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The Prisoner

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With a surprising end, *The Prisoner* is a novel built around an ingenious delirium, with the mechanics of suspense that will surprise the reader again and again and will force him to plunge into the dark depths of the human soul where love, hate, desire for revenge and the fight for survival are revealed as the real engines of history.

Paris, November 13, 2015. You love your wife so much that you decide to prove it to her by spending a romantic weekend in Paris together. After a magical day of museums, Bohemian neighborhoods and accordion music, you have dinner in an equally magical restaurant in where food is served in the dark. You decide that the perfect day will culminate in a rock concert by her favorite band in a famous Parisian venue, the Bataclan.

Days later, Paul Hébert, a French journalist covering a story in Iraq for an American newspaper, tells in first person the circumstances of his abduction by a jihadist group. Kneeling in a row of prisoners, the terrorists are about to behead him. Paul is facing the last seconds of life as he tries, desperately, to find a way to escape the inevitable.

With his wits and his vast knowledge about cinema as his only weapons, using his sense of humor as his main source of strength, Paul strategizes an absolutely insane plan to build a fantasy around the jihadists and escape from certain death.

Three months after, Paul wakes up safe and sound in a hospital; however, he does not remember anything about what happened during his captivity. The public has followed his kidnapping and Paul has become a celebrity. But the circumstances of his release are a mystery. On his cell phone, Paul finds a video where he sees himself hooded and dressed as a terrorist, proclaiming the threat of a devastating bomb in the heart of the United States.

The threat is real, to deactivate the bomb Paul will have to follow his own footsteps and rebuild his insane plan of escape. However, with every discovery of his forgotten past, he will find a new threat in the present. It is the beginning of a psychological odyssey, filled with obstacles that will take Paul from Houston to Washington, and finally to Paris, to the very night of the ISIS attacks where he will understand that his fate is tragically linked to that of the couple in love.

The fact is that nothing and no one, not even himself, is what it appears to be.

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Juan Gallardo

Juan Gallardo. (Almería, 1973) es decano de estudiantes en Houston, además de consultor pedagógico con experiencia en EEUU y Latino América, lo que ha llevado a escribir y contribuir en multitud de libros y manuales relacionados con el mundo educativo. Es colaborador habitual de la conocida revista online Indystack, donde ha escrito cientos de críticas musicales y cinematográficas. En el ámbito de la ficción, es co-autor de "Todo lo que Nunca Hiciste por Mí" (Grupo Planeta, 2014), "Las Flores de Otro Mundo" (Grupo Planeta, 2016), "La Mitad Invisible" (Grupo Planeta, 2017), "El Prisionero" (Grupo Planeta, 2016), El Último Viaje de Tisbea (Versátil, 2017), "423 Colores" (Versátil, 2017) y "En la Venganza, como en el Amor" (Grupo Planeta, 2021).

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Juan Gallardo. Almería, Spain, 1973. Dean of students and UDL consultant. Before becoming a fiction writer, he was best known for his musical background as well as his music and film reviews for the Spanish online magazine IndyRock. He approached literature researching historical info for previous novels by Rafael Avendaño. His career as an educator as well as his experiences as a European in the United States have proven to be invaluable sources of inspiration for his fiction work. He is the co-author of "Todo lo que Nunca Hiciste por Mí" (Grupo Planeta, 2014), "Las Flores de Otro Mundo" (Grupo Planeta, 2016), "La Mitad Invisible" (Grupo Planeta, 2017), "El Prisionero" (Grupo Planeta, 2016), "El Último Viaje de Tisbea" (Versátil, 2017), "423 Colores" (Versátil, 2017) y "En la Venganza, como en el Amor" (Grupo Planeta, 2021). The Prisoner (Grupo Planeta, 2016) is his first novel published in English.



Rafael Avendaño

Rafael Avendaño. Nacido en 1973, ingeniero diseñador de redes de fibra óptica. Ha publicado las novelas "La Decisión" (Ficcionbooks, 2012), "Los Eternos" (Grupo Ajec, 2011), así como una antología de sus cuentos más premiados titulada "Horizonte de Sucesos y otros relatos" (Parada Creativa, 2012). Durante años colaboró con el portal de escritores EscuelaLiterariadelSur.org, y ha escrito el manual "El arte de novelar" (Senzala, 2011). Es co-autor de "Todo lo que Nunca Hiciste por Mí" (Grupo Planeta, 2014), "Las Flores de Otro Mundo" (Grupo Planeta, 2016), "La Mitad Invisible" (Grupo Planeta, 2017) y "El Prisionero" (Grupo Planeta, 2016), El Último Viaje de Tisbea (Versátil, 2017), "423 Colores" (Versátil, 2017) y "En la Venganza, como en el Amor" (Grupo Planeta, 2021)

Rafael Avendaño. Cádiz, Spain, 1973. Engineer and fiber optic networks designer. He has published the novels "La Decision" (Ficcionbooks, 2012), "Los Eternos" (Grupo AJEC, 2011) and an anthology of his most awarded stories entitled "Horizonte de Sucesos y otros relatos" (Parada Creative, 2012). His educational production includes the manual "El arte de novelar" (Senzala, 2011) For years he worked with the Writers WebsiteEscuelaLiterariadelSur.org, providing workshops for aspiring writers. He is co-author of "Todo lo que Nunca Hiciste por Mí" (Grupo Planeta, 2014) and "Las Flores de Otro Mundo" (Grupo Planeta, 2016), "El Prisionero" (Grupo Planeta, 2016), "El Último Viaje de Tisbea" (Versátil, 2017), "423 Colores" (Versátil, 2017) y "En la Venganza, como en el Amor" (Grupo Planeta, 2021). The Prisoner (Grupo Planeta, 2016) is his first novel published in English.