *Quimera*

Sold to: (Spain, Alfaguara)

## JOSÉ CARLOS LLOP

José Carlos Llop (Palma de Mallorca, 1956) is the author of two books of short stories: *Pasaporte diplomático* (El Aleph, 1991) and *La novela del siglo* (Premio NH for the Best Book of short stories 1999, El Aleph, 1999). He has published six books of poetry and is the author of five volumes of Diaries. As a novelist, he has published: *La cámara de ámbar* (Muchnick, 1996), *El informe Stein* (Muchnik, 1995 – RBA, 2008; Prix Écureuil de littérature étrangère 2008), *Háblame del tercer hombre* (El Aleph, 2001) and *El mensajero de Argel* (Destino, 2005). *París: suite 1940* (RBA, 2007) is his latest novel. His latest published work is *En la ciudad sumergida* (RBA, 2010), an essay on Mallorca with 9 reprints to date.  
«The Spanish Modiano.» Bruno Corti, *Le Figaro*

**En la ciudad sumergida** (*In the Submerged City*). José Carlos Llop rescues a city that no longer exists – Palma de Mallorca in the 60s and 70s- confronting it with its 21st Century counterpart, where the climate is becoming tropical and Miquel Barceló's sea creatures invade the cathedral. Llop, in this pages, traces the sentimental memory of Palma de Mallorca back to when Jean Seberg and Robert Graves were strolling round its streets; when Llorenç Villalonga would spend his days in the Café Riskal; the American marines were on patrol and Lou Reed's music could be heard –in certain bars- in the small hours of the morning. A city of Palma that was also the scenario of the slow death of the local nobility; with tourism altering the «natural» order of things. A subtle, complex and cultivated panoramic of the city that was; now buried beneath the city that succeeded it.

«The latest and most beautiful book about Palma de Mallorca by José Carlos Llop, the most elegant man writing in literature today.» Arturo Pérez-Reverte

«A beautiful elegy of a city.» Javier Goñi, *El País*

«A mesmerizing book.» Anna Caballé, *ABC*

Sold to: (Spain, RBA); (France, Jacqueline Chambon/Actes Sud)

### **El informe Stein** (*The Stein Report*)

Prix Écureuil de littérature étrangère 2008.

«A masterpiece.» Bruno Corti, *Le Figaro*

«A little book by a great talent.» *L'Express*

Sold to: (Spain, RBA Editores); (Arabic rights, Naufal -Hachette Antoine); (France, Jacqueline Chambon / Actes Sud); (World English, Hispabooks)

### **París: suite 1940** (*Paris: suite 1940*).

«Only the greats can achieve such a feat, and Llop is definitely in that category (...) a masterpiece.» Olivier Mony, *Sud Ouest*

Sold to: (Spain, RBA); (France, Jacqueline Chambon / Actes Sud)

## PEDRO MAIRAL

Pedro Mairal (Buenos Aires, 1970) is a professor of English Literature. His first novel, *Una noche con Sabrina Love* (Clarín-Aguilar, 1999, Anagrama 2001), was made into a film by Alejandro Agresti and was widely translated. Adolfo Bioy Casares, Augusto Roa Bastos and Guillermo Cabrera Infante recognized Mairal's writing as one of the most original voices of Latin American literature and awarded him the Premio Clarín. He is also the author of the book of short stories *Hoy temprano* (Clarín-Aguilar, 2001) and the novel *El año del desierto* (Salto de página, 2010). In 2007 he was included by the jury of Bogotá39, among the best Latin American authors. *Salvatierra* (Emecé, 2008 / El Aleph, 2010) is his most recent work of fiction.

**Salvatierra.** At the age of nine, Juan Salvatierra became mute following a horse-riding accident. At twenty, he began to secretly paint a series of long rolls of canvas in which he minutely detailed life in his coastal village. After the death of Salvatierra, his children travel to Buenos Aires to deal with their inheritance: an enormous apartment packed with painted rolls...one of which is apparently missing... An intrigue of family secrets that are buried in the past and cast their shadows on the present.

«Surprising symbiosis between matter and form. Pedro Mairal is my personal discovery of this publishing year.» J. Ernesto Ayala-Dip, *El País*

«One of the most interesting writers of contemporary Hispanic-American literature (...) shows the talent of an extraordinary writer.» Marco Kunz, *Quimera*

«An impressive novel, sensual and absorbing, built on a labyrinth of mysteries and revelations.» J. A. Masoliver Ródenas, *La Vanguardia*

«Talent, observational skills, charm and a sense of humor are put to the service of a crisp and wise narrative. All of which show that you can tell a consistent story, of powerful and epic pitch, in 140 pages.» Ernesto Calabuig, *El Mundo*

Sold to: (Spain, El Aleph / Latin America, Emecé); (France, Payot Rivages); (Germany, Hanser); (Holland, Athenaeum); (Italy, Bollati Boringhieri); (Turkey, Sel)

### **El año del desierto** (*The Year of the Desert*).

«An excellent—truly excellent—novel.» J. Ernesto Ayala-Dip, *El País*

Sold to: (Spain, Salto de Página); (France, Payot & Rivages); (Greece, Polis)

**Una noche con Sabrina Love** (*A Night With Sabrina Love*). Sold to: (Latin America, Clarín - Spain, Anagrama); (France, Payot & Rivages); (Germany, Droemer); (Italy, Mondadori); (Poland, Bertelsmann); (Portugal, Texto Editora)

