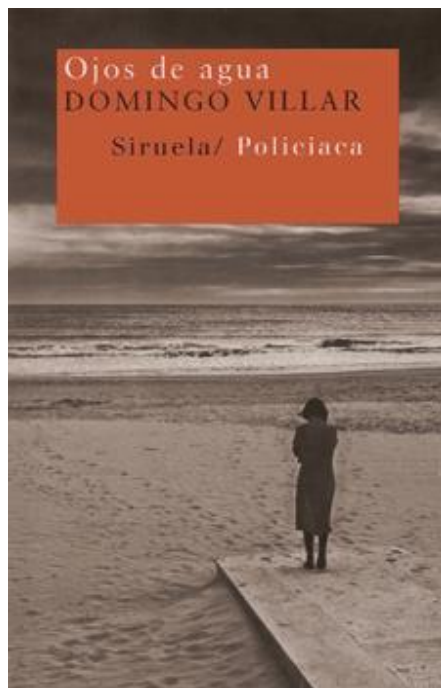




Ojos de agua

Domingo Villar

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Ojos de agua

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Ojos de agua Domingo Villar

Entre el aroma del mar y de los pinos gallegos, en una torre residencial junto a la playa, un joven saxofonista de ojos claros, Luis Reigosa, ha aparecido asesinado con una crueldad que apunta a un crimen pasional. Sin embargo, el musico muerto no mantiene una relacion estable y la casa, limpia de huellas, no muestra mas que partituras ordenadas en los estantes y saxofones colgados en las paredes. Leo Caldas, un solitario y melancolico inspector de policia que compagina su trabajo en comisaria con un consultorio radiofonico, se hara cargo de una investigacion que le llevara de la bruma del anochecer al humo de las tabernas y los clubes de jazz. A su lado esta el ayudante Rafael Estevez, un aragones demasiado impetuoso para una Galicia ironica y ambigua, e incluso demasiado impetuoso para el propio Leo, que busca entre sorbos de vino los fantasmas ocultos en los demas mientras intenta sobrevivir a los suyos. Gracias a la labor de este singular tandem Caldas-Estevez la verdad termina por aflorar, llevandonos a desentranar el secreto que esconden los Ojos de agua.

Ojos de agua Details

Date : Published June 2006 by Siruela (first published 2006)

ISBN : 9788478440481

Author : Domingo Villar

Format : Paperback 187 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Thriller, Cultural, Spain, European Literature, Spanish Literature

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From Reader Review Ojos de agua for online ebook

Jim Coughenour says

Like thousands of aficionados, my appetite for international crime fiction was whetted by Henning Mankell, who led me to a troupe of Swedes, then other Scandinavians, and thus to Fred Vargas and Massimo Carlotto et al. I give most American thrillers a pass, but am always willing to give a sexy new book from Europa Editions, Bitter Lemon, Soho or Euro Crime the benefit of the doubt. Now (with a stack still waiting to be read), I'm wondering if my appetite is sated.

A few years ago in the *New Yorker* Clive James surveyed a swathe of crime novels set outside the US/UK, and concluded that "as a form for real writers, the detective novel is bound to be a dry well in the end." As for my favored foreign detective novels? "Essentially they are guide books." A story we'd shrug off by an American gains luster from its exotic setting. Is it a better book? Who cares? At least it's different – as good an escape as any.

This is a long preface to a short review of *Water-Blue Eyes*, the first policier by Domingo Villar. It's set in Vigo, a small city in northwestern Spain. It has the standard life-bruised detective and his slightly-comical sidekick; it glides through its paces right up through the requisite twist and barely-credible summary resolution. Still, Villar paints a pretty picture – and I'll give him a star for his opening murder: a jazz saxophonist with water-blue eyes and legs wide open, hands tied to his headboard, and a penis looking "hideously like a toasted cashew." *Ouch*. All the lovely depictions of Galician city life couldn't quite erase *that* image.

