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On May 30, 1593, London's most popular playwright was stabbed to death. The royal coroner ruled that Christopher Marlowe was killed in self-defense, but historians have long suspected otherwise, given his role as an "intelligencer" in the queen's secret service. In sixteenth-century London, Marlowe embarks on his final intelligence assignment, hoping to find his missing muse, as well as the culprits behind a high-stakes smuggling scheme. In present-day New York, grad student turned private eye Kate Morgan is called in on an urgent matter. One of her firm's top clients, a London-based financier, has chanced upon a mysterious manuscript that had been buried for centuries -- one that someone, somewhere is desperate to steal. What secret lurks in those yellowed, ciphered pages? And how, so many years later, could it drive someone to kill? As Kate sets off for England, she receives a second assignment. An enigmatic art dealer has made an eleven-million-dollar purchase from an Iranian intelligence officer. Is it a black-market antiquities deal, or something far more sinister? Like Marlowe, Kate moonlights as a spy -- her P.I. firm doubles as an off-the-books U.S. intelligence unit -- and she is soon caught like a pawn in a deadly international game. As The Intelligencer's interlocking narratives race toward a stunning collision, and Kate closes in on the truth behind Marlowe's sudden death, it becomes clear that she may have sealed a similar fate for herself. Propelling us from the shadows of the sixteenth-century underworld to the glitter of Queen Elizabeth's court, from the dark corridors of a clandestine American op-center to the cliffs of Capri, The Intelligencer is at once a murder mystery, a tale of poetic inspiration, and a richly detailed foray into parallel worlds of espionage and political intrigue separated by centuries. Gear up for swashbuckling adventure in the second "riveting"* historical thriller in the internationally acclaimed Captain Alatrisme series. The fearless Alatrisme is hired to infiltrate a convent and rescue a young girl forced to serve as a powerful priest's concubine. The girl's father is barred from legal recourse as the priest threatens to reveal that the man's family is "not of pure blood" and is, in fact, of Jewish descent—which will all but destroy the family name. As Alatrisme struggles to save the young hostage from being burned at the stake, he soon finds himself drawn deeper and deeper into a conspiracy that leads all the way to the heart of the Spanish Inquisition. Eleven classic whodunits starring master sleuths such as Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, and Father Brown. A superstar lineup of detectives—including Sherlock Holmes, C. Auguste Dupin, and Hercule Poirot—headlines this elegant leather-bound edition of classic mystery stories. Short stories such as Edgar Allan Poe's "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" and G. K. Chesterton's "The Blue Cross" are ideal for a cozy evening by the fire, while novels like Agatha Christie's The Murder on the Links and Jules Verne's An Antarctic Mystery will keep you engrossed for days. The eleven works in this volume are preceded by a scholarly introduction that explores the origins of the genre, as well as the development of the modern mystery story and the contributions made by each author. Works Included Short stories: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," Edgar Allan Poe "The Adventure of the Creeping Man," Sir Arthur Conan Doyle "The Blue Cross," G. K. Chesterton "The Coin of Dionysius," Ernest Bramah "The Anthropologist at Large," R. Austin Freeman "The Most Dangerous Game," Richard Connell Novels: The Murder on the Links, Agatha Christie Whose Body?, Dorothy Sayers The Thirty-nine Steps, John Buchan An Antarctic Mystery, Jules Verne Room 13, Edgar Wallace From international bestselling author Arturo Pérez-Reverte comes the fourth adventure of Captain Alatrisme in the "series [that] recalls the great adventure novels of Dumas and Scott"(The New York Times). Seville, 1626. After serving with honor at the bloody siege of Breda, Captain Alatrisme and his protégé, Íñigo Balboa, accept a risky job involving a dozen swordsmen and mercenaries at their command, a dazzling amount of contraband gold, and a heavily guarded Spanish galleon returning from the West Indies. The job offer comes from the king himself, for at stake is nothing less than the Spanish Crown, and its dominion over the wealth of the Americas. But for Alatrisme, a very personal surprise awaits him on that galleon. En route from Lisbon to Buenos Aires in 1928, Max and Mecha meet aboard a luxurious transatlantic cruise ship. There Max teaches the stunning