



**ANA** (Planeta)  
Roberto Santiago

**LEGAL THRILLER**

**AUTHOR OF ONE OF SPAIN'S MOST NOTICEABLE LITERARY PHENOMENON OF RECENT YEARS: LOS FUTBOLÍSIMOS WITH 3.000K COPIES SOLD IN SPAIN ALONE**



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**Roberto Santiago**

Roberto Santiago is a writer, playwright and film director. He has written over twenty novels for children and young adults. Among others, the collection *Los futbolísimos* ('Footballisms') (Editorial SM), which has become the best selling saga of children's literature in Spain in recent years and has been translated into many languages. He has written and directed, among others, the films *El penalti más largo del mundo* (*The Longest Penalty Shot In The World*) (nominated for a Goya for best screenplay), *El club de los suicidas* (*The Suicide Club*), *Al final del camino* (*At The End Of The Road*) and the international co-production *El sueño de Iván* (*Ivan's Dream*).

For theatre he has written the adaptations of *Ocho apellidos vascos* (*Eight Basque Surnames*), *El otro lado de la cama* (*The other side of the bed*) and *Perversiones sexuales en Chicago* (*Sexual Perversity in Chicago*) by David Mamet, among others. He has participated in a number of television series, is professor at the Official Cinema School in Madrid, and his short film *Ruleta* ('*Roulette*') was the first Spanish short to compete in the Official Section of the Cannes Film Festival.

*Ana* is his first novel for adults.



**Ana Tramel:** With A for attorney. With A for addicted to alcohol, pills and sex. And with A for anaesthetized (to emotions, adjectives, and sycophants). In this story absolutely everything revolves around her, the protagonist, narrator and dynamo of the plot. In her forties, she's about to experience a journey to the dark side of the gambling world, and to come up against an international corporation that deals in thousands of millions and has hundreds of lawyers on their payroll. Said with the utmost humility: from this moment on, we are all Ana Tramel.

An excellent domestic noir which, thanks to the powerful voice of Ana, the protagonist, maintains the pace of the best international successes. A novel which is more feminist than feminine. A great judicial plot featuring the addiction to gambling.

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'I can take hits like no one, that's the truth, it's not easy to knock me down.'

Ana Tramel is a lawyer with a dark past who has reached the lowest point in her career. Years before, she was a brilliant barrister specializing in important media cases, taken on by the city's best firms. She now spends her days between administrative resources in a mediocre buffet, anaesthetising her emotions in a glass of whiskey.

One morning, still recovering from a habitual hangover, Tramel receives a call from the past. Her brother Alejandro, with whom she hasn't spoken for five years, calls from the station of the Spanish Civil Guard in Torreledones. He has been arrested for the murder of the director of the Castilla Grande Casino. He desperately asks for her help. Although she has been out of the practice for ages she is the only person he can trust.

Reluctantly Ana sets off. Tired and out of training, she trusts no one, not even herself. But, after all, it is her brother. During the investigation to prepare the defence she discovers a number of things: The first is that the crime has been recorded on the Casino's closed-circuit television. Secondly, Alejandro had gambling debts of almost eight hundred thousand euros. And thirdly, her brother is a box of surprises; as well as being a compulsive gambler and a murderer, he has a two-year-old son.

Ana asks for help from Concha, her boss and an old friend from the Law Faculty. She needs the organisation and resources of an office in order to prepare a defence that has everything going against it. She convinces her in exchange for reassurances she will stop drinking and will renew her belief in the judicial system; promises she knows are beyond her.



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Tramel prepares a peculiar outfit to take on the case. Its members: an elderly retired investigator, a novice lawyer whose greatest merit is having stolen the entry exams from her law school, and a gambler who would sell his mother for a fistful of cash. What Ana doesn't know is she will have to take on the biggest companies in the game. The appearance of a malicious homicide hides a much more complex plot, above all the eternal struggle of man: good versus bad, reason versus feeling, and a forty-something lawyer addicted to pills and alcohol, against an Corporation with assets in the billions.

In **ANA** nothing is what it seems. Not one of the characters is exactly a saint. And as Patricia Highsmith said of one of her stories 'they are going to see a woman do what no male protagonist in literature of the past forty years would dare: behave with compassion, heroism and expose her body and soul to humiliation'.

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France (*Editions du Seuil*)  
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Czech Republic  
(Host Vydavatelstvi, S.R.O)  
Greece (Patakis)

*"I was so hooked I couldn't stop reading. I arrived in Spain by plane from Germany and before taking the car from the airport I sat in the airport lounge and read the two remaining chapters. An enthralling novel."*

**María Dueñas**, writer

*"A rollercoaster ride into the world of gambling and the courts. Thrilling, original, subtle and action-packed. The extremely humane Ana stands out for her bad character, her mistakes and her talent."*

**Isabelle Gugnion**, publisher at SEUIL (France)

*"I have spent days telling those around me about Ana, and I realise that one of the greatest merits of this novel is how it brings back one's pleasure in reading."*

**Giovanna Canton**, publisher at Rizzoli (Italy)

*"It's absolutely gripping. I'm impressed by the strong psychological portrait of Ana, the twists of the plot, the masterclass of the author. This legal thriller has many assets. It doesn't happen very often that I have such a strong feeling, like in this case, that I just must grab it for the house."*

**Katarzyna Lipnicka**, publisher at Muza (Poland)

*"A real page-turner with a smart and ironic heroin. A sophisticated, emotional and credible image of a man's life."*

**Nikola Marzyová**, publisher at Host (Czech Republic)

*"Roberto Santiago arrived at Planeta having previously sold more than a million copies of his 'Los futbolismos' ('Footballisms') saga. Now with a new direction to his career he maintains his narrative pulse with a powerful novel and a protagonist who arrives like an arrow piercing the heart of the reader. An author who has dazzled us."*

**Raquel Gisbert**, publisher at Planeta (Spain)

*"As well as thoroughly enjoying it I am surprised by the impact the story has had on me and by the work that has gone into it. It is purely visceral; it grabs you from the beginning. And the writing, its form and structure, surprised me; not only does it captivate but it goes further and is at once a literary novel and a best-seller, something rarely achieved."*

**Mireia Acosta**, television producer

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