

# THRILLER & NOIR

SPRING 2025



BOOK & FILM  
RIGHTS

Grupo Planeta

# BOOK & FILM RIGHTS

Grupo Planeta

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Cover illustration @Planeta Diseño  
from the book *Dear Mrs. Christie*, by Núria Pradas

COZY CRIME



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**NÚRIA PRADAS ANDREU** was awarded the Premi Carlemany for her novel *Sota el mateix cel*. Her notable works include *Sueños a medida*, which was translated into more than eight languages and sold over 20,000 copies in Germany, *El aroma del tiempo*, and *Tota una vida per recordar*, which earned her the prestigious Premi Ramon Llull, one of the most distinguished literary awards in Catalan literature, and was translated into German and Portuguese. In 2022, Destino published *La vida secreta de Sylvia Nolan*.

## DEAR MRS. CHRISTIE

HIDDEN PAST

BOOKSHOP SETTING

AMATEUR SLEUTH

POST-WWII HISTORICAL FICTION

LITERARY TRIBUTE

SMALL-TOWN SECRETS

SLOW-BURN SUSPENSE

INFLUENCED BY A FAMOUS AUTHOR

FOUND FAMILY PAST

*A captivating cozy crime novel that pays homage to the queen of mystery herself, Agatha Christie*

In the aftermath of World War II, Emma Marbury inherits her late aunt Penelope Brent's quaint bookshop in Dartmouth, Devon. Hoping to rebuild her life, she immerses herself in the world of literature, but soon finds herself entangled in something far more sinister—a shocking connection between a local crime and one of the most infamous cases in British history.

Guided by the wisdom of Agatha Christie's novels and with the legendary author herself as an unexpected ally, Emma embarks on an investigation filled with secrets, deception, and dark shadows from the past. But as new clues emerge, the truth becomes increasingly dangerous, forcing Emma to confront not only the mystery before her but also the hidden depths of her own courage.

**A delight for mystery lovers and an ode to the timeless appeal of a brilliantly crafted whodunit, with its richly atmospheric setting, nods to golden-age detective fiction, and an irresistibly clever heroine.**



DESTINO • 79,147 WORDS • 360 PAGES  
• JANUARY 2025 • ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

*Eligible for a translation grant from the IRLI.*



**LA VECINA RUBIA** lives in Spain, is under 5'3", and loves wearing high heels and using perfect spelling. Throughout this journey, the reader will discover her passion for fashion and books, as well as other facets of her character: she is patient and conciliatory, but is late everywhere; she likes to travel, especially to islands; and she enjoys dialectical battles and ending her sentences with a definitive point. She is witty and believes that laughing is liberating, which is another of her personality traits, that of someone with a good sense of humor who can laugh at herself.

## MY DEAR LUCIA

PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

MYSTERY

SINGLE MOTHER

ASTROLOGY

ANONYMOUS THREATS

DARK SECRETS

POLICE INVESTIGATION

SUSPENSE

### *Could she have prevented their deaths?*

*My Dear Lucia* is a disturbing thriller, real and unpretentious. It is an exciting, psychological, and unpredictable story until the end, delving into the pressure a mother can endure in an extreme situation.

That suffocating summer of 2002, Lucía Romasanta, astrologer, single mother, and writer of the country's most successful horoscope section, receives a disturbing letter from an anonymous admirer. A handwritten text that directly holds her responsible for the death of a stranger if she does not take sides.

To this first letter will follow others, increasingly violent, threatening, and personal. A story that will become part of the investigations of the Judicial Police as the famous "Horoscope Case".

Now, the question for Lucía is clear: could she have prevented their deaths?