stranger and her erudite husband to dance the tango. A steamy affair ignites at sea and continues as the seedy decadence of Buenos Aires envelops the secret lovers. Nice, 1937. Still drawn to one another a decade later, Max and Mecha rekindle their dalliance. In the wake of a perilous mission gone awry, Mecha looks after her charming paramour until a deadly encounter with a Spanish spy forces him to flee. Sorento, 1966. Max once again runs into trouble--and Mecha. She offers him temporary shelter from the KGB agents on his trail, but their undeniable attraction offers only a small glimmer of hope that their paths will ever cross again. Cadiz, 1811. Spain is battling for independence while America is doing the same. But in the streets of the most liberal city in Europe other battles are taking place. A serial killer is on the loose, flaying young women to death. Each of these murders takes place near the site where a French bomb has just fallen. It is the job of policeman Rogelio Tizon to find the murderer and avoid public scandal in a city already poised on the brink. An "intricate literary mystery [of] wrenching effect" by the internationally acclaimed, bestselling author of The Club Dumas (The New Yorker). Someone has hacked into the pope's personal computer—not to spy on the Vatican or to spread a virus, but to send an urgent plea for help: SAVE OUR LADY OF THE TEARS. The crumbling Baroque church in the heart of Seville is slated for demolition—and two of its defenders have suddenly died. Accidents? Or murders? And was the church itself somehow involved? The Vatican promptly dispatches Father Lorenzo Quart, their worldly and enormously attractive emissary, to investigate the situation, track down the hacker—known only as "Vespers"—and stay alive. Thus begins a sophisticated and utterly suspenseful page-turner that has taken its readers by storm. "An elegant thriller that is as much about the elusive quest for happiness as it is about solving the murders." —The Denver Post "An indelible tale of love, faith, and greed." —People, Page-Turner of the Week Un marino sin barco, desterrado del mar, conoce a una extraña mujer que posee, tal vez sin saberlo, respuestas a preguntas que ciertos hombres se hacen desde siglos. Cazadores de naufragios en busca del fantasma de un barco perdido en el Mediterráneo, problemas de latitud y longitud cuyo secreto yace oculto en antiguos derroteros y cartas náuticas, museos navales, bibliotecas... Nunca el mar y la Historia, la ciencia de la navegación, la aventura y el misterio se habían combinado de un modo tan extraordinario en una novela, como en La carta esférica. De Melville a Stevenson y Conrad, de Homero a Patrick O'Brian, toda la gran literatura escrita sobre el mar late en las páginas de esta historia fascinante e inolvidable. La novela fue llevada al cine por Imanol Uribe y protagonizada por Carmelo Gómez y Aitana Sánchez Gijón. ENGLISH DESCRIPTION A fearless Spanish crew embarks on a search for a lost ship, swallowed by the Indian Ocean centuries ago, in a novel by "a master of the literary thriller" (Booklist, starred review). Manuel Coy is a suspended sailor with time on his hands, a mariner without a ship. While attending a maritime auction in Barcelona, he meets Tángier Soto, a captivating beauty who works for the Naval Museum in Madrid. A woman obsessed with the Dei Gloria, a famed Jesuit ship sunk by pirates in the seventeenth century, she now hopes to find it and unearth its mysteries, rumored to be buried the bottom of the sea off the southern coast of Spain. Quickly drawn into the

search, Coy accompanies Tángel Soto, and a wise old man of the sea whose sailboat will carry the crew into the middle of nowhere in search of a fortune. But more than treasure is rising to the surface—secrets are, too. And from these depths will also come danger, and an adventure no one is prepared for. From the acclaimed author of *The Queen of the South*, *The Nautical Chart* is “a swashbuckling tale of mystery” (*The Washington Post Book World*). #1 International Bestseller “A thriller of marvelous intricacy” (*The New York Times Book Review*), *The Club Dumas* is a provocative literary thriller that playfully pays tribute to classic tales of mystery and adventure. Lucas Corso is a book detective, a middle-aged mercenary hired to hunt down rare editions for wealthy and unscrupulous clients. When a well-known bibliophile is found dead, leaving behind part of the original manuscript of Alexandre Dumas's *The Three Musketeers*, Corso is brought in to authenticate the fragment. He is soon drawn into a swirling plot involving devil worship, occult practices, and swashbuckling derring-do among a cast of characters bearing a suspicious resemblance to those of Dumas's masterpiece. Aided by a mysterious beauty named for a Conan Doyle heroine, Corso travels from Madrid to Toledo to Paris on the killer's trail in this twisty intellectual romp through the book world. “Erudite, funny, loopy, brilliant...action-adventure spied with dollops of idiosyncrasy — and some very good talk.”