

NEW TITLES ADULT FICTION  
SPRING 2022

SvH Literarische Agentur

## **SvH Literarische Agentur**

was founded in 2005. We are based in Berlin and represent authors worldwide as well as agencies and publishers for German and Dutch and Spanish translation rights. Our catalogue includes fiction and non-fiction, Adult, Youth and Children's books.

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## **GENERAL FICTION**

## Daniel Jiménez

### *El Plagio* (Plagiarism)



In the early 1990s my father, Juan Jiménez, came up with a new format for a game show, where competitors made their way across a giant game board and rolled an electronic dice. To record a pilot episode and send it to a public TV channel, he spent all his savings, sold his bar, and took on huge debts. Later, a private station broadcasts a strikingly similar program. It just so happened that the managers who had signed contracts with my father now worked there.

PLAGIARISM combines family memoir with investigative exposé to construct a detailed account of a story of theft, betrayal, and corruption, revealing the true meaning of the word *resistance*.

**Spain:** Pepitas de calabaza, 2022 (144 pp.)

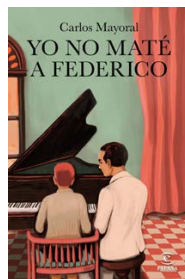
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## Carlos Mayoral

### *Yo no maté a Federico* (I Didn't Kill Federico)



In 1935 young Germán meets Federico, poet and landowner for whom his father picks tobacco. Federico offers piano lessons to Germán and discovers in him a remarkable talent.

In post-war times, living in poverty, Germán is accused of smuggling and arrested by an army officer rumored to have had a hand in Federico's death. Only Lorca's spirit, embodied in the power of art and music, can come to Germán's rescue.

With great knowledge and sensitivity, cultural journalist Carlos Mayoral offers a heartfelt tribute to Federico García Lorca.

**Spain:** Espasa, 2022 (344 pp.)

#### **German and Dutch translation rights.**

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## Leandro Pérez

### *La última noche de Libertad Guerra* (The Last Night of Libertad Guerra)



Imagine there is a different Spain after the coup on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1981. And that we live in a military dictatorship.

Imagine your name is Libertad Guerra and you're a journalist for the newspaper Pueblo in Madrid. That your father was a Communist poet and that in your home village your mother is assaulted. Imagine that, while the *Movida Madrileña* fades out, you hook up with Imanol, a young Basque actor. And that the police arrest him, and he disappears. Imagine you fell hard for him. And that you must find Imanol at all costs.

**Spain:** Planeta, 2022 (432 pp.)

#### **German and Dutch translation rights.**

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## Ruth Prada

### *Las Modernas* (Modern Women)



In 1915 the first student residence for women opened in Madrid. Just five years after women had won the right to study their presence in the lecture halls was subject to fierce criticism.

1928. Against her mother's wishes Catalina moves into the residence to study Pharmacy and one day take over her father's business. With optimism and passion, she makes new friends, becomes enmeshed in political conflicts, and encounters feminist icons such as Elena Fortún and María de Maeztu.

As she becomes a woman with her own desires, Catalina finds herself torn between two men representing opposite worlds and, above all, between marriage and her professional future. Because, at that time, women couldn't have both.

**Spain:** Plaza y Janés, 2022 (384 pp.)

#### **German and Dutch translation rights.**

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**Teresa Sagrera**

***La doncella guerrera*** (*The Warrior Maiden*)

***Historical Fiction***



1475, Arintero. When Henry IV of Castile died, his only daughter and future Catholic Monarchs, Isabella and Ferdinand, vied for the throne. Soon, the men were called off to war and Castilian soil turned into the battlefield that would change the kingdom's fate forever. While the Count of Arintero's health didn't allow him to fight, his daughter, the young Juana, decided to take his place. She embarked on an epic adventure in which she would have to hide behind armor to save her kingdom, honor her family and become the legend

of Spain's first female warrior and soldier.