Film rights sold to: Patagonik / Director: Alejandro Agresti

## IGNACIO MARTÍNEZ DE PISÓN

Ignacio Martínez de Pisón (Zaragoza, 1960) is the author of several novellas (*La ternura del dragón*, 1984; *Antofagasta*, 1987; *El fin de los buenos tiempos*, 1994 and *María bonita*, 2000); short story collections (*Alguien te observa en secreto*, 1985; *Foto de familia*, 1998) and novels (*Nuevo plano de la ciudad secreta*, 1992; *Carreteras secundarias*, 1996 and *El tiempo de las mujeres*, 2003) all of them published by Anagrama. *Enterrar a los muertos* (Seix Barral, 2005) won the Rodolfo Walsh and Dulce Chacón Prizes. Next he published the novel *Dientes de leche* (Seix Barral, 2008) and two volumes of stories: as a writer, *Aeropuerto de Funchal* (Seix Barral, 2009) and as an editor, *Partes de guerra* (RBA, 2009), a compilation of stories by different authors that aspires to be the great collective novel of the Spanish Civil War. His latest work, the novel *El día de mañana* (Seix Barral, 2011), has been awarded the Letras Aragonesas 2011 Prize and the Ciutat de Barcelona Spanish Fiction Award 2012.

**El día de mañana** (*The Day After Tomorrow*). Justo Gil is a recent immigrant who has settled in Barcelona, a bright, ambitious young man who, swept along by the swings of fortune, ends up becoming an informer for the Brigada Social, the regime's secret police. A dozen memorable characters narrate how they met Justo at some point in their lives and what their relationship with him was like. Their testimonies make up a kaleidoscopic vision of the changing reality of the 1960s and 1970s, while telling the story of the breakdown of an individual whose behaviour and progression help us understand this fundamental chapter of Spain's recent history - the Transition to Democracy.

Winner of the Ciutat de Barcelona Award 2011. Shortlisted for the European Book of the Year 2011

«One of the best narrators of his time. This is perhaps the finest novel he has written, if not the most indispensable.» Javier Cercas, *El País*

«A book to devour and revisit.» J.A. Masoliver Ródenas, *La Vanguardia*

«His best novel yet.» J.M. Pozuelo Yvancos, *ABC*

«Between Marsé and Mario Vargas Llosa.» *Esquire*

Sold to: (Spain, Seix Barral); (Holland, Bruna/Signature); (Poland, Bona); (Portugal, Teodolito)

**Dientes de leche** (*Milk Teeth*).

«An honest chronicler and narrator. A realist interested in truth and in reality.» Katharina Döbler, *Book Reporter*

«What's interesting about his stories is how war and dictatorship affected the private sphere of Spanish society at that time.» *Frankfurter Allgemeine*

Sold to: (Spain, Seix Barral / Club, Bertelsmann / Pocket, Booket); (Brazil, Record); (France, Éditions du Rocher); (Germany, Hoffmann und Campe); (Holland, Bruna / Signature); (Italy, Guanda); (Portugal, Teorema)

## ISMA PRADOS

Isma Prados (Sabadell, 1976) is a very well-known cook, writes for newspapers and magazines, hosts daily radio and TV programs and publishes books on cooking... His very personal way of introducing ordinary people to both healthy and delicious -though not necessarily expensive- Mediterranean cuisine in an easy way has gained him a cult following. He is presently alternating his television collaborations with articles and recipes for diverse newspapers and magazines, and is applying his experience as a chef and his academic training as an engineer to designing a series of innovative cookery utensils.

He is the author of six cookbooks. His latest published title is *iCook. Manual de cocina para emancipados* (Planeta, 2012), his most comprehensive book to date.

**iCook. El manual de cocina para emancipados** (*iCook. A Recipe Book for Independent People*). You can have a balanced diet based on popular products that won't break the bank, and which can be bought in one weekly trip to any supermarket and won't mean you're short of anything or have to throw food away that's gone off. This book is a guide to nutritional independence with clear, easy-to-apply ideas. Along the way you will learn what is really necessary in a kitchen, good habits for feeling comfortable in a tidy space and the correct way to use cling film, knives and a microwave. All the cooking techniques here are designed to get the best out of the nutrients in our food and are for cooking three-course meals in under fifteen minutes. A real manual for knowing what to eat and how to prepare it.

«A new, fresh, practical guide to start cooking from the beginning.» Ferran Adrià

Sold to: (Spain, Planeta) – just published

## JORDI PUNTÍ

Jordi Puntí (Manlleu, 1967) is a writer, translator and a regular contributor to the Spanish & Catalan press. In 1998 he published his first book of short stories, *Pell d'armadillo* (Proa, 1998) which won the Critics' Prize Serra d'Or. Puntí confirmed his literary standing with *Animals tristos* (Empúries, 2002), published in 7 languages and turned into a film twice. After publishing his first novel *Maletes perdudes* (Empúries, 2010), that has won several awards and is a huge bestseller with 7 reprints to date, his latest title is a collection of articles, *Els castellans* (L'Avenç, 2011).

**Maletes perdudes** (*Lost Luggage*) tells of the crossed destinies of an impossible family. Christof, Christophe, Christopher and Cristófol are brothers, sons of the same father and four very different mothers and none of them know about the existence of the others. They live in Frankfurt, Paris, London and Barcelona. Their father, Gabriel, abandoned them when they were little and they never heard from him again. One fine day, the secret comes out and the brothers get together for the first time. The brothers reconstruct their father's life step by step, above all his job as a lorry driver between Spain and the rest of Europe. These trips enabled him to support his gloomy existence under Francoism and the same voyages enabled Gabriel to have several sons – the «Cristóbales» - all divided by European geography.

