

Agencia Literaria Carmen Balcells

LONDON BOOK FAIR 2016

Agencia Literaria Carmen Balcells S.A.

Diagonal, 580 · 08021 Barcelona - España

ag-balcells@ag-balcells.com

+34 93 200 89 33

+34 93 393 42 00

NEW TITLES

- Jaime BAYLY *El niño terrible y la escritora maldita (The Terrible Boy and the Cursed Writer)*
- John BERGER *Smoke*
- Javier CERCAS *El punto ciego (The Blind Spot) / Soldados de Salamina (Soldiers of Salamis)*
- Gabriel GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ *De viaje por Europa del Este (Travelling in Eastern Europe)*
- Javier GONZÁLEZ *El viaje de los cuerpos celestes (The Journey of the Celestial Bodies)*
- María GUDÍN *Mar abierta (Open Sea)*
- Wendy GUERRA *Domingo de Revolución (Revolution Sunday)*
- Paula IZQUIERDO *El diario oculto de la princesa de Éboli (The Hidden Diary of the Princess of Éboli)*
- Juan MARSÉ *Esa puta tan distinguida (That Very Distinguished Bitch) / Últimas tardes con Teresa (Last Evenings with Teresa)*
- Imma MONSÓ *L'Aniversari (The Anniversary)*
- José MORELLA *Como caminos en la niebla (Like Paths in the Fog)*
- Santiago POSTEGUILLO *La legión perdida. Volumen III de la Trilogía de Trajano (The Lost Legion. Trajan Trilogy, Volume III)*
- Teresa SOLANA *Campanades de boda (Wedding Bells)*
- Mario VARGAS LLOSA *Cinco Esquinas*

CERVANTES PRIZE

Fernando Del PASO

THE TERRIBLE BOY AND THE CURSED WRITER

by Jaime Bayly

Bayly uncensored



EDICIONES B

Jaime Bayly (Lima, 1965) has worked as a TV presenter in Lima, Santo Domingo and Miami. His first novel, *No se lo digas a nadie* (Don't Tell Anyone), was warmly received by critics and the public alike. He received the Herralde Novel Award for *La noche es virgen* (The Night Is Virgin) in 1997, and was finalist for the 2005 Planeta Award for his novel *Y de repente, un ángel* (Suddenly, An Angel)

Few writers open up their intimate selves to the reader and reveal their deepest, darkest secrets the way Jaime Bayly does: without blushing, without distance, and without a gram of self-indulgence. His love life looks like the libretto of a comic opera, but the notes echo with the drama of real life.

El niño terrible y la escritora maldita describes the hurricane that rocks Billy's less-than-stable family life when he falls in love with a writer 25 years his junior. This relationship has everyone in his life up in arms: his ex-wife and two daughters, Billy's Argentine boyfriend (who appears on talk shows revealing details of the scandal) and even his mother, who conspires against him. But Billy will not give up. He wants it all: a literary career, a political candidacy, his old job as a TV presenter, and to live with his stunning new girlfriend without sacrificing his riotous sex life.

SMOKE by John Berger (illustrated by Selçuk Demirel)

*"Not since D.H. Lawrence has there been a writer who offers such attentiveness to the imperatives of conscience."
(Susan Sontag)*



We smoked between game of tennis



We smoked in restaurants

NOTTING HILL

Smoke is a personal memoir of smoke: “There’s never smoke without fire.” A delicious little book, biting and poetic, combining aphorisms and reflections about smoke in its different manifestations. On these pages, smoke is revealed as an ambivalent sign of the transformations in modern society. Through the illustrations, we see the contrasts between past and present in potent images: “We smoked in trains and even on planes,” but overnight, “Smokers became inadvertent killers.”

The texts are full of the keen originality that characterises John Berger’s work, splendidly illustrated by Selçuk Demirel. The two already worked together on *Man on a Beach* and *Cataract*, which have been translated into several languages.

Storyteller, novelist, essayist, screenwriter, dramatist and critic, **John Berger** is one of the most internationally influential writers of the last fifty years. His many books include *Ways of Seeing*, the fiction trilogy *Into Their Labours*, *Here Is Where We Meet*, the Booker Prize-winning novel *G*, *Hold Everything Dear*, the Man Booker-long-listed *From A to X A Seventh Man* or *Portraits*.

THE BLIND SPOT

by Javier Cercas

A key book for understanding the narrative of our time



LITERATURA RANDOM HOUSE

Javier Cercas (Ibahernando, Caceres, 1962) is the author of seven novels, which have been translated into more than thirty languages and have received numerous national and international awards.

The blind spot is an area of shadow, a territory of delicate but unequivocal delimitation: it concerns the essential question contained in some of the great literary classics. What does the whale Moby Dick represent? Is Don Quixote really crazy? Is Josef K. innocent or guilty? Who kills the Slave in *The Time of the Hero*? Any restless reader turning the last page of these novels will come up with multiple answers and interpretations. These touch on the very enigmas of existence, and can therefore never be resolved with a single, definitive answer. This unsolvable mystery, which escapes the control of the reader and even the authors themselves, gives rise to a masterly formulation of literary theory destined to become canonical.

