

THE RIGHT(S) GLASSES

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Question #1: Where and when do you read?

When I read for pleasure and not for work, I read in bed at night. The time of year when I read much more is in summer and I love doing so on the beach.

Question #2: Which book have you most given as a present?

NADA by Carmen Laforet: I often gave it as a present to people who are not from Barcelona during my final years at University. It was a book which made a strong impression on me at the time, and more since it is set in the city I love so much. The other day walking around my neighbourhood, I found the plaque at number 36 Aribau Street which indicates the house where the author, Carmen Laforet lived and wrote *NADA*. It was like a flash:



These days the book I give people most is *MATILDA* by *Roald Dahl*. It also affected me a lot when I was young and now with small children at home, we are rediscovering it, and actually we are reading aloud together all the work by *Roald Dahl* which is just amazing.

Question #3: What do you remember about your first book fair?

It was Frankfurt. I remember that at the end of the fair I felt a tremendous sensation of mental exhaustion and at the same time absolute euphoria. Then, fairs lasted seven days and you had much more time to talk to people unhurriedly and about things not strictly to do with books. I also remember that most agents smoked like chimneys: it was allowed to do so even inside the Agents' Center.

Question #4: Tell us the resolutions you have made for this year

First resolution: I would like to live by the dictum: *'If you get tired, learn to rest, not to quit'*: trying to stop before exploding or collapsing from fatigue, at a personal as well as a professional level.

Second resolution: I would like to try to save money to be able to go soon to India with my children so they can get to know the origins of a quarter of their makeup. (This last proposal will take us more than a year I am afraid...)

Question #5: Tell us about a bad habit, an obsession or a particular attitude you have picked up since starting to work at Ute Körner Literary Agent

For a person who is almost pathologically shy as I am, working as an agent has put me in situations which at first seemed insurmountable. In the end you see that you managed, that you can cope, and through these experiences together with maturity (this also helps a lot) you don't stop being almost pathologically shy, but you develop coping mechanisms. So I have to thank this profession for having given me the opportunity to get over this personal handicap.