**AWARDS:** 2011 National Critics Award fo Catalan Fiction, Bookseller Award, 2010 awarded by the Catalonia Booksellers Guild, Joaquin Amat-Piniella Award 2010 and Lletra d'Or Award 2011

«The best contemporary prose available.» V. Pagès Jordà, *El Periódico*

«Thrilling. Don't miss it.» M. Obiols, *El País*

«Marvellous.» J. Llavina, *El Mundo*

«Uncommon excellency, confirms Puntí's talent.» R. Senabre, *El Cultural*

«The power of fiction when facing history.» J. Guilamón, *La Vanguardia*

«Very near perfection...» T. Vall, *Qué Leer*

Sold to: (Spain, Empúries - Catalan, / Salamandra - Spanish); (Albania, Botime Dudaj); (Brazil, Rai Editora); (Bulgaria, Ciela); (China, Shanghai 99 Culture Consulting Co. Ltd); (France, Le serpent à plumes); (Germany, Kiepenheuer & Witsch); (Holland, Mouria); (Israel, Kinneret); (Italy, Mondadori); (South Korea, Sapiens 21); (Portugal, Teorema); (Romania, Curtea Veche); (UK, Short Books)

**Animals tristos** (*Sad Animals*). Sold to: (Spain: Catalan, Empúries / Spanish, Salamandra); (Bulgaria, Ciela Soft); (Croatia, Naklada Mlinarec & Plavic); (France, Le Serpent à Plumes); (Germany, Kiepenheuer & Witsch); (Italy, ISBN Edizioni); (Portugal, Teorema).

Film rights sold to: (Spain, Films de la Rambla / Director: Ventura Pons)

\*\* SAMPLE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE FOR BOTH TITLES\*\*

## FÉLIX ROMEO

Félix Romeo (Zaragoza, 1968 / Madrid, 2011) started his literary career in 1995 with the celebrated novella *Dibujos animados* (Plaza & Janés, 1996; Anagrama, 2001) which was awarded the Ícaro Award. *Discothèque* (Anagrama, 2001) was his second book and was followed by *Amarillo* (Plot, 2008). Félix Romeo was a regular contributor to the Spanish cultural media. He died prematurely at the age 43, leaving an unpublished manuscript about a friend he met in Torrero's prison, where he was arrested for be a draft-dodge, on 1994 and 1995. The manuscript has just been published as a posthumous novel entitled *Noche de los enamorados* (Mondadori, 2012).

**Noche de los enamorados** (*Night of the Lovers*). Condemned for disobedience, Romeo served his sentence in Torrero jail where he shared a cell with Santiago Dulong, who told him of how his wife died during a fight. *Noche de los enamorados* is a reconstruction of those events. 'This is not a judgement because the dead cannot be judged, and Santiago Dulong died ten years ago. Nor is it the impossible defence of a victim, because offences against the dead cannot be atoned for. And nor is it an essay on justice. All I can do is to write these words: on what appeared in the newspapers, on what the sentence reflected, on freely available legal documents, and on the memories I have of the words spoken by Santiago Dulong, clouded by time and by a bad smell.' Félix Romeo

«A powerful blend of forensic science and stark urban poetry. A shocking book. Félix Romeo read, collected and listened to what was written and what was left out, and it is all enveloped in the surgical precision of his writing style, the only light in the story.» J. Ernesto Ayala-Dip, *El País*

«*Noche de los enamorados* exists in a genuinely fantastic territory, and confirms once again the originality and strong literary pulse of an author who was prematurely taken from us.» Ricardo Senabre, *El Cultural*

«A kaleidoscope that teaches the reader that only literature can truly nurture the truth.» J.M. Pozuelo Yvancos, *ABC*

Sold to: (Spain, Mondadori)

## FERNANDO ROYUELA

Fernando Royuela is a lawyer and he works in Madrid. Has published the novels *El prado de los monstruos* (Lengua de Trapo, 1996) and *Callejero de Judas* (Lengua de Trapo, 1997) as well as several short stories and books of poetry. The success of his novel *La mala muerte* (Alfaguara, 2000) confirmed his place among the most talented writers of his generation and earned him the prestigious Ojo Crítico Award for the best novel of the year. He then published *La pasión según las fieras* (Alfaguara, 2003) and *Violeta en el cielo con diamantes* (Alfaguara, 2005). After publishing the collection of short-stories *El rombo de Michaelis* (Alfaguara, 2007), and the children's book *Lo que comen los ratones* (Alfaguara, 2008), his latest book is his long awaited new novel *Cuando Lázaro anduvo* (Alfaguara, 2012).

**Cuando Lázaro anduvo** (*When Lazarus Walked*). Lazarus, a dull bank employee and family man, dies in the emergency room of a hospital. A few hours later he comes back to life. His sisters, Marta and María, are at his side. With the 21st century in full swing, no one can quite take in this genuine resurrection, which has unimaginable consequences for everyone in the man's life. They all become inextricably involved in a bewildering situation, and can do nothing but confront it. Each person does so in their own way, through denial, lies, or using what has happened to their own advantage.

In this novel, using the framework of the biblical figure of Lazarus and employing in his customary humour, Fernando Royuela orchestrates a biting social satire. The portrait of a society overwhelmed by apathy, stupidity and the perversion of evidence.