**A story that contains rawness, humor, intrigue, social context, love, and, of course, the essential components of the genre such as tension, suspense, and a perfectly woven atmosphere of unresolved crimes.**



**OPTION PUBLISHERS:** Newton Compton (Italy),  
Chá das Cinco (Portugal).



CÚPULA • 138,681 WORDS • 448 PAGES

• OCTOBER 2024 • ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

*"My dear Lucia, I know you strive to uncover my identity, but it hardly matters. Only what is to come should concern you. Until then..."*



**CÉSAR PÉREZ GELLIDA** is one of the most established and widely read authors of crime novels in Spain. He has published thirteen novels which have been enjoyed by more than 300,000 readers so far. His novel *Memento mori* has recently been adapted into a TV series and his last work, *Beneath Dry Soil*, has won him the 2024 Nadal Award for best novel. In 2023, Netflix released the tv series adaptation of *Memento Mori*. He co-directs the Blacklladolid literary festival with Dolores Redondo.

## NOTHING GOOD GERMINATES

CRIME &amp; BETRAYAL

FORBIDDEN ROMANCE

ANTI-HEROES

ON THE RUN

HISTORICAL TENSION

*An addictive thriller about desire and power relations with an intense dose of eroticism as a backdrop*

Sebastián Costa and Antonia Monterroso are two lost souls bound by a dark past, each desperately seeking escape from the life they're trapped in. In the early years of the 20th century, they embark on a treacherous journey across a land filled with violence, deception, and fleeting hope. Together, they dream of a new life far from the shadows of their past, driven by the promise of freedom and a future that seems just out of reach.

Their relationship is a volatile mix of desire and danger, where trust is fleeting and every step forward is met with increasing peril. As they navigate a world of crime and betrayal, they begin to realize that the price of their freedom might be more than they're willing to pay.

*Nothing Good Germinates* is an unrelenting story of survival, ambition, and the pursuit of redemption, where every decision risks everything and the consequences are as explosive as the passion that fuels it.



PLANETA • 59,551 WORDS • 256 PAGES

• MARCH 2024 • ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE



**OPTION PUBLISHER:** Ponte Alle Grazie (Italy).

*In this dark, heart-pounding tale, moral lines blur and survival becomes the only goal —no matter the cost.*

# BENEATH DRY SOIL

SPAGHETTI WESTERN

ENIGMATIC CHARACTERS

FAST-PACED ACTION

RURAL THRILLER

*A Tarantinesque rural thriller about an enigmatic and seductive widow who marked the fate of all those who crossed her path, leaving behind her a trail of passion, blood and soil*

Deep Spain, early 20th century. Antonia Monterroso, better known as the Widow, is the owner of one of the best haciendas in the region. She struggles to keep it going during a period of lean times that never seems to end and which particularly affects rural areas. However, a fire destroys everything she has worked so hard to build and, in its aftermath, she disappears.

Lieutenant Martín Gallardo travels to the scene of the fire accompanied by Sergeant Pacheco to investigate the incident. Five days earlier, the Widow had filed a report against Jacinto Padilla, the foreman of her estate and former lover, who has been arrested in Zafra with a bag full of money and jewels. He swears he provoked the fire on orders from Antonia and that she gave him the bag to take with him because they were going to begin a new life far from there. During the interrogation, Padilla confesses to a series of macabre acts that lead to a radical twist in an investigation that will end up turning bloody. Gallardo, like everyone else who lives in the area, has heard of the enigmatic Widow, but what he doesn't know is that he will be taking on a case from which he won't escape unscathed.

**A fast-paced, meticulously arranged plot masterfully transports the reader to the 20th century rural Spain to give life to characters whose strength and attitudes make them impossible to forget.**

 **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Ponte Alle Grazie (Italy).



DESTINO • 138,681 WORDS • 504 PAGES  
• FEBRUARY 2024 • ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

*A story in which ambition, inner strength and the fight for survival will all cross paths.*

*Illiteracy, hunger, social distances, local fiefdoms, the fight for survival by those who have nothing in the years of the Spanish Flu, political tensions and perennial economic hardships give the plot an intensity unusual in contemporary narrative.*



**HENAR ÁLVAREZ** is a prominent Spanish comedian, writer, and television presenter, celebrated for her irreverent humor and advocacy for women's rights. In 2023, Forbes recognized her as the best podcaster among content creators. In 2024, she hosted a late-night show on , blending interviews and humor. Additionally, she co-hosts a podcast, exploring deep cultural topics with a humorous touch. Her unique style and social commitment have established her as a leading voice in Spain's media landscape. In 2020, she published the graphic novel *La mala leche* (Planeta), illustrated by Ana Müshell, which was a resounding success.

