Ander Izagirre



Born in San Sebastian in 1976, Ander Izagirre is one of Spain's most acclaimed narrative non-fiction writers. He is a two-time winner of the Euskadi Prize for Literature and has also received the European Press Prize, the Kapuciscinski Award and the PEN Award in the United Kingdom. His books include bestselling works such as *Potosí. The Mountain that Eats Men* (sold in English, French, Italian, German, Polish, and forthcoming in Slovakian) and *With Lead in the Pockets*, forthcoming in Russian.

If *Say Nothing* revealed the truth about the IRA,
The Backpack will lay bare the heart of Basque memory.
An essential reference work for understanding
the long human consequences of political violence.



The Backpack

The Life of Muñagorri

Spain / 2026 / 406 pages / Chronicle & Journalism / Territory: World
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On June 25, 1982, ten-year-old Alberto Muñagorri lost a leg and an eye when a bomb hidden inside a backpack exploded in a square in the Basque town of Rentería. He was on his way to play football with his friends, just as he did every day during that endless summer of the 1982 FIFA World Cup in Spain.

Among the thousands of stories of terrorist violence that marked the 1980s, Alberto Muñagorri's name became etched into the minds of Basque children. Forty years after the attack, writer Ander Izagirre met Muñagorri, and a relationship of trust and candour grew between them, ultimately giving rise to this extraordinary book.

Through the life story of one victim, *The Backpack* dissects the legacy of terrorism, the social fractures that divided the Basque Country, and the pressures faced by victims long after the headlines fade. Both deeply moving and chillingly precise, it is a book destined to become the definitive account of political violence in the Basque Country.

- **English translation sample available**

(See the author's backlist on p. 11)