«In his assuredly baroque style, Royuela proves he possesses an extremely wide vocabulary. He is a master of metaphor and rhetoric.» Miguel García-Posada, *Blanco y Negro Cultural*

Sold to: (Spain, Alfaguara) – to be published in May

## JUANJO SÁEZ

Juanjo Sáez (Barcelona, 1972) is a professional cartoonist and a star of the new scene in Barcelona. After studying art and design and launching his first fanzine, he wrote and illustrated several advertising campaigns for various international brands, such as Nike. He is also a regular contributor to various newspapers and magazines. After *Buenos tiempos para la muerte* (Morsa, 2000), in 2001 he published his first illustrated book for children, *Dentro del sombrero* (Kókinos, 2001). *Viviendo del cuento* (Mondadori, 2004) earned him the Junceda Illustration Award to the best book. His next book, *El Arte. Conversaciones imaginarias con mi madre* (Mondadori, 2006), reached the best-seller list and continues to enjoy tremendous success –with 8 reprints to date. He has created the animated TV series *Arròs covat*, winner of an Ondas Prize 2010, whose second season has just been released. His latest books are *Yo* (Mondadori, 2010) and the first volume of *Arròs covat* (Mondadori, 2010), the graphic novel based on his TV series.

**Arròs covat** (*You're Past your Due Date*). Xavi is a young designer, cool and successful, who lives with the girlfriend of a lifetime. He thinks he's happy, that he is completely in love with his girlfriend, but lately he can't stop looking at other women, especially at Luz, who becomes the object of his desire. His friendship with Luz causes a crisis that will lead the couple to rethink their lives both personally and professionally. Xavi has just turned 30 and has a bitter feeling that he's past his prime...

Winner of the Ondas Award 2010 to the best animated TV series

Sold to: (Spain, Mondadori); (TV Rights - Animated TV series: Catalan – Escándalo Films / Spanish – TNT Films)

**El Arte. Conversaciones imaginarias con mi madre** (*Art. Imaginary Conversations With My Mother*). Straddling the line between essay, autobiography and novel, Juanjo Sáez reconstructs some of the most interesting chapters in the History of Art. However this is no pompous, dogmatic academic text, but rather the complete opposite. Through an imagined conversation with his mother, Juanjo Sáez invites the reader to reflect on art's purpose and on the figure of the artist. Calder, Picasso, Warhol, Dalí, Duchamp all appear in this sui generis trip through art history that calls *idées reçues* into question and reveals that we can all enjoy art. A fabulous blend of a daring essay with an educational graphic novel.

«Passionate and stimulating (...) A book for reading and immediately rereading.» N. Ancion, *Le Nouvel Observateur*  
«Success!» C. Dupont-Monod, *Marianne*

Sold to: (Spain, Mondadori); (Brazil, Martins Fontes); (France, Rackham); (Italy, Salani)

\*\* SAMPLE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE\*\*

## MÀRIUS SERRA

Màrius Serra (Barcelona, 1963) has published more than 7.000 crossword puzzles, 3.000 articles, numerous books of narrative and several works of wordplay, among them *Verbàlia* (Empúries, 2000), the winner of the Octavi Pellissa Prize, the Serra d'Or Prize and the Lletra d'Or Prize. Serra has won the City of Barcelona Prize for the book of stories *La vida normal* (Proa, 1998). He is also the author of the novels *L'home del sac* (Columna, 1990 – Bromera, 2011), *Mon Oncle* (Proa, 1995, FEC Prize), *Ablanatanalba* (Edicions 62, 1999), *Monocle* (Empúries, 2008) and has written a non-fiction novel *De com s'escriu una novel·la* (Empúries, 2004). He holds a trilingual website dedicated to puns and wordplay ([www.verbalia.com](http://www.verbalia.com)) and is a regular contributor to the media. He has also published the novel *Farsa* (Columna, 2006), winner of the Ramon Llull Award, and the collection of articles *Enviar i rebre* (Columna, 2007). After the extremely positive reception of *Quiet* (Empúries, 2008), his latest published books are *Dicciomàrius* (LaButxaca, 2010), *Verbàlia 2.0* (Empúries, 2010) and a book for middle-grade readers, *L'arca de Babel* (Estrella Polar, 2012).

**Quiet** (*Still*) covers seven years in the life of the author's son Lluís, Lullu, who was born with serious brain disease which neurological science has been unable to define. Seven years after his birth, medical terminology has not got beyond 'brain disease of unknown origin'. Popular language manages with the fairly clear 'cerebral palsy' and administrative language sums him up as 85% disabled. At home these labels count for little. Lluís has his own particular needs, but this just means being more aware of his fragility and learning to do things differently, so that the family can do anything they would have done if he had not come into the world with 15% ability. In *Quiet* the author has searched for a narrative way of explaining the ambivalent emotional state that is caused by having a son who is not progressing adequately.

«A book that has impressed Spain.» M. Speich, *Grazia*

«Beyond its testimonial nature, this is a great book of narrative.» Julià Guillamon, *La Vanguardia*

«There are not too many books that may change your way of seeing the world. I had that unique feeling with *Quiet*.» E. Folch, *El Periòdic*

«Mixing anger and rage, but also empathy and tenderness, using the narrative distance, the style in its nakedness and absence of sentimentality, works very well.» Jordi Gracia, *El País*

Sold to: (Spain, Empúries - Catalan / Spanish, Anagrama / Club, Bertelsmann); (Italy, Mondadori); (South Korea, Prunsoop Publishing)