In this novel based on the Leonese ballads, Teresa Sagrera captivates the reader with a war tale meant to be a song of peace.

**Spain:** Ediciones B, 2022 (448 pp.)

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**Coia Valls**

***La alquimia de la vida*** (*The Alchemy of Life*)

***Historical Fiction***



In the 15<sup>th</sup> century medicine remained stagnant in the ancient formula of theriac. People in search of new ways to cure the body and soul were testing alchemic formulas for the elixir of eternal life. They were said to be madmen or witches, and Magí Surroca is one of them. Meanwhile, Beatriu, a rebellious young woman, fights to escape that stigmatization. Only with love, friendship, and absolute dedication to their ideals can they achieve an authentic and fulfilling life.

A gripping story of courage to oppose power and dominant values set at the moment the world slowly gave way to science.

**Spain:** Destino, 2022 (520 pp.), Catalan: Columna

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## **THRILLER & CRIME**

**Javier Arias**

***Algún día volveré a buscarte*** (*Some Day I Will Come Back for You*)



In 1982, three-year-old Samir was abandoned at a beach. His mother told him: "I'll come back in no time". But she never did and Samir ended up living in an orphanage with nothing but a handful of memories. Thirty years later, as police captain of Valencia, Samir is no longer a defenseless child, but his past catches up with him: The body of a woman is found, murdered hours before, right where he was abandoned, and with his name and phone number on her. In his investigation captain Santos' past becomes a crucial piece of the puzzle as he faces

the fact that deep down he always longed for his mother to come back for him. Alternating between past and present in a fluid and rhythmic way, the author's writing is brilliant, suspenseful, and full of emotion.

**Spain:** Umbriel, 2022 (288 pp.)

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**Sebastià Bennasar**

***El somriure dels guepards*** (*The Cheetahs' Smile*)



With Catalonia in the middle of a cold snap and now the new head of the Leonese mafia along with his sister and his partner, Pascal Neige must find out who has killed Michel Aubriot, one of the last survivors of their gang once led by his father. At the same time, he needs to ensure that everyone in the country trading in marihuana pays their charge. Pascal has a crazy week ahead of him if he wants to maintain the cheetah's smile.

An addictive, violent, sexual novel that mixes the brutality of series such as *Gangs of London* with the best Spanish literary

tradition of the noir genre.

**Spain (Catalan):** Alrevés, 2022 (174 pp.)

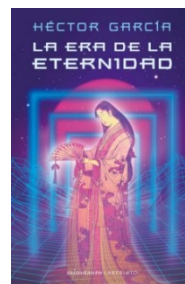
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**Héctor García (Kirai)**

***La era de la eternidad*** (*The Era of Eternity*)

*Science Fiction thriller*



Nathan is a lonely clock designer whose life takes a mysterious turn. His first high school love for Mia never went beyond his imagination and they were separated definitely when she moved with her parents to Japan. Now, twenty years later, Nathan finds an old picture of Mia and a chain of events leads him to board a plane to Kyoto where an adventure awaits him that he never could have imagined.

Héctor García, expert in the Japanese culture, presents a technological thriller set in Japan, a love story, and a brilliant reflection on being human in an increasingly virtual society.

**Spain:** Minotauro, 2022 (256 pp.)

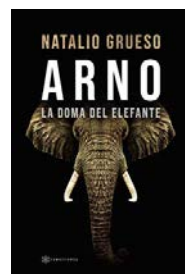
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**Natalio Grueso**

***Arno. La doma del elefante*** (*Arno. Taming the Elephant*)



Arno has just been ordained as a priest. Now Father Arno, he travels to Rome to become an agent of the Vatican secret services, the oldest and least well-known in the world. For his first mission Arno must travel to India to obtain a recently discovered manuscript attributed to Thomas the Apostle.

