

Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel – Presentation Dossier

Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel is a Spanish writer whose work explores the porous boundaries between fiction, philosophy and speculative thought. Over the last two decades, he has developed a coherent and recognizable literary universe across novels, short fiction and essays, characterized by genre hybridization, metafiction, and a sustained inquiry into identity, reality and narrative forms.

His books have reached a wide readership in Spain, with *El asesino hipocondríaco* becoming a significant commercial success, and his work has been praised by critics for combining intellectual ambition with narrative drive. International reviewers have compared his imaginative rigor, formal play, and interconnected project to writers such as Italo Calvino and Jorge Luis Borges.

“

Best known for a parodic crime novel titled *The Hypochondriac Hitman* and other postmodern experiments with literary convention.

THE NEW YORKER

The talent of Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel is his rich imagination.

L'HUMANITÉ

Why publish him now?

Muñoz-Rengel offers a twofold asset: a distinctive authorial voice able to attract readers of literary imagination, and a substantial backlist with long-term catalogue potential.

The maturity of his recent novels and essays and a growing record of translations make him a compelling prospect for leading international publishers. There is a clear opportunity to be the first to shape and consolidate his body of work under a unified editorial vision, presenting it as the cohesive corpus it already is.

Publishing Muñoz-Rengel now means engaging with an author at a decisive moment: when his literary world is fully formed and his global presence still open to be meaningfully defined.

BIOGRAPHY

Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel (Málaga, 1974) is a Spanish writer and intellectual with a doctorate in pure Philosophy. He has collaborated with outlets such as Radio Nacional de España and the newspaper *El País*. Critics have hailed him as one of the major renovators of the fantastic and speculative tradition. His books have been translated and published in more than twenty-five countries.



© Isabel Wagemann

Over the past two decades he has published the novels *La transmigración* (2025), *La capacidad de amar del señor Königsberg* (2021), *El gran imaginador* (2016) — Celsius Festival Best Novel —, *El sueño del otro* (2013), and *El asesino hipocondríaco* (2012) with 25,000 copies sold in Spain. His essay *Una historia de la mentira* (2020) was reviewed by *The New Yorker*. In short fiction, he has published *El libro de los pequeños milagros* (2013), *De mecánica y alquimia* (2009) — Ignotus Award for Best Short Story Collection — and *88 Mill Lane* (2005), and long stories such as *Pink* (2012) and *Colapso* (2017) published by Penguin Random House's digital imprint.

As an expert in short fiction, he has edited and written forewords for the anthologies *La realidad quebradiza* (2012), *Perturbaciones* (2009) and *Ficción Sur* (2008). He has received more than fifty national and international awards and has been included in the three reference anthologies of his generation: *Cuento español actual* (2014), *Pequeñas resistencias* (2010) and *Siglo XXI* (2010).

He currently directs the Escuela de Imaginadores in Madrid, from which some of the most interesting new voices in the national literary scene are emerging.

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The Boom is not over. That the phenomenon has not been replicated does not mean there are not voices of enormous talent and stature today: Samanta Schweblin in Argentina, Brenda Lozano in Mexico or Muñoz-Rengel in Spain.

CARMEN BALCELLS LITERARY AGENCY



Key awards and recognition

- Celsius Festival — Best Novel of the Year, 2017 (*El gran imaginador*)
- Leonardo Grant, BBVA Foundation, 2014 (*El gran imaginador*)
- Ignotus Award 2010 — Best Short Story Collection (*De mecánica y alquimia*)
- Finalist in several fiction awards: Premio Clarín Alfaguara de Novela 2009 (Argentina), Setenil Award for Best Short Story Collection 2010, Festival du premier roman de Chambéry-Savoie 2012 (France), Premio Mandarache 2014, Andalusian Critics' Award 2017
- More than fifty national and international short-story prizes: Fernando Quiñones, Julio Cortázar (Cuba), Miguel de Unamuno, International La Felguera Prize (twice), Ateneo de Córdoba, National Prize for Young Creators, etc.

“

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

Jorge Volpi (Mexico)

A feast of playful intelligence.

HELSINGIN SANOMAT (Finland)

Muñoz-Rengel overflows with imagination.

EL PAÍS (Spain)

Contact and rights

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Carmen Balcells Literary Agency

www.agenciabalcells.com

Contact: Laura Palomares l.palomares@agenciabalcells.com

AUTHOR WEBSITE:

www.juanjacintomunozrengel.com

LICENSING AND EDITORIAL PROPOSALS:

Contact the agency for additional materials (original manuscripts, English samples, press dossiers, interviews)



La transmigración

Transmigration

Alianza, Spain – 2025

272 pages

Genre: Novel

SYNOPSIS. In a world in which everything changes and our identities increasingly escape our control, what if consciousnesses themselves began to migrate from one body to another? This inexplicable phenomenon will bring humanity to the brink of collapse: when you are stripped of your body, you not only lose your identity, you are also torn from your life, from your loved ones and from all that matters.

