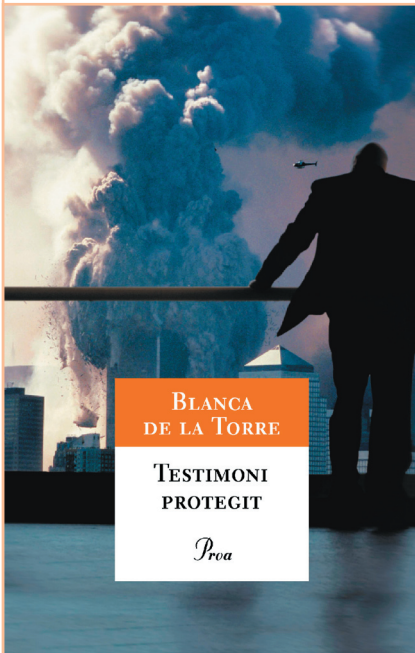


TESTIMONI PROTEGIT *(Protected Witness)*, Blanca de la Torre



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What is identity? The Indian writer ST, condemned by an Islamist fatwa, has been asking himself that question for a while as he finds himself in a situation of permanent vigilance. But suddenly, September 11th and the tragedy of the World Trade Center unexpectedly opens the window to a new future and the possibility of recovering the freedom he had lost through a change of identity that will allow him to leave behind the bitter seventeen years that he has lived under threat. A few minutes after the impact of the first aeroplane against the tower, a team of specialist agents, known as the GEFI, work against the clock, moving between Washington and London, to prepare a strategy to fake ST's death in the attack and to resuscitate him with a new identity, months later as an anonymous professor at an American University. But the price he has to pay for this new identity is a high one: saying goodbye forever to the past and betting on a new future becomes a difficult choice. Can ST play the game until it finishes? With a narrative style reminiscent of the best thrillers, the first novel by Blanca de la Torre enthralled the reader with its dynamism, its tension, the mystery of its plot, its intensity as a love story and its unexpected conclusion.

Blanca de la Torre, a journalist for the majority of her professional life, has been a reporter for Catalan public television, a job that has given her the opportunity to travel the world and to discover different realities. She has been a war correspondent and has directed various investigative documentaries. She has been a director of television programmes for a number of years, both in the realms of news and fiction. Alongside Esther Llauredó, she is the co-author of the essay *Una imatge val més: la feina de l'ENG-videoperiodista* (1999). She has also given classes in creative writing.