## THIRST

FEMALE PLEASURE

DESIRE

FEMINIST

INFIDELITIES

METALITERATURE

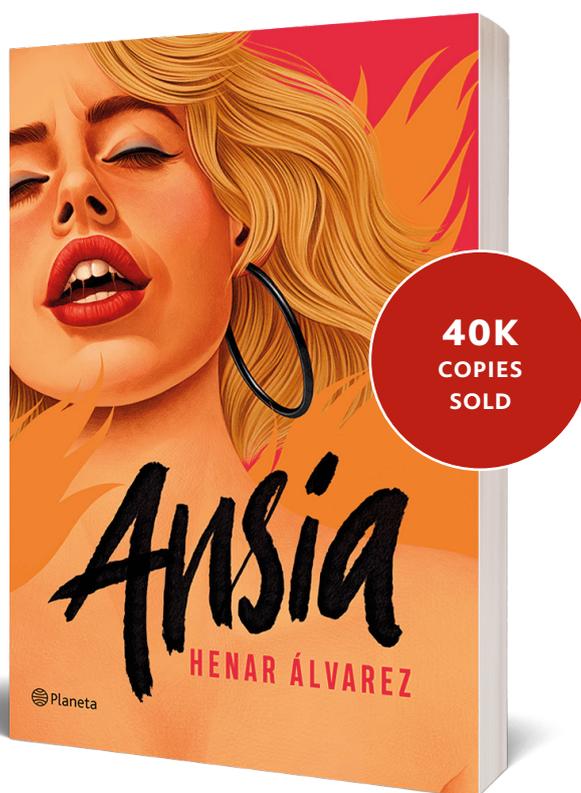
IRREVERENT

*An addictive thriller about desire and power relations with an intense dose of eroticism as a backdrop*

Natalia is an anxious woman whose life is dominated by her impulses; she seems condemned to rebellion and breaking all social norms and conventions. The day her lover leaves her, she finds herself lost and trapped in an unfulfilling married life. Far from being satisfied, Nat begins to unleash her lust and her deepest instincts. Her irrepressible sexual desire and a growing obsession with feeling young and desired will eventually control her life, but they will also serve as inspiration for *Thirst*, the novel she is writing. Thus, fiction and reality merge in a fiery and explosive fable about dissatisfaction in love, and power relations.

**Written with the most defiant humour, this novel offers a lucid reflection on what it means to be a free, erratic and imperfect woman today, all whilst not being punished for her excesses or paying dearly for the price of her freedom.**

**Through this narrative, the author vindicates the struggle for women's liberation, somewhere between sexual dissemination and without taboos, in which themes such as anxiety, obsession, compulsion, psychic addiction and power relations converge.**



PLANETA • 59,551 WORDS • 256 PAGES

• MARCH 2024 • ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE



AUDIOVISUAL RIGHTS: Optioned.

*A daring, erotic thriller that explores the boundaries of power, obsession, and the freedom to break all the rules.*



**LUIS GARCÍA-REY** is a television journalist, who has presented the weekend edition of *Deportes Cuatro* for more than a decade. His voice can also be heard at night on *Partidazo de COPE*. In addition, he directs the master's degree in Sports Journalism at the Villanueva University.

