

meet the author.

GALDER REGUERA



1 • WHAT IS YOUR KRYPTONITE FOR WRITING?

I like to write, but I can always find something better to do: reading, walking, watching TV, playing PlayStation, sleeping. I have to fight that little devil who, when I sit down to write, offers me a whole catalog of seductive alternative plans.

2 • IF YOU COULD SAY SOMETHING TO YOUR YOUNGER WRITING SELF, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

A lot of things. Another question is whether he would listen to me, but okay. I would tell him not to be impatient; not to try to write like a Russian literary man of the late 19th century; to look for his themes and his voice, promising him that, if he insists, they will come; that sometimes the shortest way to universality is particularity; to enjoy the moment, because the readings of youth are the ones that mark you forever.

3 • WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR FIRST ADVANCE?

Buy books without remorse.

4 • HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE NAMES OF YOUR CHARACTERS?

Sometimes characters arrive with the name given, sometimes they even start out as just that: a name. Sometimes, I have a hard time naming them. I have to write a lot about them so that they become important and come naturally to me. But it's a difficult choice. For me, I tend to be put off by names that are too forced.

5. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD BOOK?

Everything René Goscinny wrote: Asterix, 'Le Petit Nicolas', Iznogud. I'm almost fifty years old and I still consider 'Caesar's Laurels' as one of the best books I've ever read.

6. HOW MANY BOOKS HAVE YOU WRITTEN AND WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE ONE?

I have published eight or nine. Written, some more. The favorite is always the last one, in this case 'Vida y Obra' (Life and Work). However, for obvious reasons, 'Libro de familia' (Family Book), in which I tell the story of my parents, is and will always be the most important in an emotional sense.

7. IF YOU COULD SPEND A DAY WITH ANOTHER POPULAR AUTHOR, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Well, reading is one way to spend the day with an author. In that sense, when I was younger I would read as much as I could of an author in a very short time, in a row. I would dedicate a few weeks to Sciascia and then move on to Camus or Boris Vian. I miss being able to do that and spend my days with Kapuscinski, from whom I read everything and who I haven't gone back to for years, along with Calvino, Vila-Matas, Dostoyevsky or Kundera, those authors who mark you in your youth.

8 • HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE WHEN YOU FINISH YOUR BOOK?

Closing the laptop, looking up, scanning the horizon through the window, smiling and feeling that, at last, at least for a few weeks, time belongs to me again.