

PRÉMIO LEYA, Portugal

This prestigious literary award, the highest in Portugal at €100,000, is for unpublished manuscripts, and the winners and finalists are of great literary merit, as well as becoming *bestsellers*. The prize is awarded in November each year.

O CORO DOS DEFUNTOS - THE CHORUS OF THE DECEASED

by António Tavares, 216 páginas, November 2015

Translation rights available for *O Coro dos Defuntos* and for *As Palavras Que Me Deverão Guiar Um Dia* (see below).



It is a time of great advances and upheavals: the students are demonstrating on the streets of Paris and in Memphis, a black man who had a dream is murdered; a human heart is transplanted for the first time and man walks on the Moon; US soldiers die in increasing numbers in Vietnam and IVF takes its first steps.

However, in the small village where this story takes place, the villagers are mostly concerned about the lack of rain and the crops, the mildew plague and the grape-harvest; in the tavern -a sort of Freudian divan- those are the topics of conversations, as even the newspapers that make it as far as the village are only those used by Julian Peixeiro (Fishmonger) to wrap up the fish.

Even so, some very strange things are happening: an old prostitute is strangled and the supposed murderer is absorbed into a rock, the chaste young girl who collected pictures of saints goes through a metamorphosis, and the midwife, who is also a witch, dreams about the dictator falling off a chair and sees a huge carnation growing, like a bruise, in his head.

When the first television set appears in the village, the inhabitants discover changes that they cannot always understand...



António Tavares (Angola, 1960), studied at the University of Coimbra, holding a degree in Law and a post-graduate degree in Communications Law. He has been a secondary-school teacher and is currently Vice-President of the Municipal Hall of Figueira da Foz. He has written plays, studies and essays, and as a journalist, was the founder and director of the regional newspaper *A Linha do Oeste*. He also started and directed the research magazine *Litorais*.

His novel *O Tempo Adormeceu sob o Sol da Tarde* (*Time Slept Under the Evening Sun*) won an honorary mention in the **Alves Redol award** in 2013, and he was the **finalist in 2013 in the**

Prémio Leya with *As Palavras Que Me Deverão Guiar Um Dia* (*The Words that Should Guide Me One Day*), published by Teorema and also finalist for the **Prémio Literário Fernando Namora**. He took part in the Festival du Primer Roman in Chambéry, France, in 2015.



O MEU IRMÃO - MY BROTHER by Afonso Reis Cabral

Prémio Leya 2014 (published in November 2014) - **40,000 copies sold**

Rights sold: Spanish (Acantilado)



“Agora penso que fugir do mundo foi um erro, porque nos colocámos no centro dele. Por exemplo, o meu irmão e eu. Não tenho outro remédio senão olhar para ele, habitar com ele num espaço confinado onde não nos podemos distrair. Isto obriga-nos a pensar no que ele representa para mim.”

Now, I think that fleeing from the world was a mistake, because we made ourselves the centre of it. For example, my brother and me. I have no alternative but to look at him, live with him in a confined space where nothing can entertain us. This forces us to consider what he means to me.

With the death of his parents, a divorced, misanthropic university professor surprises the rest of the family (and relieves them) by taking on the responsibility for Miguel, the 40-year-old brother with Down's syndrome. The memories of their shared affection and complicity in childhood lead the professor, a year older than Miguel, to believe that the new situation will eventually rescue him from the desert that his life has become and redeem him from guilt for so many years away. However, the relationship with Miguel brings unexpected problems - and the biggest of all is called Luciana.

In a family house situated in an isolated village in the interior of Portugal, the reader is immersed in the life together of these two brothers, including the strange episode that dramatically threatens their relationship.

A remarkable novel of great literary maturity which treats the sensitive issue of disability without giving in to sentimentality, offering an objective, sometimes ruthless, social portrait.