—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Arturo Perez-Reverte delivers an epic historical tale following the dangerous and passionate love affair between a beautiful high society woman and an elegant thief. A story of romance, adventure, and espionage, this novel solidifies Perez-Reverte as an international literary giant. “--Provided by publisher. Captain Alatríste returns in a swashbuckling tale of intrigue, romance and regicide. Captain Alatríste's affair with the beautiful actress María de Castro is rankling not only his long-term mistress but also the King of Spain. With loyal companion Inigo distracted by the affections of Angelica, Alatríste becomes embroiled in a series of tussles outside his lover's house. Ambushed by arch-nemesis Malatesta, a skirmish ensues that leads to the death of María's other lover - the monarch himself. But behind this tale of sexual jealousy lurks a darker truth. As it becomes clear that both Alatríste and Inigo have been cunningly honey trapped - and that the dead man was an impostor. With a puppet king waiting dutifully in the wings, Alatríste must use all his cunning and swordsmanship to prevent the murder of the real king - and his implication in a crime for which he has been perfectly framed. The fifth novel in the adventures of Captain Alatríste, a seventeenth-century swashbuckler and “a twenty-first-century literary phenomenon” (*Entertainment Weekly*). In the cosmopolitan world of seventeenth-century Madrid, Captain Alatríste and his protégé Íñigo are fish out of water. But the king is determined to keep Alatríste on retainer—regardless of whether his “employment” brings the captain uncomfortably close to old enemies. Alatríste begins an affair with the famous and beautiful actress, María Castro, but soon discovers that the cost of her favors may be more than he bargained for—especially when he and Íñigo become unwilling participants in a court conspiracy that could lead them both to the gallows. In her sweeping debut novel, Elizabeth J. Church takes us from the World War II years in Chicago to the vast sun-parched canyons of Los Alamos, New Mexico, in the 1970s as we follow the journey of a driven, spirited young woman whose scientific ambitions are subverted by the expectations of her era. Por primera vez un volumen reúne la historia de España escrita por Arturo Pérez-Reverte durante más de cuatro años en su columna «Patente de corso» del *XL Semanal*. Un relato ameno, personal, a ratos irónico, pero siempre único, de nuestra accidentada historia a través de los siglos. Una obra concebida por el autor para, en palabras suyas, «divertirme, releer y disfrutar; un pretexto para mirar atrás desde los tiempos remotos hasta el presente, reflexionar un poco sobre ello y contarlo por escrito de una manera poco ortodoxa.» A lo largo de los 91 capítulos más el epílogo de los que consta el libro, Arturo Pérez-Reverte narra los principales acontecimientos ocurridos desde los orígenes de nuestra historia y hasta el final de la Transición con una mirada subjetiva, construida con las dosis exactas de lecturas, experiencia y sentido común. «La misma mirada con que escribo novelas y artículos -dice el autor-; no la elegí yo, sino que es resultado de todas esas cosas: la visión, ácida más a menudo que dulce, de quien, como dice un personaje de una de mis novelas, sabe que ser lúcido en España aparejó siempre mucha amargura, mucha soledad y mucha desesperanza.» - Arturo Pérez-Reverte

ENGLISH DESCRIPTION For the first time, one volume gathers the history of Spain as written by Arturo Pérez-Reverte over the course of more than four years in his “Patente de corso” (“Carte Blanche”) column for *XL Semanal*. An entertaining, personal, and sometimes ironic but always unique tale of Spain's turbulent history throughout the centuries. A work conceptualized by the author to, in his words, “entertain me, re-read and enjoy; a pretext for looking back through time from the very beginning until the present, reflecting a little about it, and telling it in writing in an unorthodox way.” Throughout the 91 chapters plus the epilogue of the book, Arturo Pérez-Reverte narrates the main events from Spain's origin and up through the end of the Transition with a subjective view, made up of precise measures of reading, experience, and common sense. “The same view with which I write novels and articles,” says the author, “... I didn't choose it myself; it's the result of all those things: as one of my novel's characters says it, it's the vision, harsh yet frequently sweet, of someone who knows that being lucid in Spain has always entailed bitterness, loneliness, and despair.” -Arturo Pérez-Reverte

