

DOSSIER

JUAN JACINTO MUÑOZ RENGEL (Malaga, Spain, 1974) is one of the most promising Spanish writers of his generation. His highly acclaimed novels are *The Great Imaginer*, Celsius Festival National Book Award 2017 (*El gran imaginador*, Penguin Random House, 2016), *The Other's Dream* (*El sueño del otro*, Penguin Random House, 2013) and *The Hypochondriac Hitman* (*El asesino hipocondríaco*, Penguin Random House, 2012). His works have been published in a dozen countries including France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Canada, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile. *The Hypochondriac Hitman* was warmly received by both the public and critics; it is currently in its eighth edition in Spain and has been already published in France and Italy. His latest novel, *The Great Imaginer*, is a surprising story combining fantasy, humor, adventures and literary homages. The author has received more than fifty national and international literary awards for his short stories and his work has also appeared in the main national anthologies, including *Cuento español actual* (Cátedra, 2014), *Pequeñas resistencias. Antología del nuevo cuento español* (Páginas de Espuma, 2010) and *Siglo XXI. Los nuevos nombres del cuento español* (Menuscuarto, 2010). Juan Jacinto Muñoz Rengel is also a frequent contributor to the Spanish newspaper *El País* and staff member of Spanish National Radio. In addition, he teaches creative writing at Escuela de Escritura Creativa Fuentetaja in Madrid.

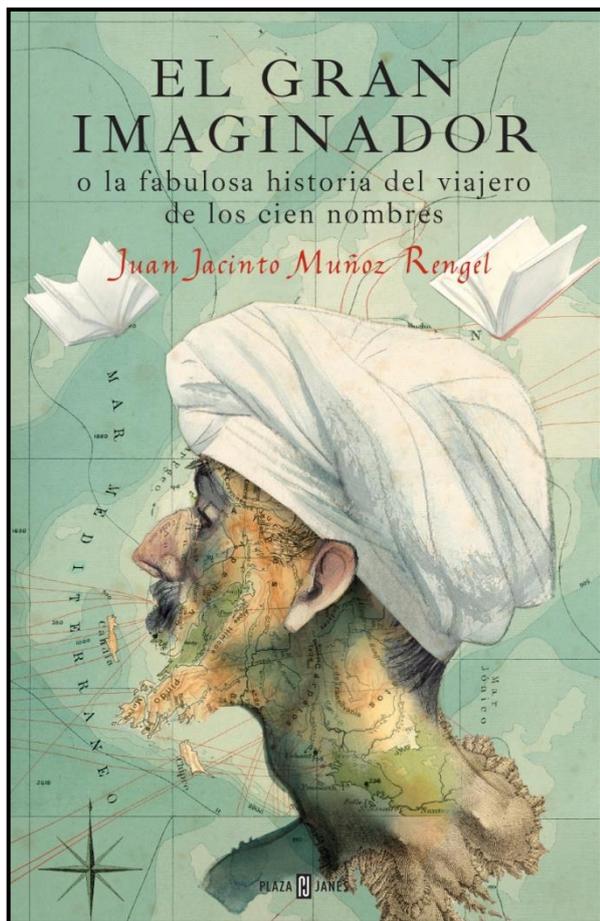
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Muñoz Rengel is full of imagination.
EL PAÍS, Spain

Hilarious. Irresistible.
PARIS MATCH, France

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The Great Imaginer

Plaza & Janés, Penguin Random House, Spain
September 2016, 448 pages
Genre: Historical fiction

SYNOPSIS. This is the story of the greatest imager of all time. His own birth was an inexplicable event that went against the laws of nature, even though, today, there are few witnesses who can confirm the facts. Nikolaos Popoulos was born in Athens at the beginning of the 16th Century, under the ruling of the Ottoman Empire. He always wanted to be a writer, in order to leave at least some traces of all the things that his unlimited imagination had conceived. However, almost as if his life were cursed, he was repeatedly forced to become a man of action. Amid the golden cities and most remote places of a convulsive era, *The Great Imaginer* takes us back to the origins of fiction and shows us glimpses of some of the main icons of universal literature. Beyond the historical background, the main distinguishing features of this novel are the exuberance and the aesthetic touches of magical realism, which provide a platform to explore the European sources of the fantasy genre, of Gothic horror, and even science-fiction, while remaining within the formula of the adventure novel.