Afonso Reis Cabral [...] has written a revealing novel of great maturity, choosing a subject that is not original, but that he knows well and explores in a singular way, avoiding easy sentimentality, ruthlessly, alternating lyricism with the darkest dimensions of human being, never romanticising. (Publico)

The more human a work of art is, the more possibilities it has of being read as universal. But what does it mean when a novel contains humanity? The clear answer emerges in *O Meu Irmão*, first novel by Afonso Reis Cabral. (Sol)

Afonso Reis Cabral (Lisbon, 1990) has been writing since he was 9. In 2005, he published “Condensação” (Condensation), a collection of poems written up to age 15 and has published articles in various newspapers.

He has a degree in Portuguese Studies from the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, Universidade Nova of Lisbon, having received the Merit and Excellence Award for the best student of the course. He completed his Master in Portuguese Studies in the same university. He is a fellow in the History of Culture Center (FCSH-UNL), where he carried out research on the publisher Roman Torres. He always imagined working in the editorial area. After being a freelance proofreader, he currently he works as editor.



UMA OUTRA VOZ - ANOTHER VOICE by Gabriela Ruivo Trindade
Prémio Leya 2013 (published March 2014) **3 editions**



Five voices and the story of a family across a century of changes.

João José Mariano Serrão is a firm republican who plays an important role in having Estremoz elevated to city status and in its development. Single, generous and a great entrepreneur, he opens shops, cafés and a workshop, he brings electricity to the dark streets and looks after a passel of nephews to whom he gives a home and a future. The five voices encircle this determined, secretive, restrained man, taking the reader on a personal and collective journey, as the narrators' tales cross into the

key moments in Portuguese history.

The voices are those of a teenager who spies on naked women and laughs at the worst moment; a bride whose blue eyes have a terrible secret; a young man in love with his best (female) friend, whose life will be plunged into tragedy; a mother who has lived through scandals and cries over her son's departure to war; a prostitute who hides dangerous documents in her bedroom and refuses to marry the man who loves her. When the voices finally fall silent, the protagonist has his say through a diary written in other climes and recovered many years later.

Another Voice, based on true facts, is a multilayered novel revealing different visions of the same landscape and weaving the story of a family through the revelations of the different people.

"[The novel] is a work of details, of attention, of minuscule things, in which great passions and silences, secrets and upsets, sacrifices and rebellions, words spoken and unspoken, are all inscribed in the dense, heartfelt story that makes up the emotional tapestry of the family." José Maria Silva, O Expresso



Gabriela Ruivo Trindade (Lisbon, 1970) has a degree in Psychology and worked as a psychologist and educator until 1999. She has two children, and has lived in London since 2004, where she makes crafts and writes, her passion since childhood. Her story *A Woman of Her Word* won the 2011 Desafio de Escrita – Micronarrativas, in Leiria, Portugal. *Another Voice*, based on her family history, is her first novel.

DEBAIXO DE ALGUM CÉU - UNDER SOME SORT OF SKY by Nuno Camarneiro - Prémio Leya 2012 (published March 2013) **6 editions - 20,000 copies**

In a building by the beach, men, women and children - neighbours whose paths cross but who do not know each other - are all looking for what they lack: a little peace, some music, warmth, a god to help them. The windows all face blow hard on the people who live leaves the building with no electricity of the residents in suspension - trapped in a bubble in time. Now consider, go back over the past, for more neighbourly. Between the end and the start of the next, anything and in between, Christ is born and a



inwards and even the wind seems to there. A storm city and the as if they were they can re-give, react, be of one year can happen - man is saved.

The author's polished writing and ges convey the purgatory of and the search we all undertake to find redemption in a mostunning novel.

brilliant ima- everyday life ving, honest,

"*Debaixo de Algum Céu* portrays the purgatory that is people's lives and the search that each person undertakes for redemption, in clear and moving prose." *Diário de Aveiro*.

Rights sold: J C Lattès, France.

Also by Nuno Camarneiro

NO MEU PEITO NÃO CABEM PÁSSAROS - BIRDS DO NOT FIT IN MY CHEST (Dom Quixote)

A beautifully written novel about three key literary figures: Kafka, Pessoa and Borges.