Ram says

A Spanish detective, Leo Kaldes, solves a mysterious murder of a young saxophonist. He does this with the help of his assistant Esteves, while eating fresh fish and seafood at inns and restaurants on the beautiful Atlantic coast of Galicia and drinking white wines from the area.

The dialog is witty, the characters are very pictorial and the plot is To some extent, predictable, but not too much.

A refreshing call that lights our imaginations, as we witness the wanderings, the chases and the mysteries, the witty dialogues, the precise descriptions, and the jazz songs of Billie Holiday.

Netta says

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Racheli Zusiman says

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João Carlos says

Isla Toralla - Vigo - Espanha

Em Espanha há excelentes escritores de livros policiais, com reconhecimento máximo para Manuel Vázquez Montalbán e Andreu Martín.

Um dos últimos escritores em destaque é o galego **Domingo Villar** (n. 1971), que alcançou grande êxito literário e comercial com o livro **“La Playa de los Abogados”** (2009).

A escrita e a localização da acção dos livros – Galiza - de Domingo Villar já tinham despertado a minha curiosidade e no final de 2012 encomendei “Ojos de Agua”.

A editora portuguesa Sextante publicou no início de Fevereiro precisamente **“A Praia dos Afogados”** – infelizmente começou a editar pelo segundo livro de uma série, que tem como principal protagonista o inspector Leo Caldas.

Domingo Villar nasceu em Vigo e constrói a sua narrativa nessa lindíssima cidade e nos seus arredores, “delimitados” pelo mar e pelas rias e por magníficas e deslumbrantes paisagens florestais, dominadas pelos pinheiros e eucaliptos.

Leo Caldas é um polícia de Vigo, que tem mais fama como interveniente no programa radiofónico “Patrulla en las Ondas” do que como investigador policial, com um carácter introvertido e solitário, desde que acabou uma relação “platónica” com Alba, que não conhecemos, e um verdadeiro melómano – com destaque para o jazz de Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker e Ella Fitzgerald.

A acção de **“Ojos de Agua”** inicia-se com a investigação da morte de Luis Reigosa, um saxofonista que apareceu despido, atado à sua cama, com requintes de malvadez e horror visíveis nos seus aquosos olhos azuis “mortos”, num luxuoso apartamento situado na torre turística de uma ilha em frente (Isla Toralla) a Vigo representa um verdadeiro desafio para o inspector Leo Caldas.

A informação forense conclui rapidamente como é que morreu Luis Reigosa. Mas importa determinar quem é queria vingar-se do saxofonista. Estamos perante um crime passionnal? Sabemos mais tarde que o assassinado é homossexual – o que “obriga” Leo Caldas e o seu companheiro Rafael Estevez a investigar nos ambientes da comunidade “gay” galega.

Leo Caldas vai avançando na investigação com muita metodologia e intuição, e tem no seu colega Rafael Estévez - um aragonês recém chegado à Galiza, com um físico de “brutamontes” e um comportamento agressivo e irascível, mas com um sentido de humor muito apropriado e oportuno, que se revela, apesar de alguns percalços, num precioso e “original” auxiliar.

Com uma construção muito interessante e original, em que cada capítulo (curto) se inicia com uma palavra – sempre relacionada com a narrativa – e os seus diferentes significados, numa estrutura explicativa como a existente nos dicionários.

O que torna o livro verdadeiramente interessante é que apesar de não ter gostado do “primeiro” final apreciei

De leitura rápida e estimulante, com um excelente contraste entre as personagens do inspector Leo Caldas e do seu ajudante Rafael Estévez e com uma descrição gráfica memorável da vivência de uma cidade – Vigo – e de uma área – Galiza – e com referências explícitas à excepcional gastronomia galega.

Pagonper says

En definitiva, Domingo Villar me ha convencido y seguiré con el siguiente.