When the mutilated body of Mayra Cabral de Melo, a well-known stripper, is found by the side of a dusty road, detective Edgar “Lefty” Mendieta has personal reasons for bringing the culprit to justice. Mayra had no shortage of ardent, deluded, and downright dangerous admirers, and Lefty himself is haunted by one steamy night he spent in her generous company. So begins an investigation that will bring him ever closer to the murderous world of the narcos, who are waging a war of bloody attrition against the Mexican state. The country is a powder keg, waiting for a spark, and Mendieta is about to enter the darkest days of his life. Corrupt politicians, failed boxers, and unscrupulous arms dealers all lie in wait along the path to justice. But none of this can prepare him for his run-in with the FBI, when the father of the president of the United States is attacked while on vacation in Mexico. For all these perils it is the weight of his own murky past that Lefty finds hardest to bear. And as he scratches around for clues, faced with a gallery of suspects who all have a motive and none of whom is a stranger to the dark arts of murder, the reappearance of Samantha Valdés, now the boss of the Cartel del Pacífico, adds one more jagged piece to an already unsolvable puzzle. The third swashbuckling adventure in the internationally acclaimed Captain Alatríste series. Fifteen-year-old Íñigo Balboa enlists to serve as his master's aide, and narrates their further adventures of swordplay and skirmishes, mutiny and wartime honor, as Captain Alatríste rejoins his Cartagena regiment to take part in the battles and siege of Breda. In Spain, Alatríste's nemesis, Luis de Alquézar, grows more powerful, as Íñigo's mysterious friend Angélica hints at some plans upon his return. Once again the exploits of the seventeenth-century mercenary will thrill and delight the legions of readers eager to cheer a hero for the ages. The sixth novel in the international bestselling adventures of Captain Alatríste, set in a time when the only thing needed to summon hell on earth—or sea—was a Spaniard and his sword. Accompanied by his faithful foster son, Íñigo, Captain Alatríste accepts a job as a mercenary aboard a Spanish galleon. The ship sets sail from Naples on a journey that will take them to some of the most remote—and wretched—outposts of the empire: Morocco, Algeria, and finally to Malta for a stunning and bloody battle on the high seas that will challenge even the battle-hardened Alatríste's resolve. Now seventeen, Íñigo is almost ready to leave Alatríste, his foster father and fellow soldier. But will age and experience bring wisdom, or is he likely to repeat many of his mentor's mistakes? The treatment of formal features is historical.”--Jacket. A fearless Spanish crew embarks on a search for a lost ship, swallowed by the Indian Ocean centuries ago, in a novel by “a master of the literary thriller” (*Booklist*, starred review). Manuel Coy is a suspended sailor with time on his hands, a mariner without a ship. While attending a maritime auction in Barcelona, he meets Tángel Soto, a captivating beauty who works for the Naval Museum in Madrid. A woman obsessed with the *Dei Gloria*, a famed Jesuit ship sunk by pirates in the seventeenth century, she now hopes to find it and unearth its mysteries, rumored to be buried the bottom of the sea off the southern coast of Spain. Quickly drawn into the search, Coy accompanies Tángel Soto, and a wise old man of the sea whose sailboat will carry the crew into the middle of nowhere in search of a fortune. But more than treasure is rising to the surface—secrets are, too. And from these depths will also come danger, and an adventure no one is prepared for. From the acclaimed author of *The Queen of the South*, *The Nautical Chart* is “a swashbuckling tale of mystery” (*The Washington Post Book World*). Tángel Sand relata su singular y personalísima mirada ante el escritor más indiscutible del paisaje literario español. Como afirma en la Nota preliminar: en un corazón destrozado hay heridas que cuentan una historia. Así pues, en este relato la autora cuenta su experiencia de muerte psíquica: el sufrimiento que le produce la caída en el alma de la persona a la cual ha amado durante doce años de su vida, y a la que a la vez sostuvo como un Ideal. El derrumbe en su imaginario y en su corazón, del académico y autor de Best Sellers Arturo Pérez-Reverte. La escritora, Doctora en Psicología y Psicoanalista, revela lo que ha supuesto amar a una persona tan carismática, una