

MARIÀ VELOY

Marià Veloy (Barcelona, 1978) studied philosophy and works as an editor. Among other books, he has recently published the novel *Against Men of Action* (Més Llibres, 2018) and the poetry book *The Spy's Notebook* (Mallorca Poetry Award 2020). With *The World Begins* he won the Ciutat d'Alzira Novel Prize 2021. A devoted fan of RCD Espanyol of Barcelona, for whom his grandfather was a star player, he is currently working on a short novel about childhood memories and football, *Leverkusen 88*.



A declaration of love for Barcelona and its history, a literary novel that tells us the story of Toresky, the peculiar artist who introduced radio in Spain, a radio far ahead of its time that transformed the social reality of the moment.

Ciutat d'Alzira Novel Prize 2021



The World Begins

Spain / 2022 / 327 pages / Literary Novel / Territory: World
Primary publisher: Bromera (Catalan)

On Casp Street, in Barcelona, you can find the historical radio station Ràdio Barcelona, founded in 1924. Inside, is the Toreski Studio, dedicated to Josep Torres i Vilata, who became hugely famous thanks to the dialogues he had with Miliu, a childish voice that reflected the social reality of the time. The protagonist of this novel, Pequod, already knows all this when a biography of Toreski falls into his hands. But in that book he discovers the American adventures of the artist, as a singer, quick-change artist and ventriloquist who travelled around the world with his show, even to China and the Philippines. And, step by step, we realize that Pequod—a young man from today's Barcelona—establishes a bond with Toreski whose central point is the experience of fatherhood and loss and mourning for the death of a child.

The World Begins is a novel full of gentle irony, sometimes dark but always bright. It talks about Toresky and Barcelona, but also

about Pequod and his family. Ultimately, it is a work about the gaze that rediscovers itself, and that renews itself with the hope of a child's eyes.

The World Begins is the most mature novel of Veloy, an exercise in style full of nuances, in which he is told about Barcelona and the figure of Toreski, a forefather of radio in Spain.

- English sample forthcoming
- Spanish long sample available: shorturl.at/ajkM6
- Grants for translation and promotion available