'Juan Jacinto Muñoz Rengel surprises with *The Great Imaginer*, a novel packed with fantasy, humor and literary homages.' **Babelia, EL PAÍS**

'A heart-felt homage to literature and the imagination.'
El Cultural, EL MUNDO

'Now, after reading this passionate novel by Muñoz Rengel, we know a lot more. The great imager is the originator of modernity.' **Juan Francisco Ferré, SUR**

'Popoulos is a Funes who imagines everything.'
Revista EÑE

· Celsius Festival National Book Award 2017 ·

SECOND EDITION IN SPAIN

'One of the most risk-taking and prolific authors in current Spanish fiction.' **DIARIO DE LEÓN**

'It takes a special mind to contemplate a novel about infinite imagination, and it takes a genius to write it without defrauding the reader.' **Revista EXPERPENTO**

'Those who expected Muñoz Rengel to go for broke will be satisfied. Borges would have given anything to be the author of this novel.' **MÁLAGA HOY**

'There is no other way than surrendering to the magnificent prose and the overwhelming personality of this great imager.' **LA VERDAD**

'A homage to literature and fiction, with echoes of Borges and Cervantes.' **Revista URBAN**

'A total novel. With an argument that would like to Borges.' **Revista LEER**

'Muñoz Rengel is sick of imagination. That old illness that tie together Borges and an Italo Calvino, a Stoker Bram and a Mary Shelley, a Lovecraft and a Wells, as well as to Nikolaos Popoulos and Cervantes.' **MERCURIO**

'A vindication of fiction and inventiveness in these times of premature autobiographies and non-fiction.'
EL ASOMBRARIO

'This novel is a marvel big enough to contain the world and all its genres.' **SOLIDARIDAD DIGITAL**

'A journey to the roots of fantasy.' **DIARIO DE SEVILLA**

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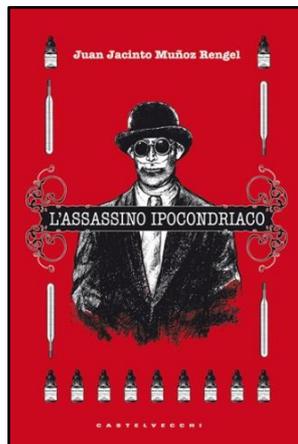
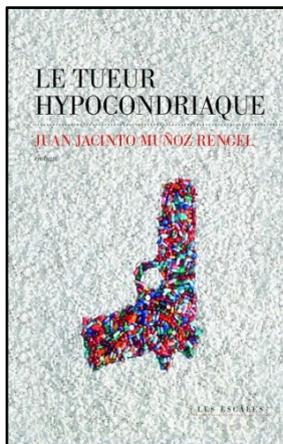
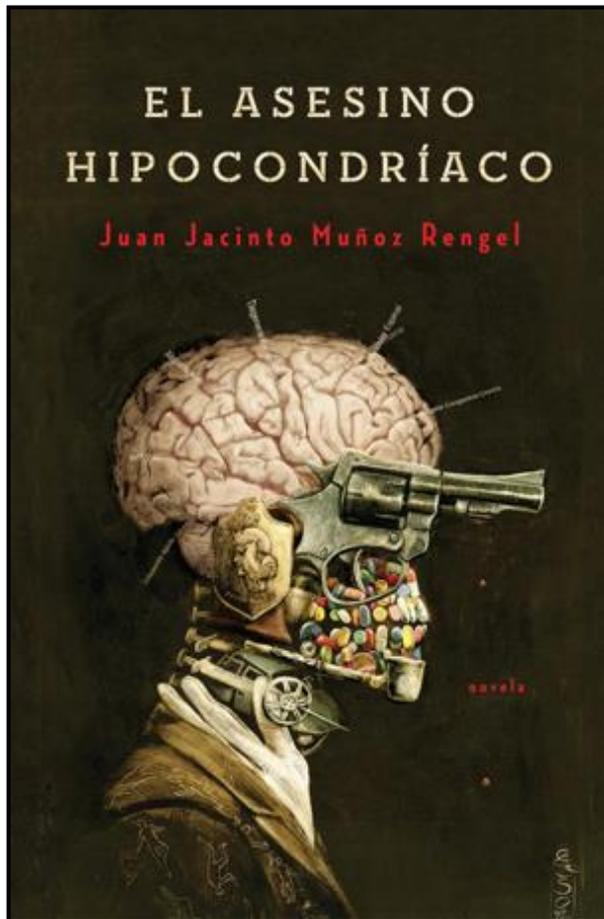
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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: BTC Šahinpašić, 2019