personalidad con una Voluntad de Poder más arrolladora que mil huracanes; así como desvela el Narcisismo patológico, esa atroz incapacidad para ver de manera empática al Otro. Su discurso es un llamado a la libertad en un intento de recuperar su propia vida. Un relato que cautivará al lector en la ternura del encuentro con un hondo y doloroso palpitar humano. Es a la vez un testimonio de la soledad a la que abisma el desenmascaramiento. El rostro del horror al cual uno mira de frente cuando reúne el valor para asomarse detrás del escenario, tras el espectáculo... más allá de las pompas, de las luces y el decoro; ahí donde aflora el teatro del esperpento y resuena la esencia de la condición humana en su perversidad. **ARTURO PÉREZ-REVERTE: EN EL AMOR Y EN LA GUERRA** (De la traición y otros asuntos de honor) es, en definitiva, una plegaria: una oración al amor en una última esperanza. La voz de una mujer abrumadoramente hermosa y poderosa, capaz de agitar y trasladar el mundo de este infame lugar. The novels of Arturo Perez-Reverte have captivated readers around the world and earned him a reputation as “the master of the intellectual thriller” (*Chicago Tribune*). His books have been published in fifty countries. Now, beginning with *Captain Alatríste*, comes Perez-Reverte's most stunning creation to date: a riveting series featuring the adventures of an iconic hero. *Captain Alatríste* is the story of a fictional seventeenth-century Spanish soldier who lives as a swordsman-for-hire in Madrid. Needing gold to pay off his debts, Alatríste and another hired blade are paid to ambush two travelers, stage a robbery, and give the travelers a fright. “No blood,” they are told. Then a mysterious stranger enters to clarify the job: he increases the pay, and tells Alatríste that, instead, he must murder the two travelers. When the attack unfolds, Alatríste realizes that these aren't ordinary travelers, and what happens next is only the first in a riveting series of twists and turns, with implications that will reverberate throughout the courts of Europe. Andrés Faulques, a world-renowned war photographer, has retreated to a tower overlooking the Spanish coast, where he paints a vast mural incorporating the indelible images of conflict he's witnessed in his lifetime. One night, an unexpected visitor interrupts his solitude. As Faulques struggles to recall the face, the man explains that he was the subject of an iconic photo taken by Faulques in a war zone years ago—a photo that destroyed his life. “And why have you come looking for me?” asks Faulques. The stranger answers, “Because I'm going to kill you.” So begins a life-or-death exchange in which Faulques is forced to recall a time when he loved a beautiful woman and risked his life daily for art and testimony. Yet as the tense dialogue between Faulques and his would-be killer continues, the stakes grow even higher. What they are grappling with becomes not just Faulques' fate, but the very nature of love and cruelty itself. A fifteenth-century painting by a Flemish master is about to be auctioned off. Hired to clean the painting, a young art expert in Madrid discovers in an X-ray an inscription hidden in the corner, setting off a sophisticated whodunit around the European art world. Film scheduled for 1994. It's just another day at the office for Detective Edgar “Lefty” Mendieta: abandoned by the woman he loves, demoralized by his city's (and his nation's) ubiquitous corruption, and in dire need of some psychotherapy. Against this backdrop, he catches the case of Bruno Canizales, a high-powered lawyer with a double life, who was killed by a single silver bullet. Throwing himself into his work, Mendieta begins to piece together the details of Canizales' life. The son of a former government minister, and the lover of a drug lord's daughter, Canizales it seems had a penchant for cross-dressing and edgy sex. In the sweltering city of Culiacán, Mexico's capital of narco-crime, Mendieta scrambles to follow several leads. His dogged pursuit of the killer takes him from glitzy mansions to drug dens, from down-at-the-heels reporters to glamorous transsexuals. When a second, apparently related murder surfaces, Mendieta discovers that his desire to unearth the truth has become as overpowering as any drug. Lucas Corso's search for the original copy of a book of the occult takes him from Madrid to Paris and into a secret society of antiquarians. A compelling tale of art, love and war... A man lives alone in a watchtower by the sea. On the circular walls of the tower he is painting a grand mural - the timeless landscape of a battle. He is a former war photographer, and the painting is his attempt to capture the photo he was never able to take; to encapsulate, in an instant, the meaning of war. But one day a stranger knocks on his door and announces that he has come to kill him. The man is a shadow from his past, one of the myriad faces of war, and now the consequences of his actions are brought home to him. As the novel progresses, the story of both the soldier and the artist emerge, entwined with a doomed love affair, and the progress of a painting that is infused with the history of art. Intense and turbulent this is a book about art, war, love and the human capacity for both violence and empathy. It asks very profound questions about human nature and the role of the artist, but it is also has the