## AXEL

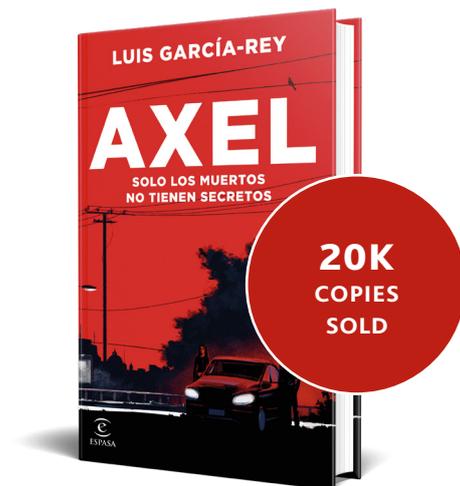
TESTOSTERONE FAST-PACED ACTION DRUG TRAFFICKING MODERN POLICE THRILLER

### *An explosive and unputdownable debut novel*

Madrid, March 13, 2019. The judicial police agent Axel Nash has left his native Vigo in search of more action in Madrid. Who tells him one morning he receives a call from his new partner, Loor Galván, tells him that Marcos Goya, a radio presenter on a late-night program, has just appeared stabbed to death in a dirty brothel, and with signs of having been assaulted.

Meanwhile in Vigo, Omar Pombo and his friend Javier Grande, Jarvis, who, like many other young people from the Rías Baixas, have ended up dealing for drug traffickers, are now in a huge mess: they have lost a shipment and the consequences are not good.

**Axel pays tribute to movies like *Seven* or TV series like *True Detective*. Its unstoppable rhythm and the strength of its characters snare the reader from start to finish.**



ESPASA • 159,214 WORDS •  
592 PAGES • JANUARY 2023  
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

## LOOR

DARK HUMOR ACTION-PACKED SWINGER CLUBS

### *Loor by Luis García-Rey is a gripping and modern crime thriller*

The story begins with a chilling WhatsApp message: "Axel, I think I killed someone." Loor Galván wakes up covered in blood beside a dead OnlyFans star, with no memory of the night before. At the same time, police inspector Axel Nash is warned live on TV about another body found in Madrid's Casa de Campo—a rock star from a top band.

With both high-profile cases on his shoulders, Axel must untangle a web of lies where trust is scarce. As he and Loor race against time, one question looms: Is she a murderer, and can he trust her?

**García-Rey crafts an electrifying narrative filled with suspense, humor, sex, and violence, accompanied by a nostalgic '90s soundtrack featuring bands like Oasis, The Cure, and Fleetwood Mac. *Loor* pays homage to classic films like *Seven* and acclaimed series such as *True Detective*.**



ESPASA • 160,517 WORDS • 576 PAGES  
• MARCH 2024 • ENGLISH SAMPLE  
AVAILABLE



**FERRAN TORRENT** is one of the most established writers, with a successful body of work that has earned him numerous awards, including the Premi Sant Jordi, the Joan Crexells, the National Critics' Award, and the Serra d'Or Critics' Award. Among his most notable novels are *Gracias por la propina* (Premi Sant Jordi), *La vida en el abismo* (finalist for the Premio Planeta, 2004).

## THE SELF THAT DOES NOT DIE

SPIONAGE AND INTRIGUE

ANTI-HERO

DOUBLE LIVES

MORAL AMBIGUITY

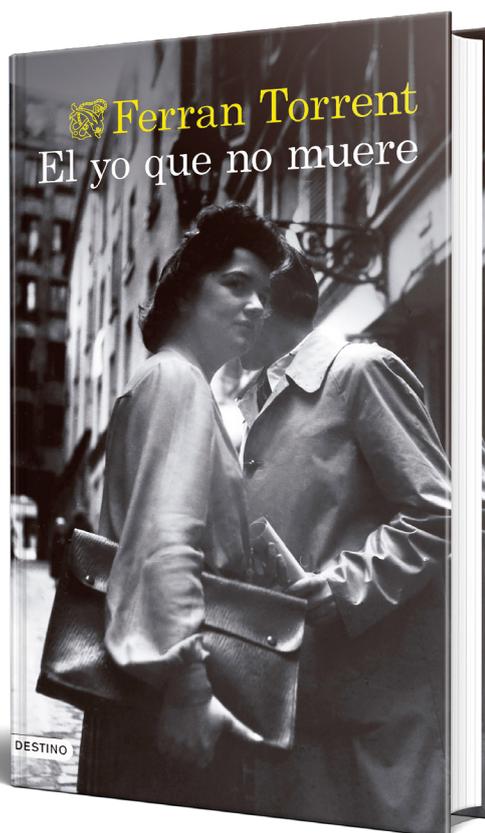
CORRUPTION IN POWER

*Under the spell of Ava Gardner and the weight of hidden power, one man forges his way through intrigue, deception, and danger*