MONTENEGRO: BTC Šahinpašić, 2019

FRANCE: Pending Offer



The Hypochondriac Hitman

Plaza & Janés / DeBolsillo, Penguin Random House, Spain
January 2012, 224 pages
Genre: Fiction

SYNOPSIS. Mister Y. just has to finish one last job as a hitman but to do this he must overcome a huge obstacle: it's the last day of his life. This professional assassin has been dying from the moment he was born. He has overcome so many diseases that you'd think he were a medical miracle. Currently working for an unknown client, his orders are to kill the slick Eduardo Blaisten before he dies from a stroke, gangrene or the worsening of Professional Spasm Syndrome. However, his bad luck frustrates all his attempts to kill his victim. The book establishes a magical connection between Mr. Y's own struggles and the great physical, psychological and imaginary suffering which tortured Poe, Proust, Voltaire, Tolstoy, Molière, and all the other famous hypochondriacs in the history of literature.

'The Hypochondriac Hitman is much more than just a simple crime novel, it's a true lesson in philosophy.'

EL MUNDO, Spain

'Hilarious. Irresistible.' **PARIS MATCH, France**

'With his novel Muñoz Rengel gives us a murderer whose killing it is possible to enjoy.'

CORRIERE DELLA SERA, Italy

'From Calvino to Borges. From Vila-Matas to Piglia.'

Jorge Volpi, Mexico

'Rengel builds an enjoyable novel that's primarily a tribute to literature.' **TÉLAM, Argentina**

'The great surprise of the year. A evocative novel as chilling as that can produce laughter, giggle attacks and cerebral congestion.' **Félix J. Palma, author of *The Map of Time***

'The talent of Juan Jacinto Muñoz Rengel is his rich imagination.' **L'HUMANITÉ, France**

'Death, and also life, are unavoidable. But the courage and skills of this author will fool you and make you believe otherwise.' **LA VANGUARDIA, Spain**

'Muñoz Rengel signs a delightful black comedy.'

LIVRES-HEBDO, France

· Finalist of the Festival du premier roman de Chambéry-Savoie 2012 ·

· Finalist of the Mandarache National Book Award 2013 ·

8TH EDITION IN SPAIN | PUBLISHED IN FRANCE, ITALY, CANADA, TURKEY, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, CHILE...

'A highly original, hilarious and disturbing novel whose key asset is its unforgettable main character: a hypochondriac protagonist who emerges as larger than life.'

Rosa Montero, Spain

'Crossing police surrealism, literary biography, medical anecdotes and philosophy. An anthology of the most famous imaginary patients of the past.'