With precise, immersive prose, Muñoz-Rengel plunges us into a choral novel that unfolds around the world to tell the collapse of civilization. Cities fall, and the protagonists must test their certainties and the limits of their morality.

An unprecedented novel about identity and genres, about bodies and our dependence on them, about relationships, illness and human fragility.



Brilliant, disturbing, profound, with an unrelenting pace. We are our bodies, and here it is revealed in a way that hurts. A tremendously humane novel. **Sara Mesa**

An unprecedented collapse in the history of dystopian fiction. **Jorge Carrión**

Transmigration sets out to blow apart all our assumptions. **PÚBLICO**

One of the most interesting voices in contemporary European narrative. *Transmigration* is the most ambitious work of his career. **DIARIO SUR**

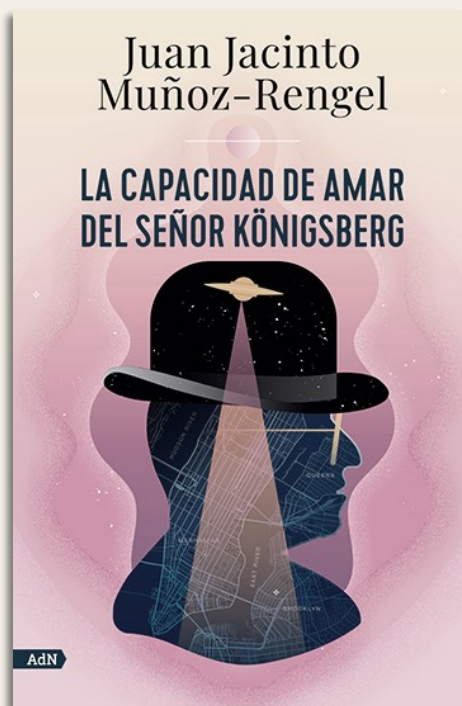
With this latest book, Muñoz-Rengel is on the verge of becoming a classic—one of our own. **DIARIO DE SEVILLA**

International appeal

- A high-concept dystopia, ideal for readers of speculative literary fiction.
- Strong crossover potential for film and streaming, driven by the strength of its premise and characters.
- In the vein of Tom Perrotta's *The Leftovers* and Hervé Le Tellier's *The Anomaly*. It has also been compared to José Saramago's *Blindness*.
- Its global scope and timely themes make it highly marketable across international markets.

A rare avis in our publishing landscape. **Lorenzo Silva, EL CORREO** | Like *Black Mirror*, it becomes so real that it provokes anxiety. **El Ojo Crítico, RADIO NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA** | A marvelous and terrifying novel about the eternal duality of mind and body, read with the relish of a thriller. An honest exercise in genuine literature. **ZENDA** | Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel is always drawn to the uncanny, where the nature of things is pushed to the limit. **Hoy por Hoy, La SER** | His narrative premises are impossibilities and the strange is presented with absolute naturalness. **LETRAS LIBRES** | Many pages of disquieting pleasure. **EL NORTE DE CASTILLA** | For years Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel has been immersed in a singular literary adventure: investigating deep matters of our existence through the fantastic. **LA OPINIÓN** | One of the leading exponents of the genre in Spain. The concept of identity takes on a new meaning in *Transmigration*. **ELDIARIO.ES** | If our capacity for attention hadn't been stolen from us, everyone would be talking about this book, and it would be winning every prize. **Fallo de Sistema, RADIO NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA**

.....
LATEST PUBLISHED
NOVEL
.....



La capacidad de amar del señor Königsberg *Mr. Königsberg's Capacity to Love*

Alianza, Spain – 2021
208 pages
Genre: Novel

SYNOPSIS. Mr. Königsberg has a difficult temperament: gruff, hermetic, solitary; he does not think like others and does not need to. His days follow stringent routines, and he is neither likeable nor conventionally attractive. Yet he has determination — and when something gets under his skin, he knows how to love as no one else does. When everything around him changes and collapses, he remains impassive. Where others succumb, he overcomes vicissitudes with little apparent effort. When the planet itself transforms — not once but several times — even the most outrageous twists will not alter Mr. Königsberg's immutability. Not even this book's shifts in genre — from a *Bartleby*-like novel to fantasy, science fiction, pulp, post-apocalyptic literature, and feminist utopia — will move him. None of these cataclysms. For one cannot find a more bomb-proof protagonist.