Valencia, 1960s. Regino, a master forger of both art and documents, lives by his wits in a city where influence is everything and corruption lurks behind every handshake. When the legendary Ava Gardner arrives—incognito, under the alias Kitty—her presence adds a touch of Hollywood glamour to a world already steeped in danger. As Regino navigates the underbelly of high society, trafficking in looted artworks and rubbing shoulders with the most untouchable figures of the time, he becomes ensnared in a web of espionage, betrayals, and shifting allegiances.

Blending noir intrigue with sharp social critique, Ferran Torrent crafts a gripping tale of secrets, illusions, and survival. With unexpected twists and a cast of morally complex characters,

***The Self That Does Not Die* is a dazzling journey through a time when truth was just another thing waiting to be forged.**



COLUMNA • 63,317 WORDS • 288 PAGES  
• FEBRUARY 2025

*Eligible for a translation grant from the IRL.*



**DANIEL CORPAS** is a screenwriter, playwright, and novelist with a penchant for weaving historical settings into compelling, suspenseful narratives. A graduate of Cuba's prestigious International School of Film and TV, his works explore the intersection of human ambition and societal decay.

## THE BLACK HAND

HISTORICAL NOIR

CONSPIRACY

19TH CENTURY SPAIN

CLASS STRUGGLE

REVOLUTION AND DISSENT

*A chilling glimpse into a society on the brink of collapse, where paranoia and power collide in ways that resonate far beyond 19th-century Spain*

*The Black Hand* is a gripping historical noir set in 1882 Jerez de la Frontera, a town paralyzed by drought, poverty, and fear. Against this backdrop, rumors of *The Black Hand*—a shadowy anarchist group accused of targeting landowners—spread like wildfire, fueling a brutal crackdown on the region's marginalized communities.

Through the intertwined stories of an ambitious journalist, a conflicted detective, and a young laborer, the novel exposes the devastating impact of greed, oppression, and fear-mongering. Was *The Black Hand* a real threat or a fabricated excuse to silence dissent?



ISTORÍA • 169,721 WORDS • 368 PAGES • MAY 2025  
• ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE



**MARCOS CHICOT** holds degrees in Clinical Psychology, Occupational Psychology, and Economics. To date, he has published *The Murder of Pythagoras*, *The Brotherhood*, *Gordon's Diary*, and *The Murder of Socrates* (which was a finalist for the Planeta Prize in 2016). Over the course of his literary career, he has also won the Francisco Umbral Novel Prize, the Rotary International Novel Prize, and the Premio per la Cultura Mediterranea 2015 for the best novel published in Italy for *The Murder of Pythagoras*. For the same title, the city of Crotone awarded him the prestigious Encomio Solenne distinction.