This essay is based on lectures delivered by Javier Cercas as part of the Weidenfeld Chair Lecture Series at Oxford University. Cercas discusses his own experiences as a reader and author, defends the discredited figure of the committed writer, and describes some of the features that define the 21st century novel.

SOLDIERS OF SALAMIS

by Javier Cercas

15th Anniversary Edition

“One of the best books I’ve read in a long time.”

(Mario Vargas Llosa)

“A marvellous book.”

(Susan Sontag)

“A masterpiece.”

(Kenzaburo Oé)

“It should become a classic.”

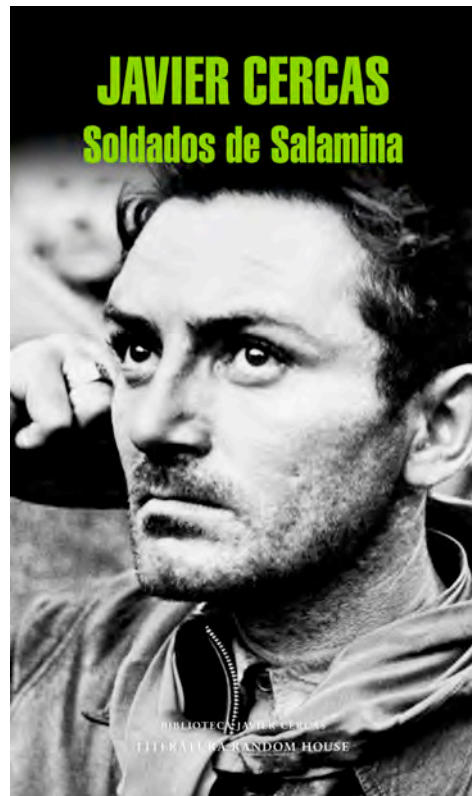
(George Steiner)

It’s been 15 years since the publication of *Soldiers of Salamis*, one of the greatest literary phenomena in recent years. The novel achieved wildly successful sales and reviews, and established Javier Cercas as one of the most influential, essential authors of 21st-century European literature.

This definitive, revised edition includes an enlightening epilogue written by the author.

In late January 1939, barely two months before the end of the Spanish Civil War, a group of Francoist prisoners are executed by firing squad near the French border by Republican soldiers fleeing into exile. Among those prisoners is Rafael Sánchez Mazas, founder and ideologist of Falange, poet and future minister of Franco, who miraculously manages to escape and hide in the woods. Pursued by the Republicans, he is discovered by a soldier who takes aim, looks into his eyes, and spares his life.

Sixty years later, a failed novelist discovers this buried wartime episode by chance. Fascinated, he starts researching the story to clarify the circumstances and unravel their meaning. Who was the real Rafael Sánchez Mazas? What really happened to him during the war? Who was the soldier who let him go? Why did he do it? What secret was hidden in his eyes?



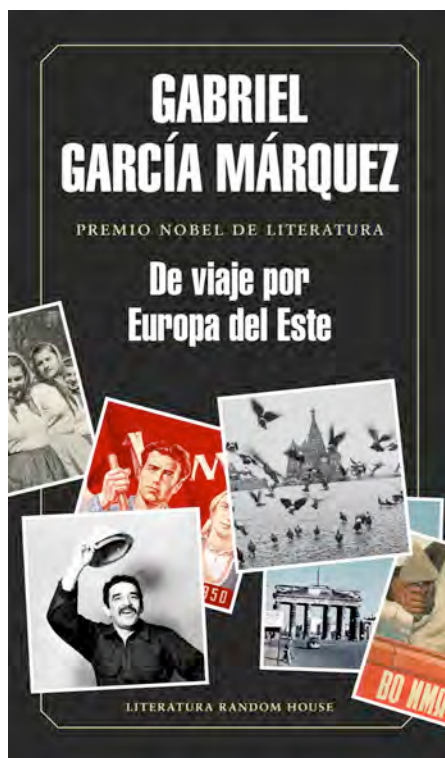
TRAVELLING IN EASTERN EUROPE

by Gabriel García Márquez

“García Márquez, a formidable journalist as well as a great writer, writes all about that political environment with precision and a brutal handling of small details, while also becoming a witness to an impossible world.”
(Guillermo Altares, *El País*)

“With that torrential, direct and beautiful style that characterises his prose, and the wit of a restless journalist, García Márquez pours his impressions into a book that reads as if the reader were the one accompanying the writer.”
(Natalio Blanco, *Esquire*)

“A dazzling account in which admiration for socialism mixes with criticism of a Kafkaesque bureaucracy and the capture of a climate of incipient absurdity.”
(Martín Pérez, *Página 12*)



**LITERATURA
RANDOM HOUSE**

Gabriel García Márquez (Aracataca, Colombia, 1927) was a correspondent in Rome, Paris, Barcelona, Caracas and New York. In 1982, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, becoming the greatest representative of magical realism and one of the most important and influential writers in world literature.

