

Laura Gonzalvo

Laura Gonzalvo (Mataró, 1978) has followed an interdisciplinary path that straddles the publishing world, communication and marketing. After working for ten years as editor and in charge of communication in several publishing houses, in 2010 she began to collaborate with Batec Mobility, a company that was born out of the needs of Laura's husband, Pau Bach, who is an inventor and businessman with a spinal cord injury, and has become an international benchmark in the field of mobility aids for people with disabilities. In 2020 Batec Mobility was sold to a multinational investment fund and Laura decided to return to what she considered "her thing": books.



The List of Impossible Things is Laura Gonzalvo's first novel and the winner of the Carlemany Award 2021.



The List of Impossible Things

Spain / 2022 / 352 pages / Inspirational fiction / Territory: World / Primary publisher: Columna Edicions (Catalan)

The List of Impossible Things tells the story of two young people, Guim and Clara (aged 18 at the start), over a six-year period. It is a story of growth and also a love story. Guim and Clara have a relationship prior to the beginning of the novel but this is interrupted by Guim's zest for life which, no matter how much he loves her, is incompatible with a relationship like theirs. What he doesn't know is that six months after he splits up with Clara he will have an accident that will cause a spinal cord injury.

Narrated through Clara's voice, the chapters are short and pacy, and alternate between the two characters, telling what happens to them over the course of six years. They are both looking for their place in the world. She in a more conventional way: college, travel, friends, parties, sex. He in a different and much harder way: hospitals, rehabilitation and a list of impossible things that he insists

on achieving despite being told that, because of his injury, he will never manage it. It is because of these things that he wants to regain at least part of the autonomy he had before the accident. During that time, neither Clara nor Guim will completely finish their relationship with the other.

The List of Impossible Things has an autobiographical basis and all the narrative related to the spinal cord injury is documented first person and treated without prejudice or condescension. It is not a melodramatic or sentimental novel, but rather a story in which disability is just one element.

Young adult readers may identify more closely with Clara's character: with a university world full of social life, daily adventures, changes, fun and low moments. Secondary school teachers and others who influence young people's reading choices will appreciate the literary quality of the text and the values that, without dogmatizing, it communicates. But the novel will also appeal to adult readers, who identify with that life in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and enjoy good writing.

- English sample forthcoming
- Spanish long sample available (46 pages): shorturl.at/dH458
- Grants for translation and promotion available