



ELS LLOPS
(*The Wolves*),
Francesc Puigpelat

This novel is both a police thriller and a family saga that spans two centuries. When, in March 2004, Jaume Forné is found dead on the peak of the Montsec mountain, the police discovers that he, as well as his brothers, have been receiving anonymous messages from the murderer. But to find the truth behind the crime it will be necessary to go back to 1816 to uncover a story of love, hate and revenge among different members of the Llop family. The action of the novel takes place in diverse locations, including the construction of the Urgell canal, the African war, and the battle of Segre during the Spanish Civil War and the resistance.

Throughout all these moments, the Llop family fight, love and struggle to survive. The novel also explores historical figures like Guifré el Pilós, who was killed by Lubd Ibn Mohamed, the myth of the wolf man, Julius Caesar and Ilerda, and an ancient temple dedicated to the cult of the Wolf: the totemic animal (both god and devil) of the Iberian tribes of Lleida.

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Francesc Puigpelat (Balaguer, 1959) is a University professor, writer and journalist. His many narrative works include *L'últim hivern de Ramon Llull* (2004), *Roger de Flor*, winner of the Premi Pin i Soler and the Premi Ciutat de Tarragona in 2002, *La màquina de les ànimes* (2001), *La pistola d'Abdul·là* (2000), *Apocalipsi blanc*, winner of the Premi Josep Pla in 1999, and *Jocs de corrupció*, winner of the Premi Joanot Martorell in 1995. He also wrote the travel book *La ruta dels almogàvers* (2001). For *Els Llops*, Puigpelat won the 2005 Premi Carlemany.