“ The prose evokes Julio Cortázar or other Latin American writers, like Borges, Onetti or Ribeyro; it is meticulous and calm, as perfect as the universe envisioned by Mr. K. Juan Cruz, **EL PAÍS**

A feast of genres and literary cataclysms. **ABC**

An unheard-of, utterly mad story. A dystopia full of humor and imagination. **ELDIARIO.ES**

A delightfully funny and exquisite novel. One of the masters of the fantastic in this country. **El Ojo Crítico, RADIO NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA**

A wild work of contemporary literature, whose closest parallels are Jorge Luis Borges and Italo Calvino. **KIRJAMAA (Finland)**

International appeal

- A radical, hilarious cross between *Bartleby, the Scrivener*, and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.
- Its playful blending of literary and genre registers positions it well for intellectual literary lists and for readers of Kafka/Lem/Vonnegut/Keret-inspired fiction.
- The New York setting lends it immediate familiarity for readers everywhere.

Muñoz-Rengel's latest literary prank. **DIARIO SUR** | A genuine act of daring. **DIARIO DE CÓRDOBA** | This novel has something of Schrödinger's paradox: familiar things become strange and strange things become familiar. A sentimental novel, written in millimetre-perfect prose, that speaks of mutations, quests, loneliness, terror and science fiction. **Marta Sanz** | Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel's new novel is based on a brilliant paradox: the protagonist is immutable, yet the novel continuously mutates. **Jorge Carrión** | A story about human greatness and pettiness. **HELSINGIN SANOMAT (Finland)** | Muñoz-Rengel puts a new spin on the theory of survival. **LA VANGUARDIA** | A wonderfully funny novel that can be read as an analysis of an entire genre family. **TÄHTIVAELETAJA (Finland)** | A genuine celebration of fiction, a playful vindication of boundless storytelling. **LA OPINIÓN** | It breaks literary genres. His writing is a challenge, combining a love story with a psychological portrait, fantasy fiction, farce, comedy and a utopian hint. **DIARIO DE NAVARRA** | A mutating story that explores the registers of fantasy and science fiction to address the crises of the present. **MÁLAGA HOY** | What territory does Muñoz-Rengel move well in? You imagine it, and he goes two or three neighbourhoods further. **Fallo de Sistema, RADIO NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA** | A true marvel of the imagination. **ZENDA**

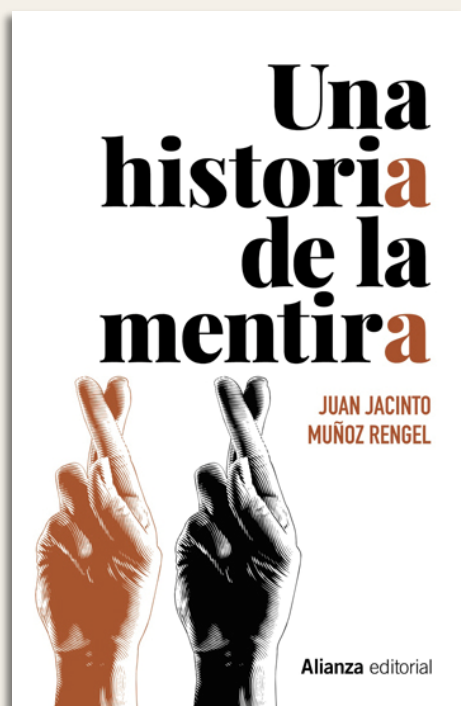
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ARAB STATES: Dar Al Khan, 2022

FINLAND: Moebius, 2025

RUSSIA: Polyandria No Age, 2026



Una historia de la mentira

A History of Lying

Alianza, Spain – 2020

248 pages

Genre: Essay

SYNOPSIS. Wherever there is life, there are lies. Slick-suited politicians lie on the podium, ready to tell voters what they want to hear. Cheating lovers, swindling businessmen, double-crossing villains – all liars. But nature lies too – the cheetah crouching in the tall grass waiting to pounce, its spots and straw-coloured fur blending in with its surroundings, the chameleon with its adaptable skin, the octopus hiding in its cave. Muñoz-Rengel uncovers the slippery history of lies, some dark and elusive, others thunderous and dazzling. From primeval forests to modern politics, he explores the uncomfortable truths of our white lies, fudged facts and blatant deceptions. For centuries, philosophers, writers and poets have grappled with the paradox of what’s fact and what’s fiction. So who can we really believe? Our friends? Our partners? Our leaders? Can we even trust ourselves?

