

# La ciudad de los ojos grises

The City of Grey Eyes



UK panel's choice Year 2013

**Author:** [Felix G. Modroño](#) [1]

**Publisher:** [Algaida Editores](#) [2]

**Language:** Spanish

**Year of Publication:** 2012

**Pages:** 400

**Number of editions:** 3

**Spanish Retail price:** 18.00€

**ISBN:** 9788498777512

**Genre:** Literature

SPRING

2013

**Season:** Year 2013

After several years living in Paris, Alfredo Gastiasoro returns to Bilbao when he learns that Izarbe has died. His return is meant to be the last homage to the woman he loved, but it will become an investigation of the unsettling circumstances surrounding her death. Alfredo will have to face up to his own past, reliving a love story that coincides with the time when Bilbao went from being an almost rural town to one of the most prosperous cities of the Old World. Magnificently set in the first years of the 20th century, and a blend of crime fiction, historical fiction, a love story and even travel writing, *The City of Grey Eyes* is, above all, a beautiful story of suspense and nostalgia, of love for a woman and a city.

### UK panellists opinion:

For our Panellists, it looks like a very impressive novel, where all the characters have a strong personality and every detail has been taken care of. According to them, *La ciudad de los ojos grises* has all the elements to fill a void in the UK Market.

*La ciudad de los ojos grises* by Felix G. Modroño is part historical novel, part murder mystery and part love story. It tells the story of Alfredo Gastiasoro, professor of architecture in Paris, who returns to his native Bilbao, after a two year self-enforced exile when he learns of the death of the only woman he has ever loved, his childhood sweetheart Izarbe, who also happens to have been married to his brother, Javier. Set initially in Paris in 1914 against the outbreak of the First World war and switching to Bilbao where Alfredo immediately heads in order to ascertain the circumstances surrounding, and then investigate what turns out to be the suspicious death of Izarbe, the novel crosses worlds of espionage, cabaret, politics, different social classes and family feuds in order to reveal the events leading up to the death of Izarbe and, in true whodunit style, the perpetrator of the crime. The story is told in the form of flashbacks, set against an end of 19th century Bilbao that is on the verge of changing from a largely rural town to an upcoming, modern, industrial and prosperous city that also reflects the coming of age of the protagonist and forms the backdrop of his experiences and memories. The descriptions of Bilbao are such that the reader is completely transported through all of the senses as the author describes not only the sights, but the sounds, smells and tastes that make-up the hometown of the protagonist, and he describes in great detail not only the geographical changes the city underwent, but also the social, economic and political changes that affected the city and its population at the time. The novel is written in a nostalgic, almost melancholy, but above all highly readable prose and the gradual revelation of important details relating both to the murder of Izarbe and the mystery surrounding the family and origins of Alfredo, keeps the reader on edge from beginning to end. (...)

(...) *La ciudad de los ojos grises* is a highly atmospheric and completely gripping novel that is only complemented by such a strong and vivid historical context. (From the reader report by [Jennifer Arnold](#) [3])

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Additional information **Prizes and reviews:**

This book has been the publishing surprise of the last year. We can provide a portfolio of press cuttings, and favourable reviews from the main newspapers.

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