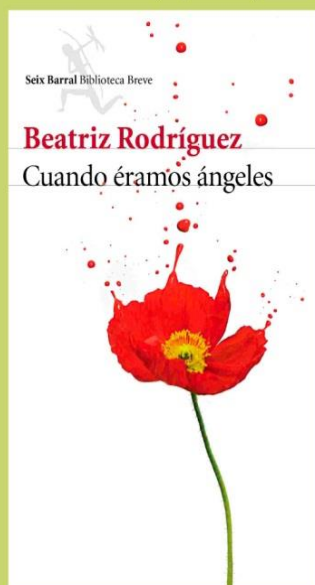


Quando éramos ángeles (When We Were Angels)

Beatriz Rodríguez

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Reporter Clara Ibáñez is a young woman who leads a quiet life, cloistered away in Fuentegrande, a town with fewer than a thousand people. She runs the local newspaper, despite having aspired to greater things. She hardly socializes with anyone, apart from Chabela, the owner of Las Rosas guesthouse, where she eats and sleeps, as well as drinks in order to try to forget the recent death of her husband.

When the body of Fran Borrego appears, one of the owners of the land surrounding the town, a community brimming with envy, intrigue and unaccomplished schemes that come from a past that Clara knows nothing about is unveiled.

That past, which began during Fran Borrego's teenage years, features as a flashback within the story itself. As Clara Ibáñez starts an investigation into the influential landowner's death, interviewing a variety of people who could be involved in his murder, the flashback, set in the 90s, reveals the true story of each one of them to the reader, along with how this group of teenagers discover sex, love, anger, friendship, disappointment and revenge.

In this way the author shapes a novel that plays with different realities only witnessed by the reader, who will not only see how the other characters evolve, but also Clara Ibáñez herself. The text is characterized by two themes: food, which takes on a leading role through Chabela's recipes, and sex, which bursts into Clara's life thanks to Fernando Alegría, one of the characters the reporter suspects, but is unavoidably attracted to.

Beatriz Rodríguez (Sevilla, 1980) has a degree in Spanish Language and Literature. She has worked as an editor for Trama publishing house, La Fábrica and Grupo Anaya. She has contributed to magazines such as *El rapto de Europa* on cultural topics and *Trama y Texturas* that deals with the world of books, and to documentary scripts such as *La memoria de los cuentos. Los últimos narradores orales*, (The Memory of Tales. The last Storytellers) by moviemaker José Luis López Linares. She has also contributed to literary and opinion sections in publications by Grupo Andalucía Información and recently, to the anthology *Watchwomen. Narradoras del siglo XXI*. (Watchwomen: 21st Century Female Storytellers). She currently runs the publishing house Musa a las 9 and the Festival Internacional de Poesía de Madrid, POEMAD (Madrid International Poetry Festival). *La vida real de Esperanza Silva* (The Real Life of Esperanza Silva) (Casa de cartón, 2013) was her first novel.

Opinions on *Quando éramos ángeles*

"Beatriz Rodríguez possesses the strength and versatility of storytellers who have a voice of their own. *Quando éramos ángeles* is an impeccably written novel about character, loss of innocence, and the search for identity at a crucial moment in a woman's life, that is to say, it is a literary novel of very high standing. But it also builds up intrigue and suspense that keep the reader hooked, seeing how the investigation of a crime unfolds, the way we watch life go by. Because what is the real motive for a crime? When is it first conceived? When the decision is made to commit it, or many years earlier, when we were angels, forging our characters and the universe of our relationships? A fantastic read that heralds the arrival of one of the most interesting voices on the Spanish literature scene, with a highly-promising future."

Elena Ramírez
Director of Seix Barral publishing house

"A very well-constructed choral novel, particularly with regard to the rural setting and the shaping of the characters. An enjoyable and easy read in which Beatriz Rodríguez excellently reflects adolescence coming to an end and manages to focus us on daily life and power relationships. A very good start for an author who is breaking into the challenging world of literary narration."

Concha Quirós- Librería Cervantes (Cervantes Bookstore). Aula de las Metáforas (poetry library) award winner, 2015

"I found *Quando éramos ángeles*, by Beatriz Rodríguez, as fascinating as it is disturbing. A drama with a great deal of flavor, and I'm not referring to the substantial collection of recipes, as well as a very powerful soundtrack that takes your breath away and is a perfect reflection of the years of liberalization that followed the Franco regime."

Rodrigo Rivero
Librería Lé (Lé Bookstore)

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DOSPASSOS
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