



Interview to Julia Caso – La Reina Lectora

Dear Julia, welcome to our culture magazine. Thank you for answering our questions.

Let's start from the beginning. Why did you decide to become a writer?

The truth is that it was not a decision that I came up with right away, but something that came much later. I started using the computer when I was very little. Everything was still a little new to me because I loved to create stories. At that moment, I wrote a single paragraph. My parents were surprised at the high quality of writing for such a small girl. This is something that I recently became aware of while I was visiting them at their home. My parents started talking about the material that I wrote which they have saved since my childhood. At that stage of life, you are not aware of the relevance that these types of behaviors really have. As a teenager, I got to know myself through poetry and, shortly after that, I began to write longer stories. One day, I finished a story that I thought had reached another level of maturity. I showed it to my partner, and he told me that I should continue to write. That's when I started thinking about publishing. I think that when I finished my first novel, "Empty Nest", was when I decided that I had found my place in the world. There was nothing that made me happier than writing.

We are here to talk, above all, about "The Secret Life of Clara Legrand". But you have a previous novel, "Emptiness in the Nest". Have you noticed an evolution in yourself and your writing from one to the other?

Without a doubt. I noticed a big difference in quality between one novel and another. However, "Emptiness in the Nest" is cathartic, so I wouldn't change a thing. Of course, now I think that I could write the novel in a better way and improve some aspects. But I think part of the magic that readers and even I have found in that novel is the visceral part that it transmits. I have just finished the second part and I had difficulty making it coherent with the first. I am no longer in that place, so I have had to make a great effort to transport myself and relive what moved me then. "The Secret Life of Clara Legrand" also starts from a need to tell something that comes from deep within, but it is a much more structured and reflective process. I have also grown. I have trained more and that has helped that to be more perceptive in the narrative.

What is "The Secret of Clara Legrand" about?

"The Secret of Clara Legrand" talks about that part of ourselves that we do not want anyone else to know for whatever reasons. In this case, an inspector and his agent will have to investigate an apparent suicide that proves to hide much more than we can initially imagine.

I'm going to put you in a little bind: crime novel, thriller, or detective novel? How would you label it and why?

Well, yes, it is a complicated question. I would say that, although the three genres could define it, it is closer to the crime novel because for me, the characters are as important as the story itself or the investigation. Specifically, in this novel, we have a lot to discover about them and we are going to see them in their daily environment and outside the environment of the police station or the case.

Does your profession as a filmmaker help you when you are writing?

In reality, being a filmmaker is a result of my growth as a writer. Writing novels has made me want to learn about this world. Today it is true that this path gives me many tools that help me when writing. In fact, both professions nourish each other and help me improve my skills in both fields.

I suppose that, in addition, you plan to pull strings so that your books can be, at least, accessible for a possible audiovisual adaptation. Any movement on this?

The truth is that yes. I don't dare reveal anything at the moment because these processes are very complex, but I can say that there is something that is moving and that I am very excited about it.

And since we have brought up the topic, please tell me what you are developing right now in the cinematographic field?

The most important thing that is happening to me right now and that I am allowed to talk about is the development of a fiction feature film with a partner and a producer, in which we have been selected in two film laboratories and which we believe is very well on its way. I also recently started working with a Colombian production company and it is representing an important opportunity for me.

You are also working with a literary agent. Do you think that this is useful in the publishing world? How has it helped you? You can be frank, even if she is in front of you, don't be shy.

In my case, specifically, it has been the key. In addition to the support on a personal level (which in your case you do), it has served as a letter of introduction and has supported me when facing new opportunities. I would like to say, Eva, that I also think it is necessary to find that chemistry that is difficult to explain with your agent and that there is real mutual trust. With you, I feel that way, so I have never doubted that I was in the right place. In my opinion, I think that it is not essential and that it is something very personal. I recommend it based on my experience.

What do like most about the noir genre?

It has become a game in which I challenge myself to anticipate what might happen. That desire to sit down and read to see what is going to happen. To meet the characters who are capable of keeping you awake and breaking your mind trying to decipher the mystery. This is the same thing that I want to provoke in my readers. It is a complicated process because all of the pieces have to fit together perfectly, but it is the genre in which I feel most comfortable when writing.

And there is another already finished, right? Can you tell us something about her? Shall we confess that we are going to start moving it through editorials soon?

I am very excited about my new novel. I am looking forward to finding that editorial niche that will help me reach new readers. In each of the stories that I write, I return to focusing on a topic that worries me as I go through certain aspects of my life. Especially when it comes to places that meant something to me at some point. Personal reflection has meant breaking with the fear of going outside of what could be expected and letting myself be carried away by what I felt in those moments. I think that's interesting because although the books that I have written so far have certain elements in common, such as intrigue, they are all very different from each other and I feel proud of that.