“

The novelist Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel argues that lying is not, as conventional morality might have us assume, a practice to be avoided whenever possible but, rather, an innate and inevitable element of language and life. **THE NEW YORKER (USA)**

A lie turned into story. **BABELIA (Spain)**

Science lies habitually; so do religions; so do art and literature – not just aberrantly but pervasively and necessarily. **TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT (UK)**

Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel takes us on a dazzling journey. **Jorge Volpi (Mexico)**

Provoking, entertaining and surprising. A frothy, glittering meditation on the nature of human being. **THE AUSTRALIAN (Australia)**

International appeal

- A timely, erudite essay that situates lying within philosophy and contemporary politics.
- Its analytic clarity and narrative verve give it crossover appeal to general nonfiction readers and academic markets alike, in the vein of Yuval Noah Harari or Byung Chul-Han.

Lively and distinctive. **PHILOSOPHY NOW (USA)** | Muñoz-Rengel's new book embarks on a journey through time to find the origin of lies and their relationship with human nature. **EL PAÍS (Spain)** | A timely and necessary book. **LA RAZÓN (Spain)** | Muñoz-Rengel convincingly shows us that falseness 'is the clearest sign of intelligence', and should be appreciated as a tool for enabling people to understand reality. **THE NEW STATESMAN (UK)** | A bold attempt to uncover the truth about lying. **SCENA9 (Romania)** | I lie, therefore I exist. An uncomfortable idea, but one that allows us to dissect the grand narratives we have constructed to survive in this world. **ABC (Spain)** | I was dazzled and exhilarated by this playful philosophical tour-de-force. **THE SIDNEY MORNING HERALD (Australia)** | Beyond being a philosopher, he is a storyteller capable of both persuading and entertaining. **ALEQTISADIAH (Saudi Arabia)** | He shows us that lying is present wherever there is life. **LA VANGUARDIA (Spain)** | A compelling and impactful book. **ALSFAHAT (Syria)** | After reading *A History of Lying*, it becomes clear that fake news and deception are not a modern invention. **Página Dos, TELEVISIÓN ESPAÑOLA** | A brilliant essay by a major novelist that keeps the reader captivated. **El Ojo Crítico, RADIO NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA** | The most debated essay of the pandemic year. **ELDIARIO.ES (Spain)**

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ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD:
Polity Press, 2022

ARAB STATES: Dar Al Khan, 2022

ROMANIA: Polirom, 2024

SPANISH AUDIOBOOK: Scribd, 2024



El gran imaginador

The Great Imaginator

Penguin Random House, Spain – 2016

448 pages

Genre: Novel

- Celsius Festival — Best Novel 2017
- Finalist, Andalusian Critics' Award 2017
- Leonardo Grant (BBVA Foundation)

SYNOPSIS. This is the story of the greatest imaginator of all time. Nikolaos Popoulos was born with unlimited imagination in the dark reaches of the 16th-century Ottoman world and always wanted to be a writer. However, as if a curse weighed upon him, his life repeatedly condemns him to be a man of action. *The Great Imaginator* is an epic journey to the origins of fiction. Through Popoulos we will meet the Uskok pirates, the Bloody Countess and the Golem of Prague — inspirations for the myths of Dracula and Frankenstein — and forge an intimate friendship with a young Miguel de Cervantes. A novel that blends fantasy, historical elements, adventure, humor, and horror with striking originality.

“

Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel surprises with *The Great Imaginator*, a novel full of fantasy, humor and literary tributes. **BABELIA, EL PAÍS**

You won't be able to resist surrendering to the magnitude of its colossal narrative. **EL CULTURAL**

Muñoz-Rengel is afflicted with imagination—an old malady that unites Borges and Italo Calvino, Bram Stoker and Mary Shelley, Lovecraft and Wells, Popoulos himself and Cervantes. **MERCURIO**

A total novel, with a plot that would have pleased, I suspect, Borges. **LEER**

Popoulos is a Funes who imagines everything. **REVISTA EÑE**

Borges would have gladly traded everything to father this novel. **MÁLAGA HOY**

International appeal

- An impressive, encyclopedic tribute to the origins of fiction. The author's major work.
- Historical and metafictional virtuosity—Borges with a sweeping novelistic scale.
- Its scope makes it a prize-season contender and an attractive acquisition for publishers that champion ambitious narratives—from Umberto Eco to Daniel Kehlmann's *Measuring the World*.