## THE MURDER OF ARISTOTLE

FALLEN MENTOR

RELUCTANT HERO

GENIUS IN PERIL

FORGOTTEN BLOODLINE

DYING WORLD

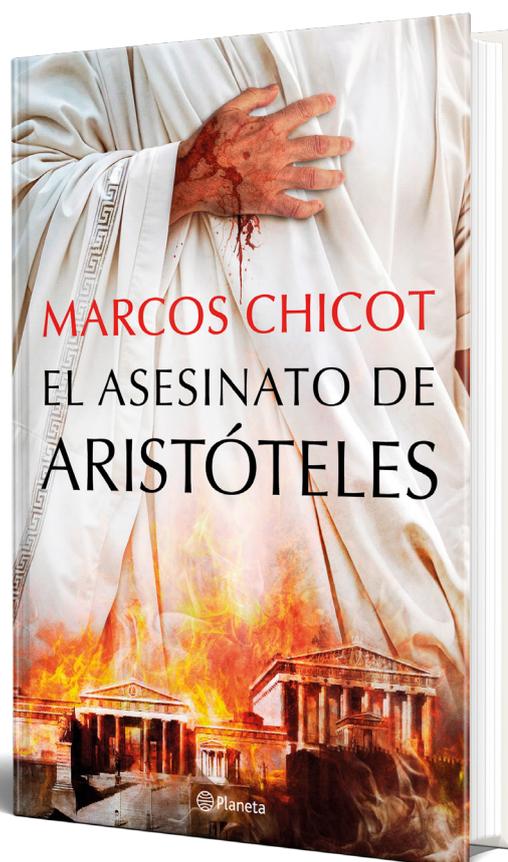
STRONG-WILLED SURVIVOR

*Not just a historical thriller—it is a journey into the heart of a civilization on the brink of change*

In the twilight of an era, Aristotle, the most revered philosopher of Greece and mentor to Alexander the Great, finds himself at the heart of a perilous conspiracy. His close ties to the invincible conqueror have long shielded him from his enemies, but that protection is on the verge of collapse.

As Athens teeters on the edge of turmoil, two unlikely figures—Prometheus, an Athenian with a hidden past, and Penelope, a Spartan woman defying all odds—become entangled in the dangerous plots surrounding Aristotle. Their fates are bound not only to the philosopher's survival but also to a long-buried secret that will shake their world as it crumbles around them.

Blending historical adventure, political intrigue, and thrilling suspense, this novel vividly brings ancient Greece to life. It delves into Aristotle's brilliant contributions to philosophy while exposing the treacherous struggles he faced in his final years. Alongside epic battles and power struggles, deep human emotions and a powerful love story weave through the narrative, culminating in a profoundly satisfying conclusion.



PLANETA • 148,877 WORDS • 640 PAGES  
• MAY 2025

*An Immersive portrayal of classical Greece, where figures like Creon, Althea, Prometheus, and Penelope stand alongside the legendary Aristotle and Alexander.*



**ARO SÁINZ DE LA MAZA** combines his writing career with that of an editor and proofreader. He started the devastating series starring inspector Milo Malart with *The Barcelona Murders*, his first crime novel, which received a Special Mention of the RBA International Crime Novel Award. The outstanding popular reception and press reviews was reaffirmed with the publication of the novel in France *Le Bourreau de Gaudí*. Malart is already a classic of the genre, in the line of prestigious contemporary writers, such as Jo Nesbø and Philip Kerr.



#### AUDIOVISUAL RIGHTS:

The entire series soon premiered on Netflix.

## THE BARCELONA MURDERS

### ELEMENTS SERIES 1

FATE & PUNISHMENT

GAUDI

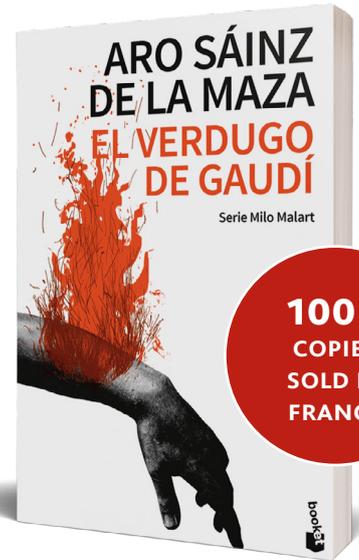
SERIAL KILLER

ACTION-PACKED

*For every riddle that is solved, another, even more disturbing appears*

Inspector Milo Malart, suspended from the Barcelona police homicide department for his unconventional methods, returns to investigate the gruesome murder of Caixa executive Eduard Pinto, who was kidnapped, tortured, and burned alive on a Pedrera balcony.

With the help of colleagues Mercader and Crespo, Milo uncovers a connection between this murder and the kidnappings of key Barcelona authorities, delving into long-standing corruption and power schemes.