LA STAMPA, Italy

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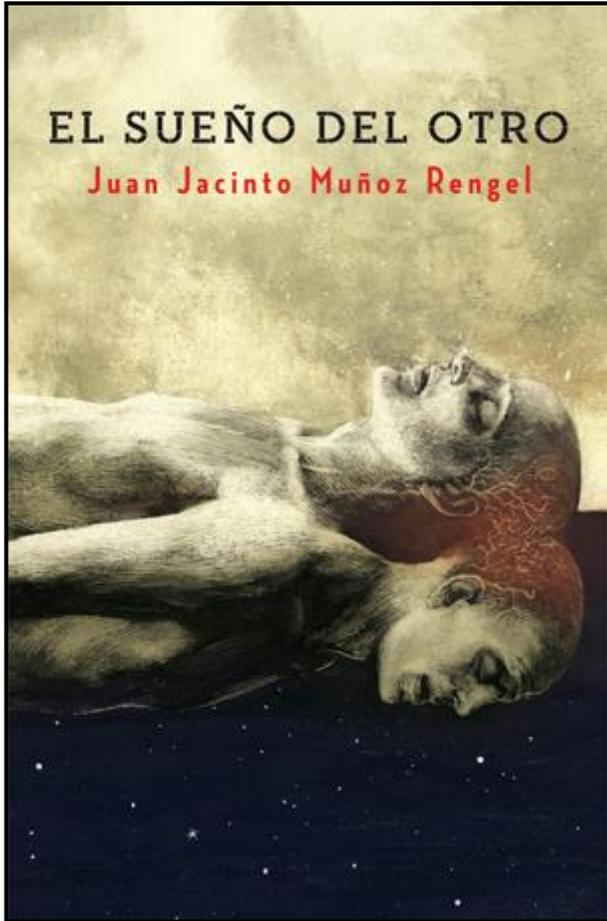
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FRANCIA: Les Escales, 2013 | Pocket, 2014

ITALIA: Castelvecchi, 2012 | LIT, 2013 | Elliot, 2015

TURQUÍA: Yapi Kredi Yayinlari, 2019



‘Muñoz Rengel is one of the most interesting current voices in Spanish literature.’ **EL IMPARCIAL**

‘The discussion on the fantastic in Spanish literature lacked the appearance of a novel like *The Other’s Dream*. A masterful novel that addresses the deterioration of the present with a ferocious and unique scope.’
DIARIO DE SEVILLA

‘A compelling novel that collects the best literary fantastic tradition.’ **CULTURAMAS**

‘A profound, critical and astonishing novel that grasps you from the first page.’ **EL POPULAR, Argentina**

The Other’s Dream

Plaza & Janés / DeBolsillo, Penguin Random House, Spain
January 2013, 304 pages
Genre: Fiction

SYNOPSIS. Xavier Arteaga is a public high school teacher who dreams every night that he is André Bodoc, an Editor of the nightly news. André Bodoc is the Editor of the nightly news who dreams every night that he is Xavier Arteaga, a public high school teacher. But who is dreaming about who? Who is real and who is dreaming? Xavier is an ordinary man, divorced, with one child, who has seen the little he had in life wrenched from him. He wants to recover what he once had or, perhaps, even build a better future. But the nervous breakdown caused by dreaming about someone else’s life ends up by pushing him into a series of searches. He chases answers, chases people and, in the end, he chases André Bodoc. André is a successful, articulate man, a media expert highly skilled in manipulating and interpreting facts. When he also starts losing self-control, he becomes obsessed by what is real and what is illusory.

‘The question is obvious: who is the truth and who is the dream? Muñoz Rengel’s solution is fascinating.’ **TIEMPO**

‘With a steady narrative and stylistic effectiveness, novel becomes disturbing and distressing qualities enhanced by its growing suspense.’ **EL CULTURAL**

‘One of those stories that catches us from its first page.’
LA VERDAD

‘One of the most captivating reads of early 2013. *The Other’s Dream* is a mature and essential work of modern Spanish literature.’ **EL PERIÓDICO**

‘Juan Jacinto Muñoz Rengel, ingenious, paradoxical, provocative, throws us his narrative challenge and emerges triumphant from the quagmire.’
Revista QUIMERA