The great imaginator is the proto-writer of modernity, inventor of all the literary works that have set fire to Western libraries—from Cervantes to Borges, Carlos Fuentes, Italo Calvino and Umberto Eco. **Juan Francisco Ferré, SUR** | A hymn to fantasy in its purest form. **LA NUEVA ESPAÑA** | One of the most daring and prolific authors of contemporary Spanish fiction. **DIARIO DE LEÓN** | From Baudolino to Marco Polo, Humboldt or Baron Munchausen. **LECTURALIA** | Muñoz-Rengel has challenged himself to build a novel of classic Russian breath to pay tribute to the very idea of the tale. **FANTÍFICA** | Muñoz-Rengel is capable, with uncommon genius, of creating an entire world that merges fiction and reality. **SOLODELIBROS.ES** | There is no alternative but to surrender to the magnificent prose and the overwhelming personality of this great imaginator. **LA VERDAD** | Muñoz-Rengel constructs a new way of seeing. **STUDIA ROMANICA POSNANIENSIS (Poland)** | A vindication of fiction and inventiveness in an age of premature autobiographies and non-fiction. **EL ASOMBRARIO** | A tribute with echoes of Borges and Cervantes to literature, to fiction. **URBAN Magazine** | A journey to the sources of fantastic literature. **DIARIO DE SEVILLA** | It takes a special person to conceive a novel about infinite imagination, and a genius to write it without disappointing. **EXPERPENTO Magazine**

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TURKEY: Ketebe, 2024



El libro de los pequeños milagros

The Book of Little Miracles

Páginas de Espuma, Spain – 2013
136 pages
Genre: Microfiction

SYNOPSIS. There are microscopic events that, without anyone knowing, can transform the universe entirely. And there are renowned historical events so contingent that they might have unfolded differently had the wind blown in another direction. *The Book of Little Miracles* is a compendium of these great and minute occurrences. It is a detailed catalog of wonders — a journey from the bottom of our drawers and beneath our beds, from the false ceiling of our bedroom to the most remote galaxies. It is a bestiary, as the index at the back reveals: it is a bestiary — that is to say, a handbook of theology — to be even more exact, a treatise in micro-science-fiction. Perhaps it is none of these in the end. Certainly, it is not the book you expect. But it may be the book you were dreaming of.



Muñoz-Rengel overflows with imagination. **BABELIA, EL PAÍS**

Pure Muñoz-Rengel, yet always shedding skins, like a strange, unsatisfied creature that molts as a form of reinvention. **EL MUNDO**

Restless, mischievous, playful. **ABC**

Rengel's kaleidoscope of imagination is in full bloom. **LITERATURE (Greece)**

A gaze capable of suggesting the monstrous that hides beneath appearance. An excellent book that sets boundaries in many respects. **José María Merino, LEER**

From strangeness to wonder. A powerful, distinctive voice. **DIARIO VASCO**

International appeal

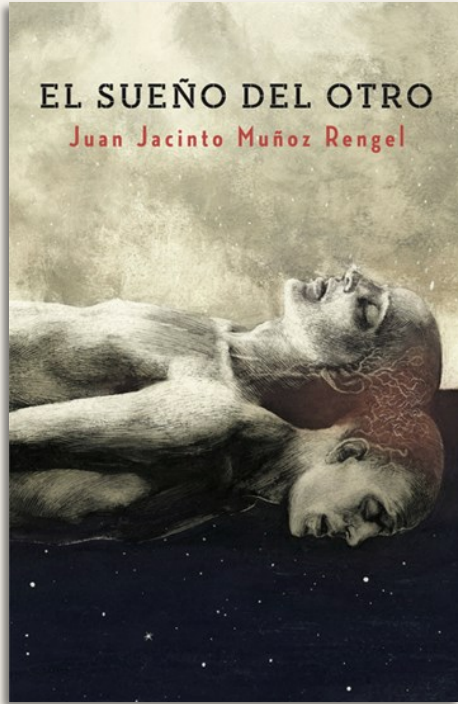
- A fractal collection of microfiction that marries speculative imagination with philosophical bite.
- A refined, transgressive reworking of works such as *Invisible Cities* or *Cronopios and Famas*.
- Its gift-book potential and its suitability for festivals and public readings make it a highly versatile title.

A glossary of tiny, profound stories of an abyssal cast. **LA RAZÓN** | Each of these micro-stories has an experimental character. It skirts metaphor, and the prose is impeccable. **EL CULTURAL** | Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel turns science fiction inside out. **MÁLAGA HOY** | Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel is one of the most outstanding Spanish short-story writers. **ETHNOS (Greece)** | A privileged viewpoint. A writer unbound by constraints. **DIARIO DE SEVILLA** | As in the best examples of futuristic fantasy, these stories deal subtly with the characteristic elements of the genre. **LA VOZ DE GALICIA** | If reality were condensed into a folding fan, Muñoz-Rengel would find a way to open it and make it work in both directions. **LA VERDAD** | A book of microfiction that is going to make a sensation. **EL IMPARCIAL** | Clearly, one must possess an overflowing imagination to compose the hundred small pieces that populate *The Book of Little Miracles*. **LA NUEVA ESPAÑA** | A collection of surprising and unsettling micro-stories, in which the author pours out his imagination—his dreams and nightmares. **EL CONFIDENCIAL** | Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel is one of the most imaginative contemporary writers. **DIARIO DE NAVARRA** | On its pages Muñoz-Rengel certifies that he has fully become the kind of monster he carried within. **LA OPINIÓN**