In 1910, two comets whose paths come close to Earth create a wave of panic. Around the world, people go mad, they commit suicide, they crucify themselves or they simply wait, silent and overcome, for the end of the world. In these times with the sky on fire, three people have more in common than it might appear: an immigrant window-cleaner of New York skyscrapers, a misanthropic young man arriving by ship in Lisbon and a child who invents things after they occur. Linked by lines like those of books, the three young men are too sensitive and intelligent to live normal lives, overburdened by their inner worlds. Despite being thousands of kilometres apart, their lives have curious similarities and they are decisively marked by the times in which they grew up and the places, not always real, where they became men.

The beautiful, resonant language of the novel underlines the dramatic circumstances that influence the birth of an author and the construction of the characters he will later create.

Rights sold: J C Lattès, France.

Nuno Camarneiro (Figueira da Foz 1977) has a degree in Engineering from the Universidade de Coimbra, where he became a researcher. He worked in CERN in Geneva and finished his doctorate, on Science applied to Cultural Heritage, in Florence. He returned to Portugal in 2010 and currently does research at the Universidade de Aveiro and teaches a course on art restoration at the Universidade Portucalense do Porto. He has published short stories and his first novel, published in Dom Quixote (Leya) is *No Meu Peito não Cabem Pássaros* (*Birds Do Not Fit in My Chest*).

O TEU ROSTO SERÁ O ÚLTIMO - YOUR FACE WILL BE THE LAST by João Ricardo Pedro - Prémio Leya 2011 (published March 2012) - **11 editions, 80,000 copies sold.**

Rights sold: Editorial Planeta (Spanish worldwide), Suhrkamp (German), Signatuur (Dutch), Éditions Viviane Hamy (French), Editrice Nutrimenti (Italian), Shanghai 99 (Simplified Chinese), Infordar (Bulgarian), Golden Pony (Arabic worldwide).



It all starts early one cold morning, when a man leaves home with a gun over his shoulder. What motivates him will only come clear at the end of the novel when we read a letter written in another continent. Or perhaps even then we will not know his reasons. Weaving together seemingly independent episodes, with the Carnation Revolution of 1974 as a starting point, the novel recreates the story of a family marked by the long years of dictatorship, political repression and colonial wars. A fascinating novel, an intimate portrait of the twentieth century in Portugal and abroad, original, fresh and with polished elegance.

“O Teu Rosto Será o Último [...] an apparently simple, fluid and gentle read, is supported, however, by an enormously complex structure. Although maze-like, the aesthetical structure that supports the whole novel appears first through the harmonic style, crossing and merging many different places, times and characters, some permanent and others with just bit-parts; and second, through an open network of innumerable and very varied actions and situations. Whether because of the first or the second element of the writing, the novel demands the reader’s full attention, and will really win the reader over in re-readings.” Miguel Real *Jornal de Letras*

“We have to thank you for publishing... what I believe to be the best book of the season. This outstanding novel is remarkable for its style, with an uncommon depth, and awakens so many emotions and reflections in the reader, that it is already a classic of world literature and is on the same level as the greatest! I am dazzled by the tight, subtle structure, the balance that stems from that and the great imagination and talent that the author has, in telling a story. I believe that the originality and singularity will touch the personal experiences of each reader, as should happen with any type of true art. [...] What a discovery... there are so few true writers of art!” Passages bookshop, Lyon (France).

UMA POSTAL DE DETROIT - A POSTCARD FROM DETROIT

March 2016, 224 pp

Rights sold: Signatuur (Dutch), Éditions Viviane Hamy (French), Editrice Nutrimenti (Italian)



In September 1985, there is a train crash in Alcafache and some of the dead, caught in carriages on fire, are never identified. The next day, Marta’s mother receives a telegram to say that her daughter’s rucksack has been found in the remains of the train wreck.

Marta is a Fine Arts student. Her brother, the narrator of this novel, tries to recreate her steps prior to the accident through her notebooks - a kind of visual diary that reflects her daily life as wonderful and sordid. And while he goes through her notes he finds a range of unforgettable characters, including prostitutes, boxers, policemen and murderers, but also religious processions, doctors and volunteer ladies. And of course, he tells the reader about himself: the one person totally missing in Marta’s notebooks.

This brilliant, compelling novel glides along the border between sanity and madness, and the disturbing links that so often connect life and art.