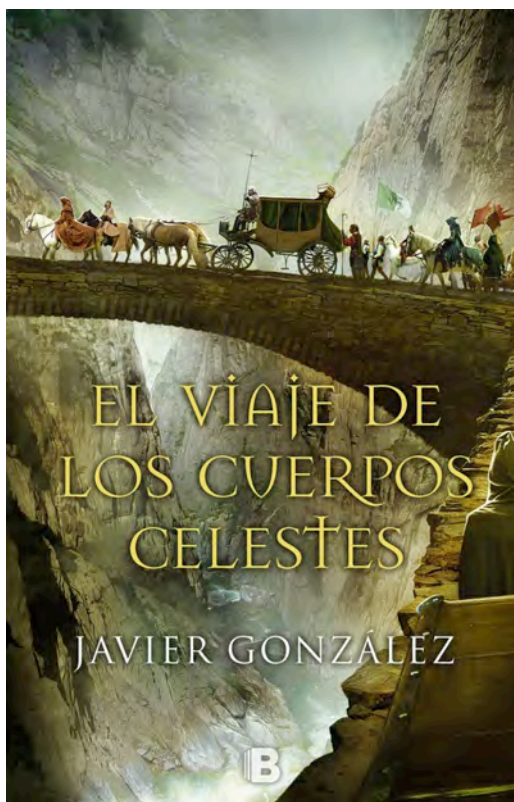
De viaje por Europa del Este is a first-hand account of young García Márquez’s journey through the Socialist Bloc countries in the 1950s, right after Soviet troops crushed the Hungarian revolution in 1956. Along with comments from his travelling companions, its pages contain a keen analysis, not without irony, of the social and political developments of that period. This journey of contrasts starts in East Berlin and continues through Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary all the way to Moscow. With the author’s unsurpassed lucidity, it provides a nuanced account of everyday life in a system with an expiration date, where every detail reveals the ambivalent face of true socialism.

Written and published in instalments during the same period as his legendary *The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor*, this work is another priceless example of Gabo’s narrative mastery. It reveals his deepest vocation and hallmark: the pleasure of telling a good story.

THE JOURNEY OF THE CELESTIAL BODIES

by Javier González

The greatest advertising campaign in the history of the Catholic Church



EDICIONES B

Javier González (Madrid, 1958) completed his Law degree at the Universidad Complutense and practiced law until 1986, when he began his career in the world of marketing. He has published *Un día de gloria* (A Day of Glory, 2001), *La quinta corona* (The Fifth Crown, 2006), *Navigatio* (2009) and *Cinco segundos* (Five Seconds, 2013). *El viaje de los cuerpos celestes* is his fifth novel. His works have been translated into nine languages.

In the year 1578, some catacombs were accidentally discovered in Rome. Pope Gregory I took this as a sign from heaven, and concocted an ingenious plan to consolidate the Catholic faith, now under threat from the Protestant Reformation: the remains found there would be presented as relics of martyrs and be exhibited all over Europe.

The expedition, commanded by the dashing Captain Moncada, consists of a young cook, a feisty group of nuns, a squad of Swiss Guards, and an eccentric theatre company. Together they travel halfway around Europe with a macabre spectacle of skeletons and magic, negotiating hazards and difficulties to carry out this strange Papal mission.

El viaje de los cuerpos celestes is a thrilling adventure novel inspired by a true story: the greatest advertising campaign in the history of the Catholic Church.

OPEN SEA

by María Gudín

**A passionate romance
cut short by the English
Civil War**



GRIJALBO

María Gudín (Oviedo, 1962)
A Doctor of Medicine and Neurology specialist, Gudín has published a number of scientific and educational books and articles. She is the author of the *El Sol del Reino Godo (The Sun of the Gothic King)* trilogy of historical novels, which have achieved noteworthy success with readers and critics.

In 1654, Catalina de Montemayor, known by all as Len, reminisces about her past from the Caribbean island of La Hispaniola. As a girl, Len was adopted by the Leighs, an aristocratic English family, after overcoming many hardships and watching her mother die under terrible circumstances.

At Oak Park, the family mansion, Len becomes fast friends with Pier, the Leighs' youngest son, with whom she'll have a passionate, happy love affair in later years. But the English Civil War puts a cruel end to this relationship, and keeps the lovers apart for years. When the two are reunited, neither is the same as before the war, but the love they feel for each other has not faded.

REVOLUTION SUNDAY

by Wendy Guerra

**“How can I tell this story
without getting my pages
dirty?”**



ANAGRAMA

Wendy Guerra (Havana, 1970) is a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, and was selected for Bogotá 39, the successful “group” of writers from the Hay Bogotá project. In 2015 and 2016, she was a visiting professor at Princeton and UCLA. Her works have been translated into 10 languages.