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GREECE: Opera Books, 2019



El sueño del otro

The Other's Dream

Penguin Random House, Spain – 2013

304 pages

Genre: Novel

SYNOPSIS. Xavier Arteaga is a high-school teacher who dreams every night that he is André Bodoc, a news director. André Bodoc, in turn, dreams that he is Xavier Arteaga. But who is dreaming whom? Who is real, and who exists only in a dream?

Xavier is a gray man; the mental strain of dreaming another's life drives him into all kinds of pursuits. He will chase answers, chase people, chase André Bodoc. André is a successful man, skilled in telling, interpreting and even manipulating facts. When he too loses control of himself, his obsession becomes proving the extent to which reality is illusory. What is false, and what is true in today's convulsive society?

“

From the perspective of fantastic literature, *The Other's Dream* can be considered a total novel. Irene Andres-Suárez (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland), ÍNSULA

One of the most thrilling reads of the year. *The Other's Dream* is a mature, referential work. EL PERIÓDICO

His name today represents one of the most interesting voices in contemporary Spanish fiction. EL IMPARCIAL

Muñoz-Rengel once again hooks readers with an original novel that leaves no one indifferent. EL MUNDO

The debate over the presence of the fantastic in Spanish literature had been missing a novel like *The Other's Dream*. DIARIO DE SEVILLA

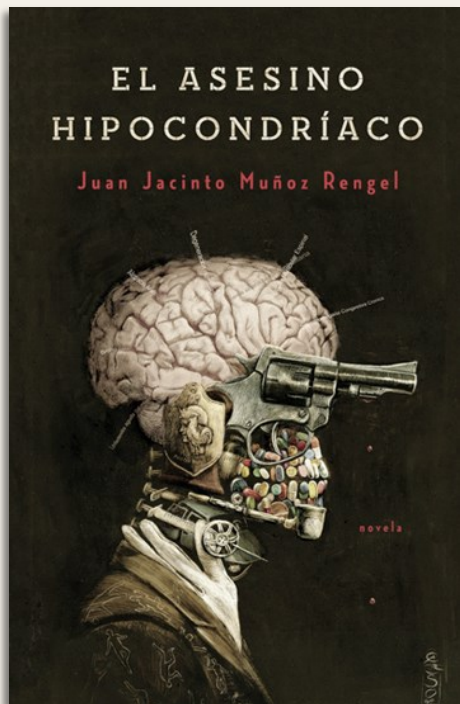
International appeal

- A metaphysical thriller that blends the fantastic with suspense, contemporary issues, and existential fiction.
- An exploration of dreaming — and its paradoxes — identity, and reality as a simulacrum.
- Its formal ingenuity will appeal to both literary readers and fans of the Latin American fantasy tradition.

Who is the real one and who the dreamed? Muñoz-Rengel's solution is enthralling. TIEMPO | With a sure narrative pulse and stylistic efficacy, the novel becomes disquieting and anguishing, with mounting suspense. EL CULTURAL | Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel—ingenious, dense, paradoxical, provocative—throws down his narrative challenge and emerges triumphant from the morass. QUIMERA Magazine | A forceful novel that draws on the finest traditions of the fantastic genre. CULTURAMAS | *The Other's Dream* is a splendid novel that plunges the reader into a whirlwind where a disturbing plot awaits. DIARIO VASCO | A constant source of unease and estrangement that Muñoz-Rengel administers with exceptional mastery, leading the reader to a surprising climax. EL DIARIO MONTAÑÉS | *The Other's Dream* faces the history of the fantastic to offer it, in this moment, a powerful and incendiary novel. LA OPINIÓN | Unreal, fantastic, irreverent, creative. DIARIO DE BURGOS | The antidote of good literature—the stories that grab us from their first page. LA VERDAD | Intense, critical and surprising, the plot captivates from the first pages. EL POPULAR (Argentina)

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ARAB STATES: Dar Al Khan, 2024



El asesino hipocondríaco

The Hypochondriac Hitman

Penguin Random House, Spain – 2012

224 pages

Genre: Novel

- **Finalist, Premio Mandarache 2013 and**
- **Festival du premier roman de Chambéry-Savoie 2012**

SYNOPSIS. Mr. Y. must fulfill his final contract as a professional killer, but to succeed, he must overcome a serious obstacle: he has only one day left to live. In fact, the assassin known by the initials M.Y. has been dying for years, ever since the moment he came into the world. So many diseases pursue him that one could consider him a medical miracle. His final task is to kill Eduardo Blaisten before he is struck by a terminal apoplexy, a gangrenous ulcer, or a syndrome of professional spasm. His incomprehensible bad luck will frustrate each attempt at homicide and will establish a magical connection between his own ailments and those of Poe, Proust, Voltaire, Tolstoy, Molière, Kant and the rest of history's illustrious hypochondriacs.