intensity of a psychological thriller as the painter trades stories with the man who has come to kill him - like the Knight playing chess with Death in the Seventh Seal.... A collection of science fiction stories from the early twentieth century by authors ranging from Arthur Conan Doyle to W. E. B. Du Bois. This collection of science fiction stories from the early twentieth century features work by the famous (Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes), the no-longer famous ("weird fiction" pioneer William Hope Hodgson), and the should-be-more famous (Bengali feminist Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain). It offers stories by writers known for concerns other than science fiction (W. E. B. Du Bois, author of *The Souls of Black Folk*) and by writers known only for pulp science fiction (the prolific Neil R. Jones). These stories represent what volume and series editor Joshua Glenn has dubbed "the Radium Age"—the period when science fiction as we know it emerged as a genre. The collection shows that nascent science fiction from this era was prescient, provocative, and well written. Readers will discover, among other delights, a feminist utopia predating Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland* by a decade in Hossain's story, "Sultana's Dream"; a world in which the human population has retreated underground, in E. M. Forster's "The Machine Stops"; an early entry in the Afrofuturist subgenre in Du Bois's last-man-on-Earth tale, "The Comet"; and the first appearance of Jones's cryopreserved Professor Jameson, who despairs at Earth's wreckage but perseveres—in a metal body—to appear in thirty-odd more stories. The international bestseller that inspired the must-watch drama on USA Network starring Alice Braga as Teresa Mendoza. From "master of the intellectual thriller" Arturo Pérez-Reverte, a remarkable tale, spanning decades and continents—from the dusty streets of Mexico to the sparkling waters off the coast of Morocco, to the Strait of Gibraltar and Spain—in a story encompassing sensuality and cruelty, love and betrayal, and life and death. Teresa Mendoza's boyfriend is a drug smuggler who the narcos of Sinaloa, Mexico, call "the king of the short runway," because he can get a plane full of coke off the ground in three hundred yards. But in a ruthless business, life can be short, and Teresa even has a special cell phone that Guero gave her along with a dark warning. If that phone rings, it means he's dead, and she'd better run, because they're coming for her next. Then the call comes. In order to survive, she will have to say goodbye to the old Teresa, an innocent girl who once entrusted her life to a pinche narco smuggler. She will have to find inside herself a woman who is tough enough to inhabit a world as ugly and dangerous as that of the narcos—a woman she never before knew existed. Indeed, the woman who emerges will surprise even those who know her legend, that of the Queen of the South. Captain Alatríste returns in a swashbuckling tale of intrigue, romance and regicide. Captain Alatríste's affair with the beautiful actress Maria de Castro is rankling not only his long-term mistress but also the King of Spain. With loyal companion Inigo distracted by the affections of Angelica, Alatríste becomes embroiled in a series of tussles outside his lover's house. Ambushed by arch-nemesis Malatesta, a skirmish ensues that leads to the death of Maria's other lover - the monarch himself. But behind this tale of sexual jealousy lurks a darker truth. As it becomes clear that both Alatríste and Inigo have been cunningly honey trapped - and that the dead man was an impostor. With a puppet king waiting dutifully in the wings, Alatríste must use all his cunning and swordsmanship to prevent the murder of the real king - and his implication in a crime for which he has been perfectly framed. WINNER OF THE CRIME WRITERS' ASSOCIATION'S INTERNATIONAL DAGGER For fans of Alan Furst and Carlos Ruiz Zafón comes a haunting and layered thriller filled with history, adventure, suspense, and an unforgettable love story—by the internationally bestselling