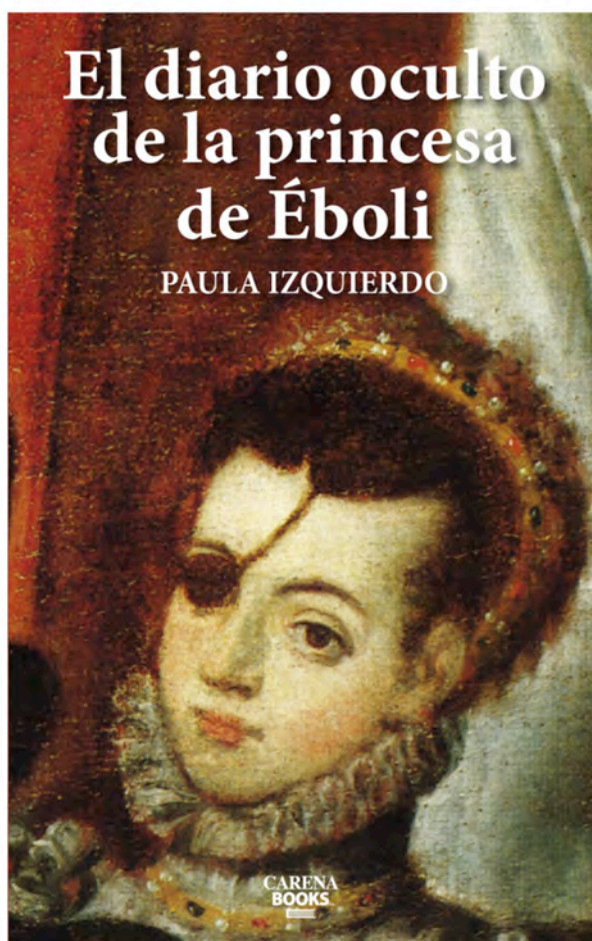
«"Wendy Guerra is called to be the novelist of the metamorphosis that will take place, as many of us wish, in something both so difficult and so humble as democracy" wrote the distinguished Mexican critic Christopher Domínguez Michael: I second the motion.»
(Jorge Herralde)

Cleo, a young writer from Havana, travels to Spain to accept a poetry prize and sign a contract to publish her book in several languages. Back in Cuba, with her success in her suitcase, she realises that she's become an author under suspicion. She begins to find herself under constant surveillance, even in the privacy of her bed. To her horror, she discovers that she suddenly can't trust anyone, not even her closest friends.

In her attempts to clarify the situation, Cleo learns something unbelievable: her real father may have been secretly executed by the Castro regime, accused of espionage. Investigating this dark episode from the past allows Cleo to reconstruct her own identity, dissolved in the paranoia of a government determined to deprive her of the truth and condemn those who write about it.

THE HIDDEN DIARY OF THE PRINCESS OF ÉBOLI

by Paula Izquierdo



CARENA BOOKS

Paula Izquierdo (Madrid, 1962) holds a Doctorate in Business Psychology. She has cultivated the fiction and essay genres, receiving a number of honourable mentions and awards. Her works have been published by prestigious publishing houses such as Alianza, Seix Barral and Anagrama, and translated into Italian, Romanian, Portuguese, Chinese and Polish. She is a translator and member of the Editorial Board of the magazine *Texturas*.

Late 16th century. Castile has annexed Portugal by order of Phillip II, but internal tensions between the monarchy, the Church, and the nobility threaten the stability of the Crown. In this context, Ana de Mendoza, Princess of Éboli and the king's former lover, is jailed by the monarch himself in the Pinto Tower, suspected of secretly loving another man. King Phillip's jealousy and madness become increasingly irrational, and the hardships and humiliations suffered by the princess, "one of the most powerful women in Spain", are beyond all reason. Her confinement, which will last more than a decade, is the origin and reason for this Diary, the confessions of an enigmatic, passionate, and genuinely feminist woman who struggles with solitude and the repression of an impossible love until she faces memory loss and eventually the fateful ravages of physical and mental illness.

El Diario oculto de la princesa de Éboli, imagined by Paula Izquierdo from the most sincere intimacy, is a Castilian ode to aristocracy and the crumbling of a lost world. But it is also a strange song, sometimes fragile, sometimes firm, to the loss of freedom and the suffering brought about by unconditional love.

THAT VERY DISTINGUISHED BITCH

by Juan Marsé

“My next novel will deal with the ruses and traps set by our memory, that very distinguished bitch”



Juan Marsé (Barcelona, 1933) is one of the writers most respected by critics and the public over the past 50 years. He won the prestigious Biblioteca Breve Prize with *Últimas tardes con Teresa*. One of his novels, *Si te dicen que caí*, was banned by censors under the Franco regime. In the year 2000, he was awarded Spain's National Critics' Prize and National Narrative Prize for *Rabos de lagartija*, and in 2008 he received the Cervantes Prize.

Even though he detests the movies made by the director and producer requesting his services, an author famous for depicting the moral ruin of the post-war period in his novels reluctantly accepts a job to write a screenplay about a true case from 1940s Barcelona. The crime occurred at the Delicias Cinema, where a prostitute was murdered in the projection room, strangled with movie tape while the public attended a premiere of *Gilda*.

During the research process, the writer will discover that sometimes, in real life, crimes lack meaning, and their protagonists are not always heroes or antiheroes, something not everyone seems willing to tolerate in fiction.