Once at his destination, he will encounter a country about to achieve its independence from the British Empire and a region on the verge of a civil war. His investigations will lead him to unveil an unexpected mystery: a web of murders, age-old secrets, and high politics. Would anyone kill simply to possess a manuscript, or does everything come down to money, sex, and violence? Arno must use all his talents to emerge from the mission with his reputation intact, saving his faith... and his life.

**Spain:** Samarcanda, 2021 (396 pp.)

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## **LITERARY FICTION**

**Emili Albi**

***La amante ciega* (The Blind Lover)**



Ernesto, family man and inheritor of an art gallery, sees his professional reputation threatened with an old secret by an enigmatic figure. He watches another peculiar stranger exit the house of his sister who has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Pulled along by incessant questions and fears, Ernesto begins an investigation of his own that leads him into an unknown world of sexual services, ultimately finding both fronts converging.

THE BLIND LOVER examines the hypocrisy of conventional values, the transcendence of love, and societal notions of illness. It portrays life's seemingly irreconcilable contradictions: pleasure and pain, passion and duty. Sometimes they even are the same.

**Spain:** Altamarea, 2022 (392 pp.)

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**José Manuel Fajardo**

***Odio* (Hate)**



In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a sugar manufacturer, bitter not to gain social recognition, wanders through the streets of London, drifting deeper and deeper into the foggy slums. Meanwhile in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in the Parisian suburbs, we witness the transformation of a frustrated young man who is incapable of facing others with anything but rage and violence. The mirror those two characters form reveals the image of hate against the other and the traces of their lethal paths among us.

The author performs a literary exorcism of our time of hate on social media. A hard-hitting, original text which is particularly relevant today.

**France:** Métailié, 2021 (112 pp.); **Spanish:** to be published by Fondo de Cultura Económica. **Spanish and French version available.**

**German and Dutch translation rights.**

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**Carla Gracia**

***Nos recordarán* (They Will Remember Us)**



THEY WILL REMEMBER US is a fictional account of the time Goethe and Schiller spent together in the summer of 1774. It is a mirror game between men and women, exploring the conflicts between the authors, their weaknesses, shadows and grandeurs, and the women who made them blossom.

The novel awakes in the reader the sense of being right there, living those same moments, exploring the conflicts of their ideas and the demanding artistic process. Fiction, a powerful vehicle for bringing Goethe and Schiller to life.

**Spain** (Catalan): Univers, 2022 (220 pp.), Spanish: Catedral. **English version available.**

***Amb ulls de dona. Una biografia de Mercè Pàniker* (With Women's Eyes. A Biography of Mercè Pàniker)**



Daughter of Indian and Catalan parents, Mercè Pàniker grew up in Barcelona in the 1920's and spent her teen years in a German boarding school at the beginning of World War II.

She studied Chemistry at the University of Barcelona and a Master's degree at the University of Leeds as one of only four women among twenty men. Whenever she was the only woman in a men's world, she stood her ground with her head held high, without making excuses or asking permission.

When she came back to Barcelona, she took over her family's business Pàniker, S.A. and promoted a strong collaborative network in the chemical sector. When her husband suddenly died, she had to raise her four children alone. When democracy arrived, she got involved in defending the rights and equality of women.

**Spain** (Catalan): Univers, 2022 (200 pp.)

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**Juan Tallón**

***Obra maestra*** (*Masterpiece*)



This story is utterly implausible—and yet it happened. The Reina Sofía Museum in Madrid commissioned a piece from American sculptor Richard Serra in 1986. A sculpture weighing thirty-eight tons which one fine day... vanished into thin air.

Somewhere between nonfiction novel and fictionalized report, MASTERPIECE employs the pace of a thriller and asks: How could something like this happen? How does a copy become an original? Might the sculpture reappear one day? The novel unites a chorus of voices: officers of the Cultural Heritage

Squad that investigated and the judge who oversaw the case, museum staff, a taxi driver, government ministers, a terrorist, the businessman who stored the work, a scrap dealer, the work's creator... and others.

**Spain:** Anagrama, 2022 (328 pp.)

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