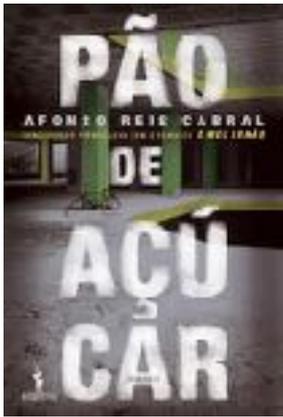


NEW PORTUGUESE FICTION

Leading literary novels recently published by Grupo Leya, Portugal

PÃO DE AÇUCAR - SUGAR LOAF by **Afonso Reis Cabral**

Dom Quixote, 2018



Rafa, a young teenager, finds an abandoned building where he and his friends can run wild. Better still, there is a sick homeless transvestite, Gisberta, there. In February 2006, the Oporto Fire Department rescued her body from a well in the basement. The corpse, naked from the waist down, clearly showed the violence that the children had meted out over several days, after first bringing food and caring for Gisberta.

In a skilful combination of fact and fiction, Afonso Reis Cabral reconstructs the events and lives of the victim and the aggressors, meticulously creating the real and imaginary characters to reflect on violence, guilt and empathy. This stunning second novel from the winner of the Prémio Leya in 2014 demonstrates his talent and secures his place as a key voice in new Portuguese fiction.

O MEU IRMÃO, Prémio Leya 2014

Brazil: Leya Brazil; Spanish: Acantilado; Italian: Nutrimenti

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. 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.



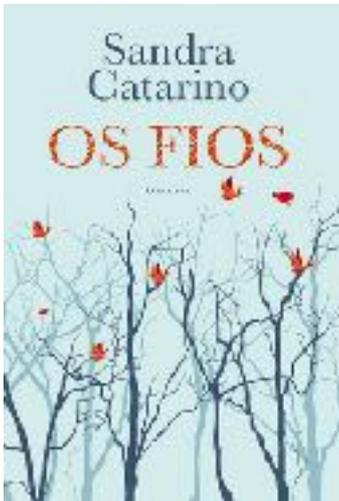
Afonso Reis Cabral

Born in 1990, he published his first book of poetry, *Condensação*, when he was 15. He won the Prémio Leya in 2014 with his first novel, *O Meu Irmão* (published in Brazil, and translated in Spanish and Italian). He has a master's degree in Portuguese Studies, and a post-grad in Creative Writing. He has worked in a dairyfarm, a tourist office and a second-hand bookstore, and enjoys bird-watching, scuba-diving and boxing in his free time. He contributes to many different publications, and currently works as a free-lance editor. In 2017 he was awarded the Prémio Europa David Mourão-Ferreira as "young promise".

Catarino

OS FIOS - THE THREADS by Sandra Catarino

Casa das Letras 2018



On a stormy night when everyone is praying to Santa Barbara (protector against storms) and the elders remember an old tragedy, a stranger and his daughter Madalena arrive mysteriously in the village. Madalena is three years old, with grey eyes that attract and repel at the same time. The same night, Violeta is called to the mansion to help the lady with the birth of Celeste, who does not know how lonely her life will be. In the Back of Beyond, where the rainwater bursts into the poorest homes in waves, Samuel - the boy who draws animals on the ground and imitates birdsong - fears for his mother's life.

Madalena, Celeste and Samuel are the three unequal sides of a triangle from which the threads of this story start, told by three women like the weavers of time: Antónia, the widow who knits vests and blankets adding days to each of their lives; Violeta who catches babies in her hands to stop them from falling on the earth and keeps sad secrets in a drawer; and Emília, who hears knives being sharpened in her dreams and calculates the paths that death chooses.

The Threads, a wonderfully mature first novel, combines the cruelty of rural life with an unexpected, welcome lyricism that makes the narrative magic and powerfully empathetic.

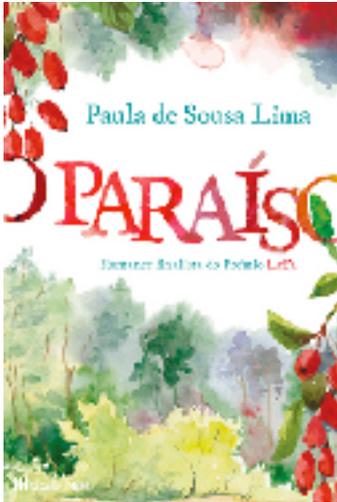
Sandra Catarino

(Cascais, 1972) has a degree in History and a post-grad in Education. She was a teacher in primary and secondary schools for several years. After that, she developed a project for teaching History of Art to young children, working with a cultural association and in primary schools. She currently dedicates all her time to writing.

Recently published by Grupo Leya, Portugal, all shortlisted for the Prémio Leya, Portugal's most important literary prize.

PARAÍSO - PARADISE by Paula Sousa de Lima

Casa das Letras



In an isolated village, towards the end of the XIX century, a furious mob burns down a house and its sinful inhabitants, near an idyllic forest. Only Ana, the midwife, and the priest Father Engracio, do not take part and they manage to rescue newborn twins, named Laura and Lourenço. The babies are sent to separate orphanages and grow up without knowing their past. Although both feel empty, as if a part of themselves were missing. Meanwhile, the villagers who committed the crime are overwhelmed by their guilt. Ana never forgets the twins, wondering what became of them, without realising they may meet again.

This beautifully-written novel explores prejudice, repentance and fate as the fascinating characters go through their lives.