\*\* SAMPLE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE\*\*

**Farsa** (*Farce*). Sold to: (Spain, Planeta – Catalan & Spanish); (Italy, Neri Pozza); (Romania, RAO)

## JORDI SOLER

Jordi Soler was born in 1963 in La Portuguesa, a community of Catalan Republicans located in the jungle of Veracruz, Mexico. He has published books of poems, story collections, and the following novels: *Bocafloja* (Grijalbo-México, 1988), *La Corsaria* (Grijalbo-México, 1996), *Nueva Aquitania* (Alfaguara, 1999), *La mujer que tenía los pies feos* (Alfaguara, 2001), *Los rojos de ultramar* (Alfaguara, 2004) and *La última hora del último día* (RBA, 2007). He currently lives in Barcelona, the city his family fled after the Spanish Civil War. He is also a regular contributor to several newspapers. is one of the books that this author has devoted to his family, who were forced to emigrate to Mexico upon the outburst of the Spanish Civil War. His most recent books are the novels *La fiesta del oso* (Mondadori, 2009), *Diles que son cadáveres* (Mondadori, 2011) and *Salvador Dalí y la más inquietante de las chicas yeyé* (Mondadori, 2011) a collection of non fiction pieces.

**Diles que son cadáveres** (*Tell Them They're Corpses*). After wandering for months in the cafes of Paris, having already experimented with peyote in Mexico, the French poet Antonin Artaud traveled to Ireland in 1937. It was his foolish idea the genuine walking stick of Saint Patrick needed be restored to the Irish people. More than half a century later in Dublin, a diplomat and lover of Artaud's poetry, together with a debauched Irish poet and an old millionaire embark on a crazy journey to Northern Ireland in the embassy's official minibus, with a most unexpected outcome. Jordi Soler's most enjoyable, hilarious novel yet shows off his talent and boundless sense of humour.

«A fascinating literary exercise.» Enrique Vila-Matas, *El País*

«A humorous and symbolic story that becomes a parodic and playful artifact, extraordinarily effective (...) Simply hilarious.» J. Ferrer, *La Razón*

«One of the most delicious works I have laid eyes upon in recent months.»

Miguel Barrero, *Qué Leer*

Sold to: (Spain, Mondadori); (France, Belfond)

**La fiesta del oso** (*The Bear's Party*).

«There is not one superfluous line. The evocative power of the text is amazing. Jordi Soler is, first and foremost, a poet.» X. Houssin, *Le Monde*

«Skillfully blending fiction and reality, memory and imagination with a magnificent style and a highly personal tone, the novel manages to both fascinate and move us at once.» Delphine Peras, *Lire*

«A marvellous novel.» Javier Cercas, *El País*

Sold to: (Spain, Mondadori); (France, Belfond / Pocket, 10/18); (Germany, Knaus)

**La última hora del último día** (*The Last Hour of the Last Day*).

Sold to: (Spain, RBA / Catalan, La Magrana); (Brazil, Record); (France, Belfond / Pocket, 10/18)

## RAMÓN SOLSONA

Ramon Solsona (Barcelona, 1950) was a high school literature teacher until 1992. Since then, he has devoted himself to writing novels, short stories, scripts, and drama. He is a regular contributor to the press, radio and TV. Among his most acclaimed novels are *Les hores detingudes* (1993; La Butxaca, 2011; Serra d'Or Award, Lletra d'Or Award, Prudenci Bertrana Award), *DG* (Quaderns Crema, 1998), *No tornarem mai més* (Quaderns Crema, 1999) and *Línia blava* (Columna, 2004). His latest book to date *L'home de la maleta* (Sant Jordi Award 2010, Proa) is already in its 7<sup>th</sup> reprint and continues to enjoy a huge success.

**L'home de la maleta** (*The Man With The Suitcase*). One fine day, a retired old musician decides to pack his suitcase and live for a month in each of his three daughters' houses. The man is a survivor, an individualist who has always looked out for number one, but who needs the affection of his family. He is disconcerted by the life his daughters lead and the new family models they adhere to. The world is an ever changing place and the man with the suitcase can scarcely take in the changes. An old dog who has seen it all, he now looks scornfully and dispassionately at everything around him, and gives an enjoyable and honest account of his milieu. But the man with the suitcase is still hurting from a childhood wound. When he attempts to heal it by examining his past, an unforeseen situation will change his life forever.

Sant Jordi Novel Award 2010

«A biting allegory of the modern-day artist in a post-modern world. A story that slips along nimbly, gracefully and mischievously, without once becoming dull or tired.» Sam Abrams, *El Mundo*

«A funny satire of our modern habits.» J. Guillamon, *La Vanguardia*

«One of the best books of this literary season.» P. A. Pons, *Time Out*

Sold to: (Spain, Proa - Catalan)

\*\* SAMPLE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE\*\*

## ANDRÉS TRAPIELLO

Andrés Trapiello (Manzaneda de Torío, 1953) is a prolific and highly prestigious author. He has published the novels *La tinta simpática* (Seix Barral, 1988), *El buque fantasma* (Plaza & Janés 1992. Plaza & Janés International Novel Award, 1992), *La malandanza* (Plaza & Janés, 1996), *Días y noches* (Espasa Calpe, 2000), *La noche de los Cuatro Caminos* (Aguilar, 2002), *Los amigos del crimen perfecto* (Destino, 2003, Nadal Award 2003), translated into several languages, *Al morir don Quijote* (Destino 2005) was awarded the Fundación José Manuel Lara Prize and the Prix Européen Madeleine Zepter, in France. His latest work is the novel *Los confines* (Destino, 2009).