DESTINO • 171,422 WORDS • 688 PAGES

• JANUARY 2020 • ENGLISH SAMPLE

AVAILABLE



**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Actes Sud (France), Crime Scene Press (Romania), Bompiani (Italy), Aufbau (Germany), SNQ (Poland).

## THE BLIND SPOT

### ELEMENTS SERIES 2

GRUESOME MASSACRES

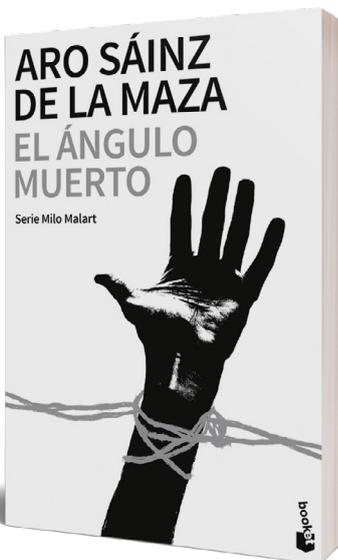
POLITICAL CORRUPTION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

*A pitch-dark crime novel that shows the best and the worst of a society drowned in its successes and frustrations*

Amid an economic crisis devastating the Spanish middle class, the lifeless body of Carolina Estrada, an exemplary young woman, is found in the mountains. Meanwhile, impaled dog corpses start appearing, initially dismissed as hooliganism, but Inspector Malart knows they are linked to her murder.

As Malart and Mercader uncover the culprits, they find the plot extends to the highest echelons of power. Malart must tread carefully, threatened by dark, anonymous forces, while battling the mental illness that killed his father and has haunted him since childhood.



PLANETA • 99,664 WORDS • 400 PAGES

• JANUARY 2020 • ENGLISH SAMPLE

AVAILABLE



**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Actes Sud (France), Crime Scene Press (Romania) and SQN (Polonia).

# DOCILE

## ELEMENTS SERIES 3

GRITTY

PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

CRIMINAL MINDS

*The detective Milo Malart faces a particularly cruel and complex case*

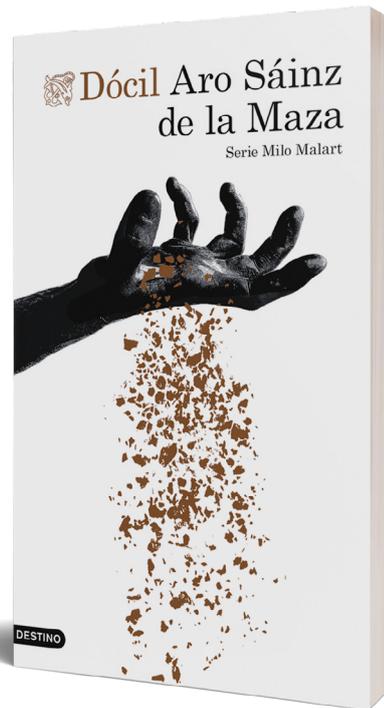
Milo Malart sets to work investigating the brutal murder of the Corona family. As he uncovers a complex web of lies, deceit and corruption, Inspector Malart eventually solves more than one case. Personally, he has to deal with his brother, who is in a psychiatric and ends up in a bad spell, perhaps the worst ever in his life.



RIGHTS SOLD TO: Actes Sud (France),

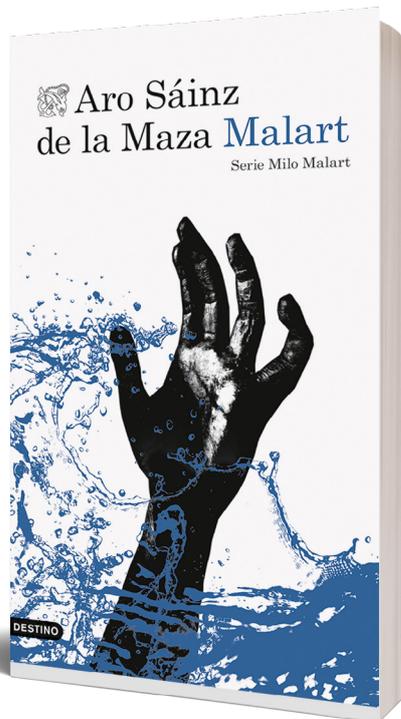
*"The literary depth, complexity, and the deep psychology of the characters, starting with the protagonist himself, combine to offer us an excellent novel."*

