



# Spain Writes, America Reads: Ordesa by Manuel Vilas

LITERATURE  
ONLINE

Thu, December 10, 2020  
3:00 pm

**Admission**  
Free. [Registration required](#)

**Credits**  
Presented by the Cultural Office of  
the Embassy of Spain in  
Washington, DC in collaboration with  
Riverhead Books



Author Manuel Vilas presents “Ordesa” at “Spain Writes, America Reads,” a virtual series of author talks to introduce recently translated books from Spain in the US.

## ORDESA BY MANUEL VILAS

The third author talk from *Spain Writes, America Reads* will introduce American audiences to *Ordesa*, the English edition of Manuel Vilas’s bestselling novel, translated from the Spanish by Andrea Rosenberg, and published in the U.S. by Riverhead Books.

A man at a crossroads in the middle of his life considers the place where he’s from, and where his parents have recently died. In the face of enormous personal tumult, he sits down to write. What follows is an audacious chronicle of his childhood and an unsparing account of his life’s trials, failures, and triumphs that becomes a moving look at what family gives and takes away.

Vilas is a Spanish poet, novelist, and essayist born in 1962 who has enjoyed critical and commercial success in his homeland with this book ... Vilas also conveys—and Rosenberg smoothly translates—many moments of pain and happiness any reader might recognize as the narrator plunges into the maelstrom of closely examined memory. A dark and challenging but emotionally rich work.

—*Kirkus Reviews*



*Ordesa* is a poet's novel, or maybe a novelist's prose poem. It's both things at once, and also the saddest and most candid autobiography I've read in recent times. I've been through this book twice and I still don't know how Vilas does it. I know, however, that this book is a gift, and maybe that's enough.

—Juan Gabriel Vásquez, author of *The Shape of the Ruins*

*A book full of compassion towards the underdogs of history, the everyday men. An extraordinary book.*

—*El País*

## ABOUT MANUEL VILAS

Manuel Vilas is one of Spain's most acclaimed poets and writers. Born in Barbastro, in the Huesca region of Spain, Vilas has published six novels, thirteen books of poetry, and has been widely published in newspapers and literary journals.

## ABOUT ANDREA ROSENBERG

Andrea Rosenberg is a translator from Spanish and Portuguese. Her translations include novels and graphic narrative by Tomás González, Paco Roca, Inês Pedrosa, and Aura Xilonen.

## ABOUT ALISON FAIRBROTHER

Alison Fairbrother is an associate editor at Riverhead Books, where she has worked with award-winning authors such as Manuel Vilas, Chang-rae Lee, Tiphonie Yanique, and Amy Jo Burns.

Order the book and watch all past presentations from Spain Writes, America Reads.