In this splendid novel, Juan Marsé, transformed into a sceptical writer, incapable of taking himself seriously, reflects on the tricks of memory and the limits of fiction, while settling accounts with those who manipulate our past to create simple entertainment products, misrepresenting historical memory and trivializing the pain and misery of an entire generation.

LAST EVENINGS WITH TERESA

by Juan Marsé

50th Anniversary Edition



“Last Evenings with Teresa is not only one of the great dramas of my life, but also of many people my age (...) It has everything one can ask of a novel; it seems written in a state of grace.”
(Javier Cercas)

“The Pijoaparte, so accurate in his naturalism, such a character of the miserable real world, is also a classic hero of novels, one of those young people who are blown away by the breadth of their desires and the designs of their own will, who always appear in Stendhal, Balzac, Maupassant and Flaubert.”
(Antonio Muñoz Molina)

“Between illusions and realities, with his own free creative will – the opposite of the recipe for a social novel - Juan Marsé offered a memorable panorama of 1950s Barcelona and its wild heroism.”
(Lluís Izquierdo)

Last Evenings with Teresa constitutes one of the milestones of mid-20th century Spanish narrative. Awarded Spain’s Short Novel Prize in 1965, it established the author as one of the most representative writers of modern European literature.

On these pages, we witness the birth of one of the most powerful, enduring literary geographies of our time, post-war Barcelona written against the quiet light of memory. And we also encounter two characters whose long, happy coexistence with several generations of readers has turned them into mythical figures, the ideal embodiment of their time: Teresa, a rebellious, left-wing university student, daughter of the Catalan bourgeoisie, and an attractive, socially ambitious immigrant from Murcia known as the “Pijoaparte”. Their love story reflects all the contradictions of an era, the splendour and misery of the social classes, the naivety of easy commitment, and the bitterness and resentment of losers, those inhabitants of an inner exile in which, forged by so many defeats, they still dream like children.

THE ANNIVERSARY

by Imma Monsó

"A couple in crisis; two children playing in the forest. Two intimately related stories in which everyday terror is mixed with a perverse, delicious sense of humour for the reader's fright and delight. Being able to edit an author of Imma Monsó's calibre and literary quality is one of those luxuries of this wonderful profession of ours."
(Anna Soldevila, Editor at Destino)



COLUMNA

Imma Monsó's first novel, *No se sap mai* (*One Never Knows*) was published in 1996 and enjoyed great success with critics and the public. Her second book, *Com unes vacances* (*Like a Holiday*), was chosen by the Catalan Writers' Association as the best novel of 1998. Her third novel, *Todo un caràcter* (*A Total Character*, 2001), established her as an author. In 2006, she published *A Man of His Word*, an extraordinary book that was awarded the Salambó, Terenci Moix and Maria Àngels Anglada prizes for the best novel in Catalan of the year. *La mujer veloz* (*The Fast Woman*) was awarded the Ramon Llull Prize in 2012.

L'Aniversari cleverly features two converging stories: A couple is travelling in a car on their way to celebrate their wedding anniversary. They care about each other, but they are in crisis: the man, around fifty years old, methodical and prosaic, has prepared a surprise for her wife, an imaginative, slightly eccentric woman, bored to be married with a predictable man. They end up in a forest clearing of sentimental significance to them. The surprise turns out to be spooky... This storyline is disturbing and even sinister... until the last word.

In parallel, in alternate chapters, we follow Guillem and Mateu, two 10-year-old children, who are performing a big adventure in the woods, based on a novel they both know by heart: *Moby Dick*. A scary line too: one of them disappears.

L'Aniversari is a clockwork, a fascinating page-turner written with skillful literary wisdom, and a tribute to the power of reading and imagination.

LIKE PATHS IN THE FOG

THE IMPETUOUS DAYS OF OTTO GROSS

by José Morella

**The riotous,
tragic life of the
founding
grandfather of
counterculture**

*"A brilliant novel about the figure of the
Austrian psychoanalyst Otto Gross."*
(Ernesto Ayala-Dip)

*"Well structured, well narrated, the novel
takes us into the life of Otto Gross, a real
character whose real life is so unusual, it
seems invented. An intelligent read for
those seeking something more in a book."*
(Alicia Giménez-Bartlett)



STELLA MARIS

José Morella (Ibiza, 1972) holds a degree in Literature Theory and Comparative Literature. He currently resides in Barcelona, where he teaches Spanish language classes. He has published the novels *La fatiga del vampiro* (The Vampire's Fatigue, Bassarai, 2004) and *Asuntos propios* (Personal Affairs, Anagrama, 2009), and was a finalist for the Herralde Novel Prize 2009. He is also the author of the poetry book *Tambor de luz* (Drum of Light, Osuna, 2001) and translator for the poets Ferreira Gullar and Douglas Dunn.

Following a breakup, Llerandi decides to realise his dream of directing a movie about a unique and unrepeatable historical figure: Otto Gross, psychiatrist, unruly disciple of Sigmund Freud, psychoanalyst, anarchist, utopian, bohemian, defender of sexual liberation and matriarchy.

