

1. What was the idea to write the book "The Devil..."? I think we have an angel and a devil inside ourselves, and this confrontation is what makes life so magical because you are always challenged by the circumstances... we are good and evil depending how we act, not how we think, not our intentions. We are always asking ourselves questions such as: Are we good or are we bad? How do we deal with these contradictions? The main idea behind the book was to show that although we have inner conflicts, we can overcome them. We can move towards a better way of living in the sense that it is much more intelligent, more practical to be good rather than evil. The Devil and Miss Prym poses that ultimate question: are humans by nature good or evil? The book is somehow an answer I was looking for ... a confrontation that I have to accept is happening in my soul, and, in fact, there is no answer to this question. You can't simplify this fight between good and evil.

2. How long did it take you to write the novel?

I write a book in two to four weeks. Yet, I only allow myself to write every two years because I feel that I've gathered enough emotional energy to come up with a story. Every time that I write a new book, I am experiencing the sensations of death and rebirth. When I write, I am a woman. I got pregnant from life, and I don't know how the baby will look like.

My pregnancy cycle is what takes two years. During this time I don't take notes, I don't make plans. The only thing that I know is that life put inside myself a seed that will grow when time comes. Then, when time comes, I sit and write. Every creative act demands a respect for mystery, and I respect the mystery, without trying to understand it.

3. Why did you choose a little village in the Pyrenees and not somewhere in South America or elsewhere? Could be a village anywhere in the world. I see Viscos as a microcosm of the world. You can learn how to cope with your environment and reality so that if you have enthusiasm or love in your life every place is a paradise. On the other hand you can be in the most beautiful, fantastic place in the world but if you are alone and bitter, or feel guilty, then hell is present. I believe that God is always hiding hell in the middle of paradise.

4. Which is your favorite character of this book? When you write a book you try to project onto the main characters not exactly what you think but what they think. But then you realize that these characters are part of your soul and that you are very complex. Sometimes I may not agree with what Chantal or Bertha are thinking but they have a life of their own and I have to respect it as a novelist. There are no favorites. Each one is unique.

5. Is there a symbolic meaning of names, e.g. Chantal Prym?

No.

6. Will there be a movie of the book? The rights to this title are available. Performing rights already sold: Teatrul Mihai Eminescu, Timisoara, Romania
The Devil and Miss Prym - Stage play
Winter 2003- Winter 2005

7. Is there any own life experience in this novel? Every book of mine has a little bit of myself in it. Each one is telling a particular question or situation in my life.

8. Why is the mental state/the human soul always a big topic in all your books? I think my spirituality came from curiosity and, later, by understanding there is a silent

presence around myself and I don't try to explain it but I try to live my faith according to the things I believe.

9. Some of your book titles are extraordinary. Where do your ideas for titles come from?

I can't really answer this question, but what I can say is this:

You don't find inspiration; you nurture it. This is because even if something amazing happens to you, if you're closed up and merely centred in yourself, you're unable to see it. It's like being blind to the sun. I try then, everyday, to get out of myself and see the world with childish eyes. When you do this you can learn from everyone.

10. Which book is the most autobiographical

All the characters that I portray in my books have some of my own personal traits; I can't write about ideas and feelings that I haven't experienced. Nevertheless, if I had to say which book was more autobiographical I would say that it was my first *The Pilgrimage*.

In *The Zahir*, I take components of my current life, such as success, travelling, but the main character still remains a mirror of my soul, such as Maria from *Eleven Minutes* or Veronika from *Veronika decides to die*.

11. Why are you waiting for this famous white feather as a start to a new book? In order to start a new book, I have established my own sign - that of finding a white feather. But once I begin, I must work through to the end. When there's a white feather I think I should shut my mouth, because I'm in the process of writing a book and you need all the energy, you can't talk about it.

12. Which advice would you give to young adults?

I do not believe in messages. That said, I would say there is only one thing I really treasure in a human being. You can have your fears, you can have your moments of doubt, but you can never be a coward. You have to face your fears, you have to overcome your moments of doubt, and you have to believe that if you look for it, there is always a solution. If you really want something, the whole universe is going to conspire to help you – even if take years, decades. But to do that, you have to be brave. Brave enough to fight for things that are meaningful to you. Not meaningful to others, but to you.