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

He gives us a novel with a killer whose murder can be enjoyed. **CORRIERE DELLA SERA (Italy)**

From Calvino to Borges. From Vila-Matas to Piglia. **Jorge Volpi (Mexico)**

Hilarious. Irresistible. **PARIS MATCH (France)**

A peerless metaliterary exercise, so delightful that the reader will wish it would never end.

EL CULTURAL (Spain)

A monumental novel. A feast of playful intelligence. **HELSINGIN SANOMAT (Finland)**

In excellent form, Muñoz-Rengel delivers a joyful dark comedy. **LIVRES-HEBDO (France)**

International appeal

- A darkly comic, metaliterary noir that parodies and renews detective conventions.
- A witty tour through the biographies of the most famous hypochondriac philosophers and writers.
- Everyone knows a hypochondriac; it's the topic of every conversation. This makes this novel the most giftable and talked-about book.

A brilliant, delightful, funny, uproarious, and quite likely pathological novel. It's been years since I read such a hilarious novel. **Fernando Iwasaki, ABC (Spain)** | The most promising Spanish writer of his generation. **HÜRRİYET (Turkey)** | Beneath the appearance of a detective novel, it hides a genuine lesson in philosophy. **EL MUNDO (Spain)** | Between detective surrealism, literary biography, medical anecdote, and philosophy. An anthology of the great imaginary invalids of the past. **LA STAMPA (Italy)** | A highly original novel—hilarious and unsettling—whose greatest strength is an unforgettable character: that hypochondriac protagonist who seems larger than life. **Rosa Montero (Spain)** | A real gem of philosophical noir: erudite, entertaining and ingenious. **TROIS COULEURS (France)** | Rengel constructs an entertaining novel that is, above all, a tribute to literature. **TÉLAM (Argentina)** | It confirms the sophistication of a writer who, despite his strong personality, delights in echoing the best literature in his pages. **MERCURIO (Spain)** | Beneath the surface of the noir genre hides a parody of the genre itself, humor, metafictional play, and a delightful complexity. **LEER (Spain)** | Let's say it once and for all: *The Hypochondriac Hitman* is one of the most original, fresh, entertaining and demanding novels of recent years. A genuine wake-up call to the sleepy landscape of contemporary Spanish literature. **DIARIO DE SEVILLA (Spain)** | One of the most fascinating titles in Spanish fiction of recent years. **CULTURAMAS (Spain)**

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FRANCE: Les Escales, 2013 |
Pocket, 2014
ITALY: Castelvecchi, 2012
TURKEY: Yapi Kredi Yayinlari, 2019
FINLAND: Moebius, 2020
ARAB STATES: Dar Al Khan, 2021



De mecánica y alquimia

Mechanics and Alchemy

Salto de Página, Spain – 2009

160 pages

Genre: Short stories

- **Ignotus Award 2010 — Best Short Story Collection**
- **Finalist, Setenil Award for Best Book of Stories**
- **Finalist, Xatafi Award for Best Work of Fiction**

SYNOPSIS. A police enigma surrounding a book of geometric physics in the taifa of Toledo. The legend of the construction of the Prague astronomical clock. The ambition for the philosopher's stone and the apocalyptic visions of Nostradamus's illegitimate son. The origins of science fiction. Automata in history. The myth of the Golem. Precursors of AI. This collection of stories achieves unity through an underlying mesh of metaliterary connections and the precision of a master clockmaker.