For research, Llerandi visits the cities where his protagonist lived and explores the intense, over-the-top life of a man who, in the eyes of the society of his time, was an untamed madman who deserved to be confined to a psychiatric facility. But Gross was a visionary, and found an opportunity to put his libertarian, utopian ideas into practice in Mt. Verità, Switzerland, a sort of naturist community/spa that would be frequented by progressives and visionaries, eccentric physicians, artists and bohemians.

Otto Gross's endless struggle against the society of his time is personified in the conflict with his father, Hans Gross, a pioneering forensic scientist with a pathologically strict personality. His father manages to have Otto put away in a mental hospital for years. This gives rise to a public campaign for his release, supported by intellectuals from all over Europe, such as Franz Kafka, Carl Jung, Blaise Cendrars and Herman Hesse, heirs of the influence of a man who was several decades ahead of his time.

THE LOST LEGION

TRAJAN TRILOGY, VOLUME III

by Santiago Posteguillo

“A monumental novel, very exciting. Impossible to abandon such enjoyable reading.”
(El País)

“The novel is an authentic spectacle, unremitting for the reader, rocked by adrenaline-fuelled action.”
(La Vanguardia)

With his previous trilogy, focusing on Scipio the African and Hannibal, Santiago Posteguillo sold over half a million copies in Spain. This one is well on its way to surpassing those figures.

The third volume in the trilogy is *La legión perdida (The Lost Legion)*. On its pages, the reader witnesses Rome’s most ambitious military campaign, the conquest of the East. This conflict involves four empires, and turns Trajan into something more than an emperor: he becomes a legend of the stature of Alexander the Great.



This long-awaited conclusion to the trilogy masterfully wraps up every story of love, betrayal and intrigue. We discover whether the gladiator Marcius and his family finally achieve their desire of living in freedom. We witness the inevitable betrayal of Hadrian, the emperor’s future successor. And we contemplate the final work of art by Apollodorus, Trajan’s architect, who builds the celebrated column that will illustrate his escapades for eternity, among many other stories that have delighted hundreds of thousands of readers.

Santiago Posteguillo Philologist and writer. Posteguillo studied creative literature in the United States and linguistics and translation at different universities in the United Kingdom. He is now a full professor at the Universitat Jaume I in Castellón, where he teaches 19th-century English language and literature.



PLANETA

TRAJAN TRILOGY. VOLUME III. THE LOST LEGION

In the year 53 B.C., Consul Crassus crossed the Euphrates to conquer the East, but his army was destroyed in Carrhae. An entire legion was taken prisoner by the Parthians. No one knows for certain what happened to that lost legion.

It is now 150 years later, and Trajan is about to cross the Euphrates. The Parthians await on the other side. Caesar's troops hesitate, fearing the same fate as the lost legion. But Trajan is not afraid, and undertakes Rome's greatest military campaign, to victory or disaster. Intrigue, battles, two adolescent girls, strange languages, Rome, Parthia, India, China, two Caesars and an empress all come together in the greatest epic story of the ancient world.

TRAJAN TRILOGY. VOLUME II. CIRCUS MAXIMUS

This is a story of Emperor Trajan and his government, wars and betrayals, incorruptible loyalties, chariot races, and impossible love stories. There's a vestal virgin, a trial, encrypted messages, secret codes, pitched battles, endless sieges, gladiators, and three chariot races. There are forgotten ancient laws, human sacrifices, bitterness and terror, but also flashes of nobility and hope, such as Vesta's flame, which protects Rome as it burns. But there are nights when the flame in the Temple of Vesta flickers. That's when the wheel of Fortune starts to spin. At those times, anything can happen. Trajan himself is in mortal danger, although he doesn't know it.



PLANETA

TRAJAN TRILOGY. VOLUME I. THE EMPEROR'S ASSASSINS



PLANETA

The morning of the eighteenth of September in 96 A.D. was the date chosen by a group of conspirators to murder Emperor Domitian in Rome. Meanwhile, in the northern frontier, three senators posed a difficult question to Traianus, governor of Germania: "If something ever happened to Emperor Domitian, what would you do?" Traianus frowned and remained silent. In the meantime, in Rome, everything has been arranged to kill the Emperor. Due to the praetorian guard's defence and the Emperor's own resistance, the plotter's intrigue seems to be on the point of ending in utter failure, the novel rapidly flashes thirty three years back into the past. Readers are then introduced into the Civil Wars that began in the final year of Nero's rule, the construction of the Colosseum, the earthquake in Pompeya, the succession of Vespasian by Titus, Domitian's revolt against his brother, and the final access to power by Domitian.

WEDDING BELLS

by Teresa Solana

"Full of murder and mayhem, but also packed full of humour and acute observation..."
(Oxford Times)

"The Catalan writer Teresa Solana may have invented a new variation of the traditional private eye partnership. Her heroes, Borja and Eduard, are twins who don't look at all alike, have different surnames (one of them is a fake) and are farcically inefficient at their job. Solana's Barcelona is exciting, sexy and louche, the city's literary scene and the people who inhabit it portrayed with satirical Charming and great fun"
(The Times)

"I hope Solana keeps up this wonderful series: further comic and criminal forays into Barcelona life, and further installments in the brothers' lives would be most welcome"
(International Noir Fiction)

"Solana's second novel made me laugh so much the tears soon rolled. She shoots from the hip at the guardians of culture..."
(El País)



EDICIONS 62

Teresa Solana (Barcelona, 1962). She majored in Philosophy at the University of Barcelona, where she also studied Classical Philology. She has worked mainly as a literary translator. She was the director of the Casa del Traductor in Tarazona, and has written articles and essays on translation.