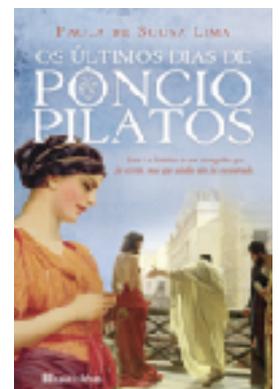


Paula Sousa de Lima

With degrees in Modern Literature, Paula Sousa de Lima was a teacher for ten years, and writes regularly in journals and literary magazines. She lives in the Azores, *Paraíso* is her sixth novel, shortlisted for the Leya Prize. She has also won the Prémio Daniel Sá 2016, and has published poetry, short stories and academic works.

OS ÚLTIMOS DIAS DE PONCIO PILATOS - THE LAST DAYS OF PONTIUS PILATE

Paula Sousa de Lima's earlier novel is the lyrical, bittersweet story of Claudia, the wife of Pontius Pilate, who can foresee the future and who believes in the Nazarene's message. Now in Rome, years after her husband had Christ crucified, Claudia helps the poor, and tries to protect the apostles Peter and Paul from her husband's wrath.



RIO DO ESQUECIMENTO - RIVER OF FORGETTING by Isabel Rio Novo

Dom Quixote



In the winter of 1864, the elderly Miguel Augusto returns from Brazil, to live in Camelia House, his mansion in the north of Portugal and prepare himself for death. He plans to name his illegitimate daughter Teresa as his heir. Nicolau Sommersen is hoping for an advantageous marriage to restore his family's fortunes, and to escape his passion for Maria Adelaide, a married mother of three. Nicolau's cousin is Maria Ema Antunes, the housekeeper at Camelia House, and her twisted plans will weave a web of secrets, crimes and vengeance around everyone.

Isabel Rio Novo

Born in Porto in 1972, Isabel Rio Novo has a doctorate in comparative literature and teaches Creative Writing and other literary subjects in higher education. She has written articles and papers on literary studies.

Her novel A Caridade won the Prémio Literário Manuel Gomes Teixeira in 2005 and her latest novel, O Rio Do Esquecimento, was shortlisted for the Leya Prize.



AS HISTÓRIAS QUE NÃO SE CONTAM - THE STORIES THAT ARE NOT TOLD by Susana Piedade

Oficina do Livro



Three young women meet in a hospital in tragic circumstances, beginning a friendship where each can finally talk to another person who understands them. Ana wonders what she would have done, if she had known about the illness that killed her lover suddenly. Isabel feels guilty for not getting to the kindergarten on time that rainy afternoon. Marta, who dared to leave the home where she was abused when she was a teenager, cannot find the courage to admit the love of her life is far from a bed of roses.

With their lives ahead of them but so much grief and tragedy already present, their friendship will be the support they need to each face their personal difficulties.

Ana, Isabel and Marta tell their stories and that of their friendship in fresh, original voices, perfectly capturing the anguish, joy and fear of life.



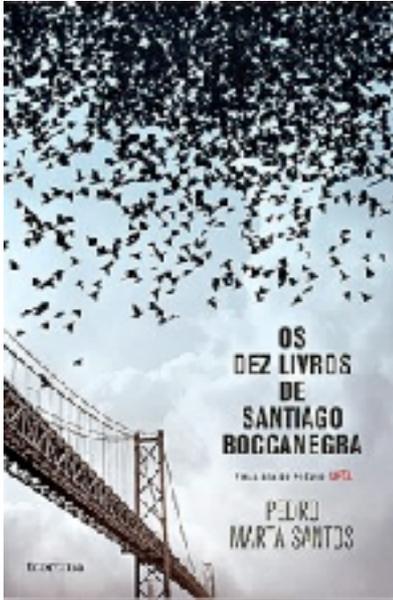
Susana Piedade

A native of Oporto (1972), Susana Piedade has a degree in Communication Sciences and has worked in sales, marketing and communication,

As Histórias Que Não Se Contam is her first novel and it was shortlisted for the Leya Prize.

OS DEZ LIVROS DE SANTIAGO BOCCANEGRA - THE TEN BOOKS OF SANTIAGO BOCCANEGRA, by Pedro Marta Santos

Teorema



Reading Moby Dick helped Santiago Boccanegra, grandson of sailors, overcome polio when he was a child, and he gets his own back on the school bullies, training as a boxer. He works in a hotel where Laura Rutledge, sole survivor of a plane crash, is a high-class prostitute. In Burma fleeing from a tragedy, Aamon Daro, a mysterious Albanian, cultivates opium poppies and collects art. Jin, a young North Korean girl, falls in love thanks to a Beatles song and has to escape her country. A poem is found in the tomb of Sante Gabriel Rossetti's muse - but it is from later than her lifetime and might be a lost work by Pessoa. A young boy with a brain tumour composes music on the hospital sheets, although he never learned music.

These and many other characters, from novels, real or purely imaginary, create an enigmatic network of interwoven experiences which all link together in an unexpected ending, with birds, music, death and redemption. This extraordinary novel draws on a rich literary and artistic experience to create a fascinating, original narrative.

Pedro Marta Santos

Pedro Marta Santos is a prolific screen-writer, with many plays, filmscripts and television series to his credit. He writes regular columns on cinema and the arts, for magazines and newspapers in Portugal. He has published four non-fiction books on the arts, cinema and popular culture.

His first novel, Os Dez Livros de Santiago Boccanegra, reflects his wide-ranging interests in the world of literature, art and cinema, and it was shortlisted for the Leya Prize.