JUAN INFANTE, MOON MAGAZINE



DESTINO • 130,043 WORDS • 496 PAGES

• JANUARY 2020 • ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE



DESTINO • 112,974 WORDS • 464 PAGES

• APRIL 2023 • ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

# MALART

## ELEMENTS SERIES 4

BLUNT &amp; IRREVERENT

INJUSTICES &amp; INFAMIES

MIND GAMES

*Aro Sáinz de la Maza masterfully closes the circle of injustice and infamy with a new and sublime twist*

After his last case, Malart gets obsessed with the Gotha case. To run away of his personal life, he starts to investigate a suspicious couple: the multi-millionaires Ivo Parés and Mónica Morera. But one day, they are found dead on their luxury yacht, Malart disappears, and all the clues point to him as the main suspect.

Mercader has to take over the investigation, she is convinced that someone is framing Malart. In race against the clock, she will have to learn to wear Milo's hat to discover the mole within her team and find Malart while clearing his name of all lies.



RIGHTS SOLD TO: Actes Sud (France).



**JOSÉ RODRIGUES DOS SANTOS** journalist at RTP. He has worked at Rádio Macau and the BBC and was a permanent contributor to CNN. With two doctorates, earned in Lisbon and Paris, he was a professor at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa for 25 years. As a novelist, he has won the Bertrand Fiction Prize, the Literary Club of Porto Prize, the Literature Portal Prize, the Prix Littéraire de la Lusophonie, and the Prix d'Excellence 2023.

## THE RED DRAGON WOMAN

SPY THRILLER

POLITICAL INTRIGUE

NEW SILK ROAD

Tomás Noronha receives a desperate message from his wife, Maria Flor, who has been kidnapped alongside a mysterious woman known as the Red Dragon. In his quest to rescue her, Tomás uncovers a deadly web of surveillance, repression, and power plays tied to China's New Silk Road initiative.

With the help of CIA agent Charlie Chang, Tomás ventures deep into this world of deceit and danger, revealing the dark strategies of a nation vying for global dominance.



PLANETA PT • 151,017 WORDS • 576 PAGES •  
OCTOBER 2022



## THE SECRET OF SPINOZA

HISTORICAL FICTION

PHILOSOPHY

HERESY

Amsterdam, 1640. A young Baruch Spinoza witnesses a dramatic excommunication for heresy that sparks his lifelong quest for truth. This gripping novel traces Spinoza's intellectual journey as he challenges sacred texts, discovers groundbreaking ideas, and faces persecution.

PLANETA PT • 146,822 WORDS • 560 PAGES  
• OCTOBER 2023

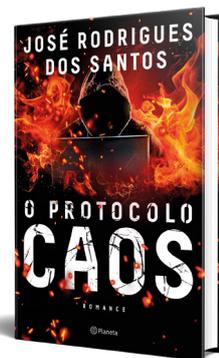
## CHAOS PROTOCOL

POLITICAL THRILLER

CONSPIRACY

SOCIAL MEDIA MANIPULATION

A hooded man opens fire on a crowd, killing dozens. In the aftermath, he removes his mask to reveal his identity: Tomás Noronha. From Russia's underground to the heart of the U.S., a global conspiracy unravels, linking political turmoil to social media manipulation. Inspired by real-world events, Chaos Protocol is a chilling exploration of modern power dynamics.



PLANETA PT • 163,602 WORDS • 624 PAGES  
• OCTOBER 2024

BOOK & FILM  
**RIGHTS**

Grupo Planeta