João Ricardo Pedro (Lisbon, 1973) graduated in Electronic Engineering, fascinated by the Lorentz force. He worked for more than a decade in telecommunications, although he was never able to apply his admired Maxwell’s equations. In spring 2009, due to the whims of the global market, he found himself with more time on his hands than he needed to fulfil his daily obligations. In an attack of pragmatism, he decided to start writing. *O Teu Rosto Será o Último* was his first novel and he has also written short stories.



O PECADO DE PORTO NEGRO - THE SIN OF PORTO NEGRO by Norberto Morais - Casa das Letras, 2014. **Finalist for Prémio Leya 2013.**



A mosaic of stories constructing an admirable novel about the circular nature of fate and the ability of the past to come knocking at our door when we least expect it.

In Porto Negro, capital of the island of St. Kitts, everyone knows Santiago Cardamomo, a charming scoundrel who works as a stevedore, is friends with half the world and loves women, preferably ugly, rarely spending the night alone. His success with the opposite sex fills those less fortunate with envy, above all the stunted Rolindo Face, who has long been hopefully in love with Ducélia Trajero - the butcher boss's daughter, guarded like a treasure. But lo and behold, the day that he was rehearsing his request for her hand, he witnesses an unforgiveable sin that will eventually change the life of many of the inhabitants. These will include his own mother; a fugitive from justice who lives a hidden love to forget the past; Cuménia Salles, the owner of Chalet l'Amour, the most famous bordello in the city; or Chalila Boe, a foppish mulatto who loses himself in the port, looking for love in the deserted early hours of the day.

“Known among the sailors of the world as City of Lazy Love, Porto Negro has the fever of desire buried deep in its belly and gives it to anyone who arrives, with the honesty of a female dedicated to pleasure just because the heat sways her that way. A pirates’ refuge, a shipyard, free port and, in its most glorious era, one of the main emporiums on the eastern coast of the Pacific, Porto Negro was always somewhere where people were just passing through... But nobody arrives ever leaves without promising to return. The city wakes up in the dawn on the quays. The light in the lighthouse on the cape is turned off, the first ships appear. On the beach, hands over their eyes, the fishermen’s wives drive out the widowhood of their hearts. They live waiting for the day when the morning does not bring back the man who leaves them on their own every night, to go to steal from the sea.” (from the novel)

“One of the best historical novels published in Portugal this century”. Miguel Real, *Jornal de Letras*.

João Roque rated it **5 of 5 stars** Uma imensa e maravilhosa surpresa que eu, sem reservas, recomendo vivamente. *An immense and marvellous surprise that I, without reserve, highly recommend.*

Ana Simões rated it **5 of 5 stars**

Já tinha saudades de ler um livro assim. O autor escreve em prosa como de poesia se tratasse. *I longing for a book like this to read. The author writes prose as if it were poetry.*

Claudia Gomes rated it **5 of 5 stars**

Numa tarde em frente a bancada de livros de uma livraria charmosa do Rio de Janeiro, um senhor que não conhecia e com sotaque inegável de italiano me perguntou: "queres uma dica de um bom livro ?" Respondi que sim, e ele me recomendou " O Pecado de Porto Negro".

Queria poder encontrá-lo um dia para agradecer a dica maravilhosa.

Lindo livro, mal acabamos de ler já nos dá saudade.

One afternoon at a display of books in a charming bookshop in Rio de Janeiro, a man I didn't know, with an unmistakable Italian accent, asked me, "Do you want a tip for a good book?". I said yes and he recommended O Pecado de Porto Negro. I would like to find him one day to thank him for the wonderful tip.

A beautiful book, as soon as you finish it, you start longing for it again.



NORBERTO MORAIS was born in the Black Forest, Germany in 1975 and moved to Portugal at the age of six. He graduated in Psychology (ISPA) and he was a volunteer in the Portuguese Victim Support Association. He has been the lead singer, lyricist and composer in a band. In 2002, when he was ready to be either a musician or a psychologist, he realized that, for better or worse, he was sentenced to write for the rest of his life. He published his first novel, "Vícios de Amor" (Love Addiction) in 2008 with Oficina do Livro and currently lives in Paris.

