

GONZALO C. GARCIA

Telenovela

200 pp.

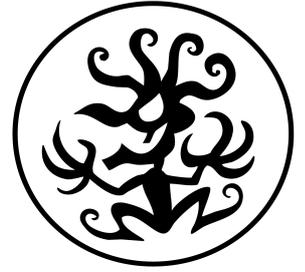
BIC: Fiction

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GUARDIAN FICTION PICK 2025

“A strangely hopeful and deeply beautiful novel, steeped in an understanding of why a population would largely accept a fascist unreality over creativity and life.” —A.L. KENNEDY

“A unique and breath-taking talent.” —SCARLETT THOMAS

- A timely and urgent story about life under tyrannical governments.
- *Telenovela* is Chilean author Gonzalo C. Garcia’s humane and deeply personal retelling of the final days of Pinochet’s dictatorship. It is also a universal story of human frailty and the power of resistance, which will resonate in today’s world.
- A **media campaign** has been planned for the launch of *Telenovela* (including ARCs, promotional postcards and bookmarks, a bookshop tour and online blog and podcast tour).

SET IN SANTIAGO towards the end of Pinochet’s dictatorship, *TELENOVELA* explores the secret lives of a family swept up in this dark period of Chile’s history.

There is Lucho: bullied by fellow soldiers for his love of poetry, thwarted in his ambitions to become a writer, unhappy at work. He seems like a loving father. He seems plain loveable, in fact. And maybe he is. But as *TELENOVELA* unfolds, other things come to light about Lucho that are less easy to indulge – or forgive.

There is Ramona, Lucho’s wife: tormented by anxiety, overwhelmed by self-loathing and body image problems. As a drama student, Ramona once hoped to become a telenovela star; she secretly daydreams that she might still get her big break. Guileless, gentle, Ramona seems like an innocent. . . . But is she?

Then there is Pablo, their son: dreamy, gentle, eager to make friends, to form his own band and write some worthwhile songs. Desperate to be cool... And increasingly, just desperate.

Gonzalo C. Garcia makes us feel for these characters and want to understand them – but, as the novel unfolds, come to the frightening realisation of what it really means to have such understanding. And so it is that deeply human and deeply personal stories of mislaid ambition, failure and intergenerational trauma take on national – and universal significance.

PUBLISHER

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