author Arturo Pérez-Reverte. Cádiz, 1811: The Spanish port city has been surrounded by Napoleon's army for a year. Their backs to the sea, its residents endure routine bombardments and live in constant fear of a French invasion. And now the bodies of random women have begun to turn up throughout the city—victims of a shadowy killer. Police Comisario Rogelio Tizón has been assigned the case. Known for his razor-sharp investigation skills—as well as his brutal interrogation methods—Tizón has seen everything. Or so he thought. His inquiry into the murders reveals a surprising pattern: Each victim has been found where a French bomb exploded. Logic tells him to pass it off as coincidence; his instinct tells him otherwise, and he begins to view Cádiz as a living chessboard, with himself and the killer the main players. In a city pushed to the brink, violence and desperation weave together the lives of a group of unlikely people: the Spanish taxidermist who doubles as a French spy; the young woman who uses her father's mercantile business to run the enemy blockade; the rough-edged corsair who tries to resist her charms; and the brilliant academic furiously trying to perfect the French army's artillery and bring Cádiz to its knees once and for all. And as Napoleon presses closer, Tizón must make his next move on the bomb-scarred chessboard before the killer claims another pawn. Combining fast-paced narrative with scrupulous historical accuracy, this smart, suspenseful tale of human resilience is Arturo Pérez-Reverte at the height of his talents. Praise for *The Siege* "A genre-bending literary thriller . . . Pirates; serial killings; steamy, unrequited love: Pérez-Reverte imbues the sensational with significance. . . . His descriptions of the town and people of Cádiz capture colors, smells and personalities, making the page come to life, and he balances these sensory passages with dense observations about history, metaphysics, science, and human nature."—Kirkus Reviews "Bold . . . [Pérez-Reverte's] best yet . . . an ambitious intellectual thriller peopled with colorful rogues and antiheroes, meticulous in its historical detail, with a plot that rattles along to its unexpected finale. It's hard to think of a contemporary author who so effortlessly marries popular and literary fiction as enjoyably as this."—The Observer "Pérez-Reverte has long been Spain's most popular, inventive writer of historical fiction. . . . This is a big and bold novel, rich in character and incident."—The Sunday Times Acclaim for Arturo Pérez-Reverte "John le Carré meets Gabriel García Márquez . . . Pérez-Reverte has a huge following . . . and it's spreading."—The Wall Street Journal "The Da Vinci Code and The Rule of Four . . . pale in comparison with Pérez-Reverte's novels."—Time Out New York "It's a rare novelist who can create a literary page-turner. Arturo Pérez-Reverte . . . is one of those rarities."—The Denver Post The complex narrative technique of one of Spain's most renowned contemporary authors. The writings of Arturo Pérez-Reverte, one of Spain's most renowned contemporary authors, have been described as a minefield. This monograph examines the complexities behind the narrative technique employed in creating such a minefield, including an analysis of the role played by both male and female characters, the relevance of the past as a motif, and aspects of the role of storytelling in creating mystery where none should exist. Both Revertian novels and journalistic writing are seen to be part of an over-all game which is played between their author and his readers. Film, too, forms part of the material reviewed as, though Pérez-Reverte is not a script writer, many films have been based on his novels. The text-centred analysis concludes that the themes of interest in all Revertian output revolve around two main areas: the significance of the past, whether historical, cultural, or literary, and the role of the written word in communicating, in rescuing and in challenging versions of that past in order to combat what Pérez-Reverte terms 'dismemory'. ANNE L. WALSH lectures in Hispanic Studies at University College, Cork. "A taut, elegant mystery" set against the historical backdrop of nineteenth-century Madrid (St. Louis Post-Dispatch). It is 1868; Spain teeters on the brink of revolution. Jaime Astarloa is a master fencer of the old school, priding himself on the precision, dignity, and honor of his ancient art. His friends spend their days in cafes discussing plots at court, but Jaime's obsession is to perfect the irresistible sword thrust. Then Adela de Otero, violet-eyed and enigmatic, appears at his door. When Jaime takes her on as a pupil he finds himself embroiled in dark political intrigue against which his