



PAÍS ÍNTIM (Intimate Land), Maria Barbal

Rita is looking forward to growing up to better understand her mother and the world that surrounds her.

As a young daughter, she always tries to get closer to her mother, but instead it is seen through the inquiring eyes of a young girl, as the answers she finds illuminate her life. The story is told from the perspective of a normal family in which history- the Civil War, the dictatorship, the opposition movement, the transition to democracy and the realities of present-day Spain- is reflected through the prism of the lives of its protagonists. It is not easy to accept that someone can inhabit sorrow as they do a country. Between the Catalan countryside and Barcelona, Rita Albera tries to experience all the good things in life, friendship, love -always struggling to overcome the difficulties of an unjust inheritance. With this novel, Maria Barbal won the 38th Prudenci Bertrana award.

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Maria Barbal made her name as a novelist twenty years ago with the novel *Pedra de tartera*, winner of the Ruyra Award in 1984 and the Joan Crexells Award in 1985. The novel was regarded as a milestone in Catalan narrative of the eighties.

It is the story of a rootlessness, which takes place in the environment of her native Pallars, where she has set many other works, such as *Mel i metzines* (1990) and *Càmfora* (1992), with which she won the Crítica, Crítica Serra d'Or and National Literature Award in 1993. She has published the short story collections *La mort de Teresa* (1986), *Ulleres de Sol* (1994) and *Bari* (1998). She has taken part in the collective volume of *Barcelldones* (1989) and has been published in the volume *Narradors de ponent* (1987). Her most recent novels are *Escrivia cartes al cel* (1996), *Carrer Bolívia* (1999) and *Bella*



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