

1998). Recognized for her keen ear for spoken language and her astute social analysis, Martín Gaité's fiction has earned Spain's major literary awards and has been widely translated.

JLB

Mason, Bobbie Ann (b. 1940) US short story writer, novelist. Raised on a dairy farm in Paducah, Kentucky, Mason was an introverted child whose links to the outer world were books and the radio. After she graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1962, she moved to New York and wrote for fan magazines. In 1969, she married Roger B. Rawlings, a magazine editor, and three years later earned a PhD from the University of Connecticut. Her first two books were works of criticism: *Nabokov's Garden: A Guide to Ada* (1974) and *The Girl Sleuth: A Feminist Guide to the Bobbsey Twins, Nancy Drew, and their Sisters* (1975). Her first short story collection *Shiloh and Other Stories* (1982) was critically acclaimed and won several literary awards. Written in a straightforward, minimalist prose style, her fiction, firmly located in the contemporary world by references to brand names and popular music, portrays the lives of rural Kentuckians and the tension between their Southern heritage and the forces of modernization and change. In her novel *In Country* (1985), a teenage girl confronts the Vietnam War through her veteran uncle's memories; it was made into a major film (1989). Mason has published two other novels, *Spence + Lila* (1988) and *Feather Crowns* (1993), the short story collection *Love Life* (1989), and a memoir *Clear Springs* (1999).

DVT

Masters, Olga (1919–1986) Australian fiction writer, journalist. Masters was born Olga Lawler to a poor family in a rural community in NSW. Raised in the Depression and educated at St Joseph's convent and Cobargo public school, she worked as a cadet on the *Cobargo Chronicle* and

then as a clerk in Sydney. In 1940 she married a schoolteacher, Charles Masters, and lived for twenty years in NSW country towns. After the birth of the sixth of their seven children, she worked as a part-time journalist for the *Northern Star*, in Urbenville and Lismore, and then for the *Manly Daily, Land*, and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Masters wrote a radio and stage play in the 1970s, but she was 58 before her fiction was published (1979). In *The Home Girls* (1982), deserted women and foster children are portrayed with relentless clarity. The themes of domestic trauma and economic domination of women recur in *Loving Daughters* (1984), *A Long Time Dying* (1985), *Amy's Children* (1987), and *The Rose Fancier* (1989). Masters's writing is notable for its wry and ironic humor, its psychological complexity, and deceptively simple style. The last novel and a collection of short stories were published posthumously after she died of cancer.

LJ

Mastoraki, Jenny (b. 1949) Greek poet, translator. Born in Athens, Mastoraki is regarded as one of Greece's leading poets and translators. She earned her BA in Byzantine history and literature at the University of Athens. Her first published work was a group of poems 'To Sinaksaritis Ayias Niotis' ('The Legend of Saint Youth,' 1971) about growing up in Greece in the 1950s and 1960s. The following year a more political collection of poetry *Diodia* ('Tolls,' 1972) appeared. Written under the dictatorship (1967–74), these poems were explicitly about the difficulty of writing under censorship. *Soi* ('Kin,' 1979) is also about censorship, but the more private kind associated with the family. Her last two books *Tales of the Deep* (1983) and *Me ena Stefani Fos* ('With a Crown of Light,' 1989) work out issues of censorship and literary tradition inherent in the love poem. She has published essays on literature and translation. Her own translations from American, Italian, German, and South American literature and

criticism have received prizes from the Columbia University Translation Center and IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People). Mastoraki lives in Athens and has one daughter.

KVD

**Mastretta, Angeles** (b. 1949) Mexican novelist, short story writer. Born in Puebla, Mastretta came to Mexico City to study journalism and communications at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. She is married to Héctor Aguilar Camín and has two children. Her first novel *Tear This Heart Out* (1985), an instant success in Mexico, has been translated into many languages. Using her storytelling skills, knowledge of history, sense of humor, and colloquial language, she weaves a two-fold tale set in Mexico of the 1940s: that of Catalina, a naïve young woman, who through a process of self-discovery comes to have ideas of her own, and that of the political career of her husband General Andrés Ascencio and his manipulation of power. *Mujeres de ojos grandes* ('Big-Eyed Women,' 1990) is a collection of short stories about extraordinary women who make unexpected decisions. Her second novel *Lovesick* (1996) moves from the pre-revolutionary years of the nineteenth century well into the twentieth century to tell the story of Emilia Sauri, who, brought up in a liberally minded family, practices non-traditional medicine and loves two men simultaneously. This work won the Premio Rómulo Gallegos in 1997 and has been widely translated.

GdB

**Matalon, Ronit** (b. 1959) Israeli fiction writer. Born to Jewish-Egyptian parents in Ganei-Tikva, Israel, Matalon's work reveals an affinity to her oriental heritage. Her writing is characterized by the need to belong, which remains an unrealized yearning, and a protest against the stereotyping of Orientalness in Israeli culture. The title of her first collection of stories

*Zarim Ba-Bayit* ('Strangers at Home,' 1992) emphasizes the alienation of her characters. In her novel *The One Facing Us* (1995), she defines the current world reality of uprooting, emigration and cultural rupture. The disintegration of a family in Cairo and the emigration of its members to Israel, Cameroon, and New York is the theme of this novel. The book, which was met by widespread critical acclaim, is embellished with family photographs and is a unique blending of autobiography, fiction, and discussions on image and text. Matalon's first book for young adults has been adapted to film. She took a BA at Tel Aviv University and has worked as a journalist for the Israeli daily *HaAretz*. She is a faculty member at the Camera Obscura School of the Arts in Tel Aviv, where she lives with her husband and children. Her writing is very daring, intelligent, sensitive and sensual.

LR

**Matute, Ana María** (b. 1926) Spanish fiction writer. Matute's 1996 election to the all-male Academia de la Lengua recognized her extraordinary career: ten novels, beginning with *Los Abel* ('The Abel Family,' 1948); four novellas; and ten collections of short stories, including several for children. Literary traces of her childhood – spent between city and country, poor playmates and rich classmates, a cold mother and adored father, peace and the Civil War – surface in themes of fratricidal conflict and innocence lost, and in a lifelong rejection of the Manichean vision imposed by Franco (1939–75). She has won many literary prizes: the Premio Nacional for Children's Fiction (1965, 1983), Café Gijón for *Celebration in the Northwest* (1952), Premio Nacional de Literatura for her saga *The Lost Children* (1958), and the Nadal for the affecting *Bildungsroman, School of the Sun* (1962), a trilogy with *Soldiers Cry By Night* (1964) and *The Trap* (1969). Matute prefers third-person narration, but her elliptical and startling prose conveys the subjective