Teresa Solana, the only Catalan author to become a finalist for America's Edgar Allan Poe prize for mystery novels, resumes her series starring the twin detectives from *A Not So Perfect Crime*, *A Shortcut to Paradise* and *The Sound of One Hand Killing*.

Although they seem like polar opposites, Eduard and Borja are brothers, twins and partners. One is left-wing, sensible and conventional. The other is a right-wing, shameless social climber. Together as detectives, their partnership is as eccentric and impossible as it is effective.

In this new adventure, they investigate the murder of a bride's father, poisoned with polonium during the wedding banquet. However, the detectives suspect that the murderer was after a more ambitious target: the groom's father, a multimillionaire American investor, or the President of the Generalitat of Catalonia, another guest at the unfortunate celebration.

CINCO ESQUINAS

by Mario Vargas Llosa

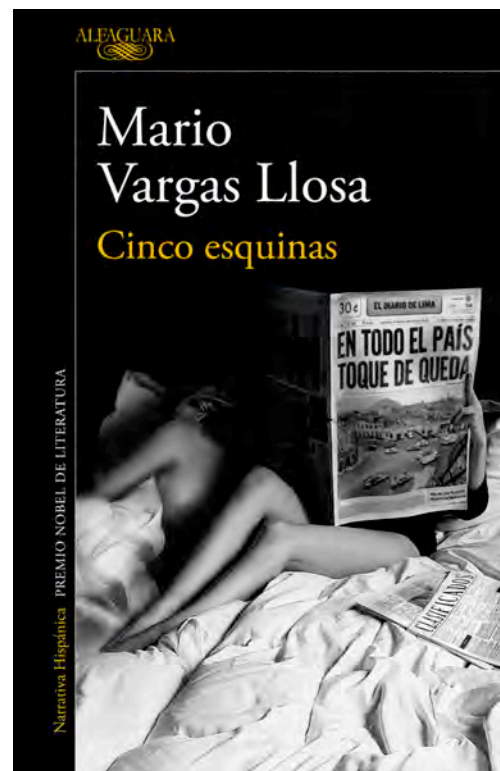
A rich businessman, Enrique Cárdenas, is a victim of blackmail by a famous tabloid editor. When he refuses to pay, photos are published of Cárdenas participating in an orgy with prostitutes and drugs, unleashing a scandal that makes the covers of all the gossip magazines and places him in the line of fire of damning Lima society gossip.

The situation becomes even more hellish for Cárdenas when he is accused of a murder occurring in Cinco Esquinas, one of Lima's most poverty-stricken neighbourhoods. He is innocent, and in all of Peru there is only one woman capable of taking down the true culprit. A cynical journalist of doubtful morals, who has spent her career slandering and inventing scandals about the adversaries of Alberto Fujimori's government in order to publicly ruin their reputations, finds the opportunity to redeem herself by honouring the true mission of her profession for the first time in her life.

This new novel by Mario Vargas Llosa brings together the detective, thriller and comedy of intrigue genres, with highly erotic undertones. In addition to providing a live mural of Peruvian society during the violent years of the Fujimori dictatorship, it proposes an indispensable reminder of "how journalism, which can be something vile and dirty, can suddenly become an instrument of liberation, of moral and civic defence of a society."

"Everything is masterful in this novel reflecting the malicious wisdom of a veteran writer and the new, inexhaustible creativity that dazzled us over half a century ago."
(José-Carlos Mainer, *El País-Babelia*)

"The Nobel Prize winner's most powerful writing is back in a novel where the Peruvian author lets himself go with overwhelming vitality, humour, scenes of delicious erotic happiness, and a relentless condemnation of political and journalistic corruption."
(J.A. Masoliver Ródenas, *La Vanguardia-Cultura/S*)



ALFAGUARA

"A devastating criticism of the hypocritical Peruvian bourgeoisie of the Fujimori years."
(Jesús Ferrer, *La Razón*)

"La Retaquita is the best character in Cinco esquinas, and a true Lisbeth Salander of the developing world."
(Sergio Vila-Sanjuán, *La Vanguardia*)



FERNANDO DEL PASO CERVANTES PRIZE 2015

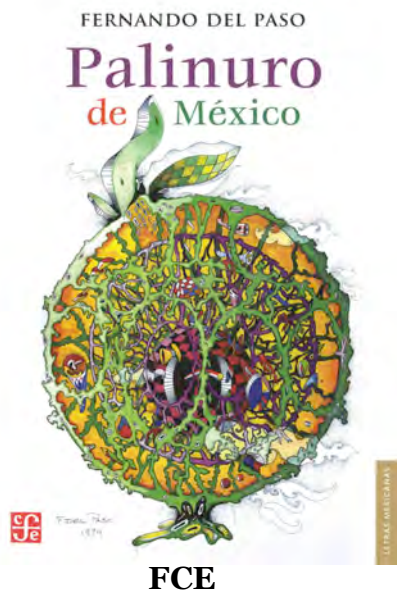
Fernando del Paso was awarded the **2015 Cervantes Prize**, the most prestigious literary award in the Spanish-speaking world, in recognition of a career that has significantly enriched the literary heritage in the Spanish language.