**Los confines** (*The Confines*). In this novel a man and a woman attempt to move forward with an absolute love, for which they must face everything and everyone. Both rebel against set destinies, including, for the woman her role as mother, wife and daughter. But Fate has already traced an ending for them. The main character of *Los confines* satirizes the roles of heroines of other novels, Karenina, Bovary or Fortunata: how their creators end up making them pay for their infidelity with a violent death, or for having flaunted a right that was until then only enjoyed by men: to be free to decide not only about their own lives and something as intimate as their own bodies, but also something as public as moving in egalitarian conditions in public spaces. Tolstoy, Galdós and Flaubert would not have known what to do with them alive.

«An extraordinary novel.» Lluís Satorras, *El País*

«A captivating love story in a delicate network of references and metaliterary resorts that echoes Galdós and Unamuno.» Carles Barba, *La Vanguardia*

Sold to: (Spain, Destino / Pocket, Booket); (France, La Table Ronde); (Italy, Neri Pozza)

**Al morir Don Quijote** (*When Don Quixote Died*).

Fundación José Manuel Lara Award to the Best Book of the Year.

«Art like clockwork.» *El País*

«...the first artistic statement of unquestionable importance in its recreation and continuation of the world that surrounded Don Quixote.» *El Mundo*

Sold to: (Spain, Destino / Club, Bertelsmann); (France, Buchet Chastel);

(Greece, Metaixmio); (Italy, Neri Pozza); (Poland, Noir sur Blanc);

(Portugal, Saída da Emergência); (Romania, Humanitas)

**Los amigos del crimen perfecto** (*Friends of the Perfect Crime*).

Sold to: (Spain, Destino / Pocket, Booket / Club: Bertelsmann / Newsstand: Planeta de Agostini / Pocket: Booket); (Brazil, José Olympo); (China, People's Literatura Publ. House); (France, Buchet Chastel); (Holland; Signature); (Italy, Neri Pozza); (Romania, Humanitas); (Russia, AST)

Film rights sold to: Plural Entertainment

## DAVID TRUEBA

David Trueba (Madrid, 1969) has been successful both as a novelist and as a scriptwriter. *La buena vida* was his widely acclaimed debut as a film director and was followed by *Obra Maestra* (2001), *Soldados de Salamina* (2003), *Bienvenido a casa* (2006) and *La silla de Fernando* (2007), together with Luis Alegre. His first novel *Abierto toda la noche* (Anagrama, 1995) was widely translated and was followed by *Cuatro amigos* (Anagrama, 1999) a best (and long) seller with 20 reprints. *Saber Perder* (Anagrama, 2008) is his latest novel

**Saber perder** (*Learning to Lose*). It is the day of Sylvia's 16th birthday and her life as an adult is about to begin –not with the party she had been planning, but with a car crash. At the wheel is a talented young footballer, just arrived from Buenos Aires, and set for stardom on and off the pitch. As their destinies collide, elsewhere in the city Sylvie's father and grandfather are finding their own lives suddenly derailed by a violent murder and a secret affair. Set against the maze of contemporary Madrid, *Saber perder* follows four individuals as they swerve off course in unexpected directions. Each of them is dodging guilt and the fear of failure, but their shared search of happiness, love, purity, and –above all- a way to survive, forms a taut narrative web that binds the characters together, and holds the reader fast.

**AWARDS:** National Critics Prize 2008 for Fiction, Shortlisted for the Prix Médicis étranger 2010 and the Dulce Chacón Award 2009

«A masterly polyphony.» A. Trapenard, *Le Magazine Littéraire*

«An admirably woven story not to be missed.» R. Solé, *Le Monde*

«An impressive polyphonic novel, masterfully guided.» B. Corty, *Le Figaro*

«One part Paul Thomas Anderson's *Magnolia*, one part Paul Haggis' *Crash*, the rest is all David Trueba, modern day Madrid, and a narrative that pulsates with longing, lust and simmering rage. Simply masterful.» Joe McGinniss, Jr., author of *The Delivery Man*

«Complex, powerful, surprising and most of all smart. David Trueba is the real thing.» Percival Everett, author of *I Am Not Sidney Poitier*

«An excellent novel.» J.E. Ayala-Dip, *El País*

Sold to: (Spain, Anagrama / Club: Bertelsmann / Pocket: Compactos); (Brazil, Rocco); (France, Flammarion); (Germany, Kiepenheuer & Witsch / Pocket: Rowohlt); (Holland, Ambo / Anthos); (Italy, Feltrinelli); (Portugal, Santillana Constância); (UK, Portobello); (US, Other Press)

\*\* ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE\*\*

**Cuatro amigos** (*Four Friends*)

Sold to: (Spain, Anagrama / Club: Bertelsmann / Pocket: Quinteto); (Brazil, Francis); (Croatia, Meandor); (Czech Republic, Paseka); (Germany, FVA / Pocket: Heyne); (Greece, Patakis); (Holland, Wereldbibliotheek); (Italy, Feltrinelli); (Portugal, Alfaguara)

## ÁNGELA VALLVEY

Ángela Vallvey (Ciudad Real, 1964) is a pretigious author of poetry, awarded with the Premio Ateneo de Sevilla for her book *Nacida en cautividad* (Algaida, 2006). She is also author of several awarded and successful novels. *A la caza del último hombre salvaje* (Salamandra, 1999) has been widely translated. After *Vías de extinción* (Salamandra, 2000), her novel *Los estados carenciales* (Destino, 2002) was awarded the Premio Nadal 2002 and was a bestseller. It was followed by the short story collection *No lo llames amor* (Destino, 2003), *La ciudad del diablo* (Destino, 2005) and *Todas las muñecas son carnívoras* (Destino, 2006). *Muerte entre poetas* (Planeta, 2008) was 2nd place winner of the Planeta Novel Award 2008. Her latest book is the novel *El hombre del corazón negro* (Destino, 2011).