‘*The Other’s Dream* is a splendid novel that immerses the reader in a storm of disturbing events that make us think about our place in this world.’ **DIARIO VASCO**

‘Unreal, fantastic, irreverent, creative.’
DIARIO DE BURGOS

Muñoz Rengel grips readers once again with an original novel that will leave no one indifferent.
EL MUNDO, Spain



The Book of Small Miracles

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 Páginas de Espuma, Spain
 September 2013, 136 pages
 Genre: Flash Fiction

SYNOPSIS. There are microscopic events that nobody knows and could transform the entire universe. And there are renowned historical events so accidental that they would have been others as soon as the direction of the wind changed. *The Book of Small Miracles* is a sample of these grandiose and tiny facts. It is a detailed catalog of wonders. It is a journey from the bottom of our drawers, from under our beds, from the false ceiling of our bedroom to the most remote galaxies. It's a bestiary, check it out, look at the index of the last pages: it's a bestiary. Or, what it is the same, it's a manual of theology. Or, to be even more exact, it is a treatise on micro science fiction. Or maybe it's none of this at all. Of course, that's for sure, it's not the book you expect. But it do is the book that you were dreaming of.

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EL PAÍS, Spain

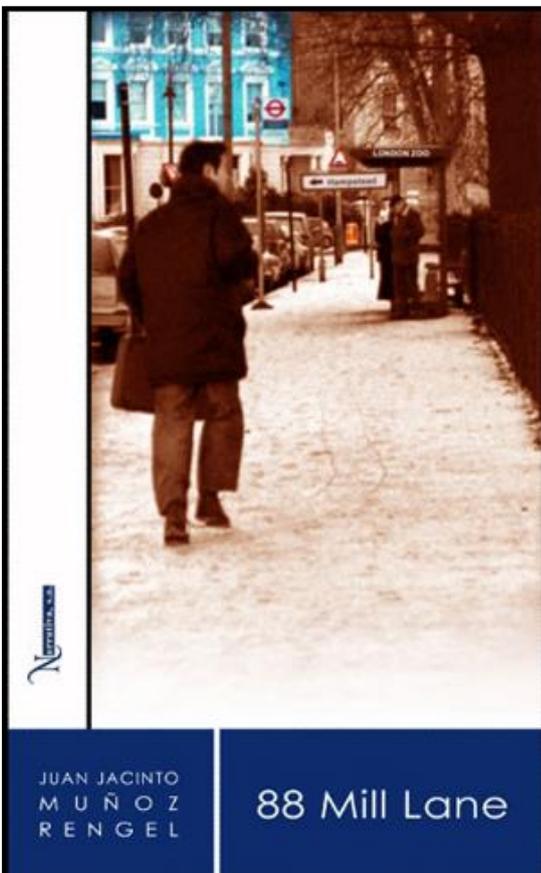
'Unquiet, naughty, playful.' **ABC, Spain**

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GREECE: Opera, 2019

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88 Mill Lane

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 Editorial Alhulia, Spain
 December 2005, 160 pages
 Genre: Short stories

SYNOPSIS. These short stories were written by the author in his years in London and selection follows two common criteria: they all take place in the British metropolis and they all are forced into the fantastic distortion. Throughout the pages we walk along avenues of the contemporary city, crossed by gallery owners, publishers, gentlemen's clubs and antique shops, or we are caught among the Victorian facades by the eerie fog from Conan Doyle, Henry James, Stevenson or Chesterton. A dozen short stories that deserved the most prestigious awards of the genre. A boundless imagination and the very personal look of Muñoz Rengel, renowned in his native country for being one of the greatest short-story writers of his generation.

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'One of those authors to whom writing is imagining, inventing, adding new things to the world.' **Pablo De Santis, Argentina**

'Simply a marvel of inventiveness, balance and control.'
Medardo Fraile, Spain

'A set of stories of forbidden worlds and doors that should never have been opened.' **Η Καθημερινή, Greece**

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