PERGUNTEM A SARAH GROSS - ASK SARAH GROSS, by João Pinto Coelho - Dom Quixote, Abril 2015 - **10,000 copies sold - Finalist for the LeYa Book Award 2014.**

Partial English translation and detailed presentation available.



In 1968, Kimberly Parker, a young teacher of Literature, travels across the United States to teach in the most exclusive college in New England, directed by the enigmatic, charismatic Sarah Gross. Kimberly is running from a terrible secret and seeking peace at St. Oswald's in the company of the exuberant Miranda, the charming and sensitive Clement and most of all with Sarah's concern. But the truth hunts Kimberly down and on the day she makes the decision that might save her, a tragedy suddenly perturbs the centennial institution, revealing a devastating past.

In the corridors of the college or cramped in the Krakow ghetto; under the shade of the poplars in Birkenau or on the streets of Auschwitz, when it was still a happy city, Kimberly is submersed in a brutal story of grief and survival she has never been prepared for.

Implacable, imaginative and profoundly cinematographic, with masterful dialogues and unforgettable characters, *Ask Sarah Gross* is a vibrant novel that portrays the city which has become the most famous extermination camp in History.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Perguntem-a-Sarah-Gross/1599462583605140?ref=hlb>

Booktrailer https://youtu.be/dMV_KfixUrM

Maria Carmo rated it **5 of 5 stars**

Recommends it for: Everyone.

Shelves: [biography](#), [life-changing-self-discovery-self](#), [literature-and-art](#), [livros-em-português](#), [novel-romance-revealing-historica](#)

What can I say about Sarah Gross?

This is a jewel of a book! Extremely touching, yet very serene in its construction of the plot. It is rigorous in its historical background, characters are larger than life and yet eminently believable, and Kimberley, Sarah, Esther, Henryk, Anna, Max, are archetypes of Humanity itself.

João Pinto Coelho (London, 1967) graduated as an architect in 1992 and has lived in Lisbon most of his life.



He has also spent long periods in the USA, where he worked in a professional theatre outside New York, and in the locations described in this novel. In 2009 and 2011, he took part in two acts organised by the European Council in Auschwitz (Oświęcim), Poland, where he worked closely with several researches on the Holocaust. At that time, he also created the project Auschwitz in 1st Person/A Letter to Meir Berkovich, which brought together young people from Portugal and Poland, taking them back to the streets of Oświęcim and to the extermination camps. He has taken part in other public acts about this subject, notably as

a speaker in the international conference on Portugal and the Holocaust, organised by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in 2012. *Perguntem a Sarah Gross* is his first novel.

AS VIÚVAS DE DOM RUFIA - MR. RUFFIAN'S WIDOWS, by Carlos Campaniço

Casa das Letras 2016



Nicknamed Mr. Ruffian at an early age, Firmino António Pote was brought up in poverty in a rural community and swears to himself that he will be rich. Disdaining tough farming work, he survives by small transactions and comes into his own in his thirties: handsome, persuasive and charming, he conquers rich women and uses his imagination to create characters and backgrounds for every event, living in various places at the same time.

When Mr Ruffian's body is found in the countryside, his funeral reveals astonishing surprises to the newly formed Republican Guard police force investigating his death. A strange letter from the dead man's uncle proves that there is much more to uncover.

Carlos Campaniço's third novel, after the great success of *Mal Nascido*, is a fascinating, funny novel set in the rural area of Alentejo in the early 20th century, a seductive mix of historical narrative, mystery and humour.

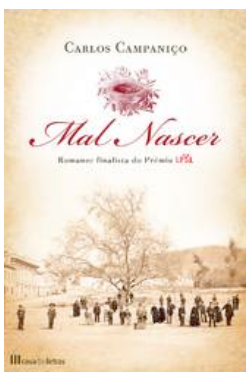
There was not a page of this book that I read without a smile on my lips. Right from the beginning, which I read while I was still in the bookshop as I was so curious to know about Dom Rufia, I had high expectations and had to take the book home. <http://planetamarcia.blogs.sapo.pt/as-viuvras-de-dom-rufia-carlos-713573>

With *As Viúvas de Dom Rufia*, Carlos Campaniço has confirmed, without a doubt and with total impartiality, as one of the best contemporary writers of Portuguese fiction.