**El hombre del corazón negro** (*The Black-Hearted Man*). Over 70,000 women a year are tricked into sexual slavery in Europe alone. This is a chilling statistic from any newspaper, but in this novel all of these women are condensed in Polina, a teenager from Moldavia whose illusions start to crumble in a sordid basement in Istanbul. Moving from the outskirts of Madrid to the emirate of Dubai, from the catastrophe of Chernobyl to eastern Spain, and all across a turbulent, secret Europe, *El hombre del corazón negro* is a noir novel with character, and at the same time a disturbing, heartrending account of the present, and a brave critique of a dark situation unfolding before our very eyes.

«Similar to Larsson in its high addictiveness and malevolence, provided with such efficiency that drags the reader and forces him to surrender.» J. Vilá, *El País*

«A captivating novel that dares to deal with a topic barely touched on in Spanish fiction: the mafias of Eastern Europe and their advance into many areas of our society. A brave, ambitious work that will shock and move readers.» Vicenç Pagès Jordà, *El Periódico*

«A fascinating work about what happens to the Alices who pass through certain looking glasses.» J. Arnáiz, *La Razón*

Sold to: (Spain, Destino / Club, Círculo); (Italy, Guanda)

**Muerte entre poetas** (*Death among Poets*).

Second winner of the Planeta Award 2008.

«High literary entertainment masked as genre.» Sergi Doria, *ABC*

«A well-rounded fast-paced mystery.» J. Ernesto Ayala-Dip, *El País*

Sold to: (Spain, Planeta / Club, Bertelsmann); (Brazil, Primavera); (Italy, Guanda); (Portugal, Teorema); (South Korea, Sallim Publishing)

## ENRIQUE VILA-MATAS

Enrique Vila-Matas (Barcelona, 1948) has had a very long and outstanding literary career and is one of the most prestigious and original writers in contemporary Spanish literature. Among his works one should not fail to mention: *La asesina ilustrada* (Tusquets, 1977), *Desde la ciudad nerviosa* (Alfaguara, 2000), *El viento ligero en Parma* (Sexto Piso, 2004), and the books published by Anagrama: *Impostura* (1984), *Historia abreviada de la literatura portátil* (1985), *Una casa para siempre* (1988), *Suicidios ejemplares* (1991), *El viajero más lento* (1992 – Seix Barral, 2011), *Hijos sin hijos* (1993), *Lejos de Veracruz* (1995 – DeBolsillo, 2011), *Extraña forma de vida* (1997), *El viaje vertical* (1999), *Bartleby y compañía* (2000), *El mal de Montano* (2002), *París no se acaba nunca* (2004), *Doctor Pasavento* (2005), *Recuerdos inventados* (2007), *Exploradores del abismo* (2007) and *Dietario Voluble* (2008).

He is the recipient of many prestigious awards among which: Premio Rómulo Gallegos 2001, Ciudad de Barcelona Award 2001, Fernando Aguirre-Librería Award 2002, Premio Herralde 2003, Critics Award both in Spain and Chile in 2003, as well as Prix Médicis 2003, Ennio Flaiano International Award 2006, Fundación Lara Award 2006, Real Academia Española Award 2006, Elsa Morante Literary Prize 2007 and the Mondello International Award 2009.

His novel *Dublinesca* (Seix Barral, 2010) has been awarded the Prix Carrière 2010 and the Bottari Lattès Grinzane International Award 2011. DeBolsillo recently launched the Vila-Matas Library with the publication of six titles: *Chet Baker piensa en su arte* (an anthology of short stories), *En un lugar solitario* (containing early works of fiction), *Una vida absolutamente maravillosa* (selected essays), *Lejos de Veracruz, Hijos sin hijos* and the pocket edition of *Dublinesca*. His new novel, *Aire de Dylan* (Seix Barral, 2012) is being published simultaneously in five countries (Spain, France, Portugal, Italy and Brazil) this Spring. His works have been translated into 30 languages.

**Aire de Dylan** (*Dylan's Air*). A narrator well-versed in the culture of hard work and who regrets being so prolific is shocked when he meets some sceptical youngsters – the Oblomovs – who, faced with the global crisis, have decided to step back, not to take part in anything, and to found the subversive Dylan's Air society, which aims to capture the true essence of the soul of the period, the air of our time. A book about the law of work, as opposed to the art of doing nothing, and the dialectic between the culture of hard work and the ideology of indolence.

«Pitiless humour and the highest literature.» L. Fernández, *El Mundo*

«A great novel, a novel of plenitude (...) a literary quality achievable only by a true master.» J. García Recio, *La Opinión*

Sold to: (Spain, Seix Barral); (Brazil, Cosac Naify); (France, Bourgois); (Italy, Feltrinelli); (Portugal, Teodolito) – just published.

### **Dublinesca** (*Dublinesque*)

Awards: Prix Jean Carrière 2010, The International Bottari Lattès Grinzane Award 2011.