old-fashioned values are no protection. "A delightful period whodunit" (USA Today), *The Fencing Master* "succeeds admirably as both a vivid picture of an unfamiliar culture and as high, sophisticated entertainment" (Kirkus Reviews). Derived from factual evidence, Pérez-Reverte brings us a surprising novel with an interesting twist. Teresa Mendoza is nicknamed 'The Queen of the South' by journalists, and 'The Mexican' by the authorities of three continents. She narrates her story as it unfolded in Mexico over 12 years ago. The first action-packed historical adventure in the internationally acclaimed Captain Alatríste series, featuring a Spanish soldier who lives as a swordsman-for-hire in 17th century Madrid. Needing gold to pay off his debts, Captain Alatríste and another hired blade are paid to ambush two travelers, stage a robbery, and give the travelers a fright. "No blood," they are told. Then a mysterious stranger enters to clarify the job: he increases the pay, and tells Alatríste that, instead, he must murder the two travelers. When the attack unfolds, Alatríste realizes that these aren't ordinary travelers, and what happens next is only the first in a riveting series of twists and turns, with implications that will reverberate throughout the courts of Europe... Ben wants to take something really neat to school for show and tell. What could be neater than his new baby sister? But his sister doesn't want to co-operate. She cries in his backpack. She cries at the teacher. She cries at the principal, who decides she must be sick. When they call in a doctor, she cries harder. Ben knows just the right person to call to help—his mom! A newly designed Classic Munsch picture book introduces this charming tale of a very noisy baby to a new generation of young readers. "A sleek, sophisticated, madly clever chamber mystery" from the international bestselling author—the basis for the film *Uncovered* starring Kate Beckinsale (The New York Times Book Review). A fifteenth-century painting by a Flemish master is about to be auctioned when Julia, a young art restorer, discovers a peculiar inscription hidden in a corner: Who killed the knight? In the painting, the Duke of Flanders and his knight are locked in a game of chess, and a dark lady lurks mysteriously in the background. Julia is determined to solve the five-hundred-year-old murder, but as she begins to look for clues, several of her friends in the art world are brutally murdered in quick succession. Messages left with the bodies suggest a crucial connection between the chess game in the painting, the knight's murder, the sordid underside of the contemporary art world, and the latest deaths. Just when all of the players in the mystery seem to be pawns themselves, events race toward a shocking conclusion. A thriller like no other, *The Flanders Panel* presents a tantalizing puzzle for any connoisseur of mystery, chess, art, and history. "A beguiling puzzle—a game within a game within a game—solved in perplexing but entertaining fashion."—The Philadelphia Inquirer "For mystery fans who yearn for literate, intelligent, sophisticated whodunits, Spanish author Pérez-Reverte's highly acclaimed story fills the bill perfectly . . . An inventive plot, gripping suspense, fascinatingly complex characters, and innovative incorporation of art, literature, and music will enthrall readers looking for something a little different."—Booklist "This intelligent mystery . . . comes up with a satisfying twist at the end."—Library Journal A masterful blend of Christian scholarship and thrilling adventure, *The Last Cato* is a novel about the race to find the secret location of the Vera Cruz, the True Cross on which Christ was crucified, and the ancient brotherhood sworn to protect it. Holy relics are disappearing from sacred spots around the world—and the Vatican will do whatever it takes to stop the thieves from stealing what is left of the scattered splinters of the True Cross. Brilliant paleographer Dr. Ottavia Salina is called upon by the highest levels of the Roman Catholic Church to decipher the scars found on an Ethiopian man's corpse: seven crosses and seven Greek letters. The markings, symbolizing the Seven Deadly Sins, are part of an elaborate initiation ritual for the Staurofilakes, the clandestine brotherhood hiding the True Cross for centuries, headed by a secretive figure called Cato. With the help of a member of the Swiss Guard and a renowned archaeologist, Dr. Salina uncovers the connection between the brotherhood and Dante's *Divine Comedy*, and races across the globe to Christianity's ancient capitals. Together, they will face challenges that will put their faith—and their very lives—to the ultimate test.

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