<http://tambemdeesquerda.blogs.sapo.pt>

MAL NASCER - BORN EVIL, by Carlos Campaniço

Casa das Letras, 2014 - **Leya Award Finalist 2013**



In the mid-nineteenth century, Santiago Barcelos returns as a doctor to the village he left as a boy. He has fled Lisbon and two "miguelistas", supporters of the absolutist monarchy of King Miguel, and also the danger of his godfather's wife who wanted to be his lover. In the village, he expects to have his revenge on Albano Chagas, the man who ruined his childhood making him an accomplice in the death of his firstborn. His plans come to nothing when he realizes nobody recognizes him and suddenly the whole town worships him and wants to be in his company. Deciding to postpone the disclosure of his identity, the young doctor will have more time to mourn the dead, care for the sick and get even with the living. Even so, he becomes entangled in complicated webs, including a forbidden, overwhelming passion.

Alternating childhood memories with the eventful adult life of Santiago, *Born Evil* is a masterful novel that combines an attractive story with evocative, poetic language and a surprising twist at the end.

After the fantastic "Os demónios de Álvaro Cobra", I can only write good comments about this new novel. [...] If on the one hand, the book is a complete love story, even almost innocent, it is hard and dark when it exposes how people become brutalised when they are left to themselves and at the mercy of the needs of rural life and the tough climate of the Alentejo, so extreme. We can say that the book has a phenomenal transformational capacity, it like going from beastly to beast, if you follow me. And that is what I most like about this book, its realism, its strength.

<http://efeitodoslivros.blogspot.com.es/2014/07/mal-nascido-o-regresso-de-carlos.html>

OS DEMÓNIOS DE ÁLVARO COBRA - THE DEMONS OF ALVARO COBRA by Carlos Campaniço, published by Teorema, **winner Prémio Literário Cidade de Almada 2012**



Life in the village of Medinas would be a rural idyll if it were not for Álvaro Cobra, a remarkable farmer who attracts supernatural phenomena and is seen both as a saint and a devil. He can hear the Earth turning, he has a dog that predicts the weather and he has already died twice, though he was resurrected both times, and since then, a band of griffons nests on his roof. But all this weirdness made it hard for him to find a wife until he meets the daughter of a traveller selling sweets at the September Fair. The marriage will bring surprises to everyone, not least Álvaro himself and also to his family which includes his lucid 150-year-old grandmother, his mother who cooks with one hand while she ploughs the earth with the other, and his sister whose fevers set her sheets alight. Other villagers include an anarchist who wants to eradicate illiteracy and the owner of a travelling brothel. When Álvaro and his wife have a son, Vicente, they hope that he will have a completely normal life, but being from the Cobra family, it would not be that simple.

The portrait of a village at the of the nineteenth century comes to sparkling life through Carlos Campaniço's memorable characters, and his clever, amusing use of magic realism to highlight the virtues and defects of country life.

Carlos Campaniço (n. 1973, Moura) has created an extraordinary literary universe where memorable characters shine.. «Os demónios de Álvaro Cobra», published by Teorema, is a book that merits the attention of readers and literary critics.

Mário Rufino, Diário Digital http://diariodigital.sapo.pt/news.asp?id_news=630895

[Patricia](#) GOODREADS 5 stars

An absolutely fabulous book, wonderfully written and that convinced me from the first pages and never let me down, right to the last. A book that everyone should read.



Carlos Campaniço was born in Safara (Moura), Portugal, in 1973 and has lived in the Algarve for many years. He graduated in Modern Languages and Literatures at the University of the Algarve, where he also acquired a master's degree in Arabic, Islamic and Mediterranean cultures. He is Programme Director of the Municipal Auditorium of Olhão, the Algarve's newest theater. "Os demonios de Alvaro Cobra" won the **Literary Prize of the City of Almada, in 2012.**

Translation rights for all three novels are available.