Fernando del Paso (Mexico City, 1935), known as “the Emperor of the word”, is a son of the Latin American post-boom and one of the most widely recognised authors in contemporary Mexican literature. His numerous works have been translated into English, German, French, Italian, Portuguese and Dutch, and recreate the most universal chapters in Mexican history. Two extensive novels are worth highlighting as authentic literary gems: *Palinuro of Mexico* (1977) and *News of the Empire* (1987).

PALINURO OF MEXICO

by Fernando del Paso



“Homer and Joyce’s Ulysses are like close relatives of this immense poem about love, death and the human body.”
(Libération)

“Del Paso provides a very thorough and very local vision, so a foreigner like myself can understand Mexican history, characteristics and idiosyncrasies.”
(Laura García Arroyo, Milenio)

“Del Paso is an extraordinary, radical, rigorous and ironic novelist.”
(Antonio Ortuño)

Palinuro of Mexico (Novel, 1977)

Rómulo Gallegos Prize, 1982

France’s Best Foreign Book Award, 1985

Palinuro, an eternal medical student, comes from an eccentric family whose strange members include Uncle Esteban, who fled Hungary during the Great War and travelled around the world until reaching Mexico; Grandpa Francisco, a former Mason and companion of Pancho Villa; Uncle Austin, a British ex-Marine...and Estefanía, Palinuro’s first cousin, who he’s loved with an overwhelming, all-consuming passion since he was a boy. With Estefanía, he’ll spend years satisfying his wildest fantasies and incestuous desires in a room on the Plaza de Santo Domingo in Mexico City.

This book is a celebration of the body, of love and joy, but above all a celebration of life. *Palinuro of Mexico* has been compared to *Gargantua and Pantagruel* and *Tristram Shandy*, and brings together romantic lyricism, erudition and riotous eroticism.

NEWS OF THE EMPIRE

by Fernando del Paso



FCE

“A journey through the dark passages in Mexican history, far from nationalistic glory and close to the whys Del Paso has been so obsessed with seeking.”
(Verónica Calderón, *El País*)

“Del Paso has managed to portray key moments in Mexican history, imbued with an enormous inner life.”
(Jorge Volpi)

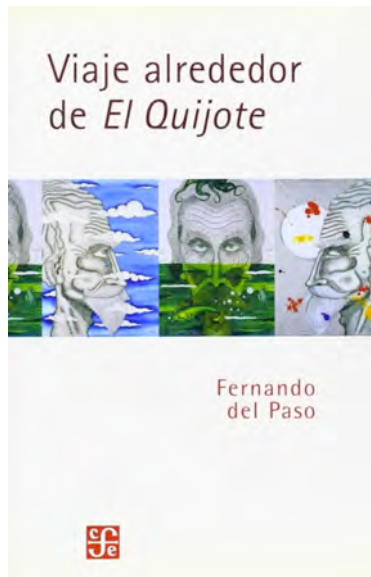
Considered the best Mexican novel in recent years by the magazine *Nexos*.

News of the Empire (Historical novel, 1987)

To use the author’s words, this novel tells the story of “a blond emperor who we shot, and his wife who went crazy.” Its illustrious protagonists are Maximilian of Hapsburg, Mexican emperor from 1864 to 1867, and his wife, Carlota. Halfway between fiction and literary essay, Del Paso not only describes the lives of these historical figures, but revisits much of Mexican history during the Second Empire.

Masterfully narrated, accessible, and with unique surrealistic undertones, *News of the Empire* has already become an unperishable classic.

JOURNEY AROUND *DON QUIXOTE* by Fernando del Paso



FCE

“Del Paso offers us simple readers the generous opportunity to become his accomplices and embark on a journey where we discover unpublished paths that lead us back to enjoying and understanding even more of the controversial aspirations of Alonso Quijano.”

(Vicente Alberto Serrano)

Journey Around *Don Quixote*

(Historical novel, 2004)

In more of a novelist's journey than a scholarly one, Fernando del Paso combines tradition and modernity in this book to explore his own experience as a reader of *Don Quixote*. The observations and surprises he encounters during his journey, full of "beauty, depths and unexpected enigmas", create a fresh, always necessary vision of the greatest literary work in the Spanish language.

Agencia Literaria Carmen Balcells

LONDON BOOK FAIR 2016

**Agencia Literaria Carmen Balcells S.A.
Diagonal, 580 · 08021 Barcelona - España
ag-balcells@ag-balcells.com
+34 93 200 89 33
+34 93 393 42 00**