«Enrique Vila-Matas has pioneered one of contemporary literature's most interesting responses to the great Modernist writers.» Scott Esposito, *The Paris Review*

«Extremely funny (...) One of Vila-Matas' great talents is to make his digressions and inventions entirely absorbing.» Nick Caistor, *The Times Literary Supplement*

«An exquisite and original book in which literature does not make us think about life: it is life.» Minh Tran Huy, *Le Magazine Littéraire*

«One of the most important writers in the world.» A. Bajani, *La Repubblica*

«A great novel. A sort of comedic and ghostly Under the Volcano.» Ricardo Piglia

«The art of using words, of improving them, so that they are like lighthouses in the infinite darkness of nothingness to the readers.» F. Noiville, *Le Monde*

«Vila-Matas is a conjurer in Nabokov's footsteps, a brilliant impostor, like all the great artists.» Nelly Kaprièlian, *Les Inrockuptibles*

«A visionary novel by one of Spain's most highly acclaimed writers.» R. Carn, *L'Unità*

«The essence of everything Vila-Matas' been building along his career, among the most original in nowadays Spanish literature.» Manuel Rodríguez Rivero, *El País*

«A true literary treat.» S. Sanz Villanueva, *El Mundo*

Sold to: (Spain, Seix Barral / Pocket, DeBolsillo); (Brazil, Cosac Naify); (China, Shanghai 99); (Croatia, Bozicevic); (France, Bourgois); (Greece, Kastaniotis); (Israel, Rimonim); (Italy, Feltrinelli); (Portugal, Teorema); (Sweden, Tranan); (UK, Harvill); (US, New Directions)

## ROLANDO VILLAZÓN

Rolando Villazón (México, 1972) studied at Mexico's National Conservatory of Music, before entering the young artists programme in Pittsburgh, and at the San Francisco Opera. Awarded the Chevalier des Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France, Rolando Villazón is an internationally renowned tenors. This is his first novel.

**Malabares** (*Juggling Games*). Macolietta earns his living by dressing up as a clown and performing at children's parties and third-rate circuses with his two friends, Claudio the philosopher and the sardonic Max. After suffering a back injury and receiving a letter from Sandrine, the woman who introduced him to the world of the circus and whom he can't forget, Macolietta rediscovers an old blue notebook in which, over the years, he's been developing the story of his alter-ego, the famous circus artiste Balancín [See-saw], acclaimed the world over by an adoring public and devoted to his art.

In the pages of the notebook, Balancín is also going through a difficult period that forces him to retire from the stage but, unlike Macolietta, Balancín can always count on the support of his beloved wife Verlaine and their two children.

But is Balancín's life really so perfect? Can Macolietta persuade Sandrine to take him back?

With a style that mixes both realistic and lyrical elements with touches of humour, the author entwines these two stories that, as a kaleidoscope, throw light upon each other.

Sold to: (Spain, Espasa – to be published in 2013)

## PEDRO ZARRALUKI

Pedro Zarraluki (Barcelona, 1954) published his first book when he was just twenty years old, *La décima sinfonía* (Argos Vergara, 1974), and has devoted himself to writing ever since. He is the author of two books of short stories, *Galería de enormidades* and *Retrato de familia con catástrofe* (both with Anagrama). As a novelist, he has published: *El responsable de las ranas* (Anagrama, 1990. Premio Ciudad de Barcelona and Premio Ojo Crítico de RNE), *La historia del silencio* (Anagrama, 1994 – RBA. 2010, Premio Herralde de Novela 1994), *Hotel Astoría* (Anagrama, 1997) and *Para amantes y ladrones* (Anagrama, 2000). *Un encargo difícil* (Destino, 2005), was granted the Nadal Award and was a finalist in the José Manuel Lara Foundation Award for the best book of the year. Following the compilation of stories *Humor pródigo* (Destino, 2007) came the novel *Todo eso que tanto nos gusta* (Destino, 2008). His latest book to date is also his first novel for Young Readers: *El hijo del virrey* (Siruela, 2012).

**Todo eso que tanto nos gusta** (*Everything We Like So Much*). It's not always easy to be a father. Neither is it easy to be a son. In fact, nothing is easy in this life...and therein lies the key to this matter. Difficulties always end up becoming the heart of the joy of living. An old man escapes in search of an unreachable place, and his son follows him. In their flight they meet a girl who is sure about love, but she is not sure about committing herself to love forever; a disturbing woman who lives alone with her Neapolitan butler and cook; a blind woman who never wanted to work and ends up growing the most beautiful roses...

*Todo eso que tanto nos gusta* is a radiant novel, written with a certain innocence. It is a novel that tackles the big subjects of existence with wisdom and elegant simplicity, and which suggests that maybe the only secret of life is managing to be who we are... and dancing until dawn.

«Marvellously written.» Maruja Torres

«You'll be able to feel the power of literature.» Félix J. Palma, *Mercurio*

«He is now writing with splendid maturity.» Enrique Vila-Matas, *El País*

«Zarraluki composes an intense and entertaining tale about people who try to escape from tedium.» J. A. Masoliver Ródenas, *La Vanguardia*

Sold to: (Spain, Destino / Club, Bertelsmann / Pocket, Booket); (Italy, Neri Pozza)

**Un encargo difícil** (*A Difficult Assignment*).

«One can either read it as a detective novel, or as a magnificent narration about living in exile.» Ramón Chao, *Le Monde Diplomatique*

«This great book of sober narrative, is ultimately a book of hope, and of faith in humanity; of the unexpected resources of men who think they have reached the bottom of the barrel.» Christophe Mercier, *Le Figaro*

Sold to: (Spain, Destino / Club: Bertelsmann / Pocket: Booket); (France, Plon); (Greece, Metaixmio); (Holland, Signature); (Italy, Neri Pozza); (Macedonia, Terra Magica); (Portugal, Texto Editora)