A delightful book of fantastic stories where nothing is what it seems. **EL MUNDO**

This literary project has no equivalent among works published in the last twenty-five years. You will not find a piece so full of artifices and games, so profound, so ambitious, so timeless. **REVISTA DE LETRAS**

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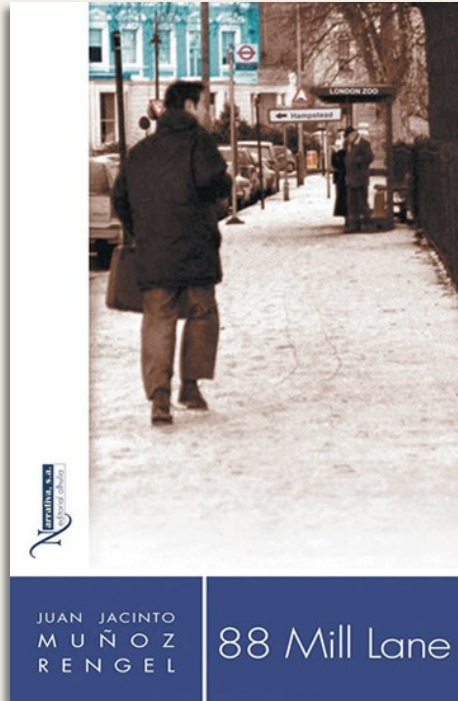
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Muñoz-Rengel takes his place among the meritorious leaders of a tradition: that of Lovecraft, Borges and Perucho. **ESTADO CRÍTICO** | His stories are a stimulating and reflective journey to the site of the traditions forged by the great masters, which remain valid for forging an authentically modern literature. **EL SÍNDROME CHÉJOV** | This book swims somewhat against the current, and in that lies one of its principal virtues, making it necessary. **LITERATURAS.COM** | A small Frankenstein monster—a sum of parts that is not equal to the whole. **MERCURIO** | Whatever he narrates, Muñoz-Rengel captures us; he points at us with his finger. **Elena Medel, CALLE20** | *Mechanics and Alchemy* is a marvelous book that plays with both the reader's imagination and intelligence—something quite unusual in recent short-form fiction. **SOLODELIBROS** | Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel, master of the fantastic tale, plays with imagination and intelligence in this book to give the reader unforgettable moments. **FARO DE VIGO** | Then we realize how ambitious the author has been; we feel that the boundaries of the works blur—mere scales of a prodigious fish that we cannot fully see until the very end. **CULTURAMAS** | If you like Umberto Eco's novels, try this book. **HERALDO DE ARAGÓN** | In light of this intense and highly personal work, his themes call for the adoption of the new label 'author-driven short fiction'. **DIARIO DE CÓRDOBA** | A volume of stories that became almost instantly a classic. **HÉLICE Magazine**

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88 Mill Lane

88 Mill Lane

Editorial Alhulia, Spain – 2005

160 pages

Genre: Short stories

SYNOPSIS. The stories included in *88 Mill Lane* were written by the author during his years living in London and result from a selection based on two common criteria: they all take place in the British capital or its outskirts, and they are, to some degree, affected by a haunting and fantastic distortion. Across its pages, we will walk the avenues of contemporary London — galleries, editors, gentlemen’s clubs, and antique dealers — or become trapped among Victorian facades by the unsettling fog of Conan Doyle, Henry James, Stevenson or Chesterton. A dozen stories that have won the most prestigious awards in the genre, driven by overflowing imagination and Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel’s highly singular perspective.

“ Ten stories deserving of the most prestigious awards in their genre. **EL MUNDO (Spain)**

Juan Jacinto Muñoz is one of those authors for whom writing is, above all, imagining, inventing, adding new things to the world. **Pablo De Santis (Argentina)**

One of the most worthy successors to the literary tradition of Calvino and Borges. **CHECK IN CYPRUS (Cyprus)**

Simply, a prodigy of inventiveness, balance and control. **Medardo Fraile (Scotland)**

Bold in imagination and wise in his writing. **NEWPOST (Greece)**

A selection of stories of forbidden worlds and doors that should never have been opened. **KATHIMERINI (Greece)**

International appeal

- The foundational work of one of the most powerful voices in contemporary short fiction in Spanish.
- A collection of Borgesian, metaphysical ideas set in London, designed to provoke unease, delight and intellectual vertigo.
- Books that resonate: Borges’ *The Aleph*, Mircea Cărtărescu’s *Nostalgia*, and *Mouthful of Birds* by Samanta Schweblin.

A Borges stripped of scholarly intellectualism. **BIBLIÓPOLIS** | A dark, delirious and utterly charming universe. **TIME OUT (Cyprus)** | Any fan of the genre will be fully satisfied with these stories, because they update a mode of storytelling rarely explored by Spanish authors. **VIVIR DEL CUENTO** | Fantasy, humor and a dazzling ability to bring characters and plots to life mix with impeccable prose. **EL NOROESTE** | This is a literature of intellectual play within reach of all audiences. **LITERATURAS.COM** | A brilliant anthology of what is yet to be written. A book and an author that will provoke much discussion. **NARRATIVAS** | Juan Jacinto Muñoz-Rengel has a prodigious imaginary life to reveal to us, one from which we do not wish him to awaken. **PERIODISTA DIGITAL**

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