

De Humanidad y polilla

On Humanity and moth



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Carmen de Moering, the girl who lived in Paris at the turn of the century, and who, at the age of nine, escaped from a boarding school, was not really called Carmen, as they thought at her school. She was in fact called Sol. Sol was the daughter of Francisco Ferrer Guardia, autodidactic ideologue and man of action. A republican attracted by anarchism, masonry and freethinking and a founder of Modernism, the movement that would change the world forever. But he was also suspected of being implicated in the killing of the anarchist Mateo Morral, in 1906. Freed for lack of evidence, his reputation was left forever tainted and, three years later after a grotesque travesty of a trial, the military had him shot in Barcelona.

Forty years later, his daughter publishes his biography, describing a life as opaque as that of a saint. Sol Ferrer's daughter becomes a witness to the Russian Revolution, to the flowering freedoms of the Parisian cultural circles and to the grim years of bullets in Barcelona. She lives through the Spanish Civil War and the exile of the dispossessed. But Sol moves through life like a shadow: the shadow of a shadow. More than the story of one of the most tragic figures in Spanish history, 'De Humanidad y polilla' is the story of his biography and of its author. It is the story of what Sol discovered and what she refused to tell.

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