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Nancy Oakes says

Leo Caldas is a homicide inspector in the city of Vigo, which lies on the northwestern coast of Spain in the region of Galicia. His partner is Rafael Estévez, who had recently been transferred there from Zaragoza in Aragón, and who has a bit of a problem understanding local attitudes, not to mention the steep streets or the weather. As the novel opens, Caldas is working at his gig on a local radio talk and listener phone-in show, “Patrol in the Air.” He’s rather tired of doing this show, because while he waits for someone to bring up the topic of murder, most people call in with matters that are more appropriate for the city police. But just after program #108, Estévez arrives to take Caldas to a high-rise apartment building on the island of Toralla, which sits in the bay off of Vigo, scene of a rather brutal murder of a saxophone player. It’s the method of death which leads Caldas and his partner to discover where they should begin their search for suspects – the vital evidence which may have helped has been cleaned up by the victim’s housekeeper.

Villar’s characters are well drawn. As a policeman, Caldas is a professional, but with the arrival of Estévez he has to work a bit harder to keep his partner out of trouble. Caldas has a father who makes wine in the countryside, and the two don’t see each other often because the father is unhappy that his son went to live in the city. He also enjoys good local delicacies and local wines, and was in a prior relationship with a woman named Alba, but due to a disagreement about having children, they’re no longer together. Rafael Estévez is a sort of a sidekick figure, who provides a bit of comic relief here and there, but who becomes easily frustrated with the lack of black-and-white answers he gets from the locals and often flies off the handle. Estévez is perpetually amazed that when Caldas introduces himself during their investigation, people readily identify him with “Patrol in the Air,” which happens throughout the story and provides a bit of a running comedy schtick between the two.

Water-Blue Eyes is just 167 pages long, but crime fiction readers will not be disappointed. There’s nothing extraneous to detract from the investigation -- no long-winded character portrayals, no overly-detailed analyses, and even the murder is described just enough to allow the reader to know what happened without going into overkill. There is never any desire to skim over long, boring sections because there aren’t any. It also easily offers a good sense of place, so that you can smell the forests as well as the sea while you read, and your mouth will water at the delicious local food mentioned throughout the novel.

There’s another book out by Villar featuring Leo Caldas called *La Playa de los Ahogados*, but it has not yet been translated; when it is, I’m there. But for now, I can highly recommend *Water-Blue Eyes*. This is my first work of Spanish crime fiction, and now I’m on the hunt for more.

Ann says

Police procedural set in Vigo, in Galicia (Spain). Inspector Leo Caldas investigates the bizarre murder of a

saxophone player. He has two leads : the unusual poison used, and the fact that an older gentleman with striking white hair appears at the funeral. From there on he makes his way to the culprit, seconded by his sidekick Rafael.

I found the story and plot to be very average. It became very clear who the murderer had to be, because all the people that Leo had any type of real interaction with were either victims or criminals. So there was no misdirection, no red herrings, none of the puzzles that mystery lovers enjoy. The garden path that Leo was led down, was about a mile wide. Also, I have come to believe that it's a cliché for wanna-be writers of "noir" that their hero should have a disastrous love life and be jazz lovers. And sure enough, it appears that Leo has recently lost someone called Alba, and there are plenty of references to Charles Parker, Errol Garner and other jazz greats. Otherwise, Leo does not seem to have much of a personality, except perhaps when interacting with his father, a vineyard owner with a cantankerous dislike of the Big City.

I think that the author intended for Rafael to bring some comic relief. Rafael, who is from Zaragoza, simply cannot handle the fact that the Galicians tend to respond to a question by another question, or at any rate tend not to respond directly to a direct question. His extremely short fuse while questioning witnesses leads to violent outbursts that I think were not funny at all.

So I found this to be pretty banal fare, even though the series seems to be very popular in Spain.

Pame fer says

La historia normal, pero los personajes principales están muy bien contruidos y la prosa me gustó bastante.

Moni says

Me ha gustado mucho!! Una novela que se lee en un suspiro, con capítulos cortos, sin mucha descripción y siguiendo las pistas con Caldas y Estevez. Éste último me ha caído FATAL, por cierto. Muy logrado el ambiente da terriña galega, tanto las descriptivas de los lugares, como nuestras expresiones sin decir casi nada, que me han sacado alguna sonrisa.

yoav says

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Amiad says

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