INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS GUIDE

A Whirlwind of Dreams

Remolino de sueños | Karina Miñano

LOGLINE In a refugee camp in Pakistan, an Afghan doctor raised in the West defies fear, custom and insurgent violence to build a school for girls, while the orphan she rescues reveals the human cost of that fight.

THE STORY

After spending most of her life in the West, Dr Latifah returns to Munda, an Afghan refugee camp in Pakistan, hoping to reconnect with her roots. There she finds Sumaya, a traumatised orphan carrying a dead child, and a group of children surviving beyond the camp's protection. The encounter forces Latifah to act. Convinced that education gave her independence and the power to choose, she sets out to create a school for girls.

To succeed, she must win the trust of Mustafa, the camp's oldest mullah and guardian of tradition, while confronting resistance within the community and the threat of armed insurgents. Around her, Sakina, Fatima and Said face their own divided loyalties, private fears and impossible choices. At the centre is Latifah's bond with Sumaya, whose concealed first-person perspective ultimately reframes the story.

EDUCATION AT THE CORE

Education is not a backdrop but the novel's engine: the means by which displaced girls can imagine a future, gain agency and make decisions about their own lives. The story examines that struggle from within a community shaped by exile, poverty, faith and fear.

READERSHIP & MARKET POTENTIAL

Remolino de sueños is aimed at readers of fiction about women challenging social restrictions and seeking independence. An international market reference is Laetitia Colombani's The Braid, which has sold eight million copies worldwide and been translated into more than forty languages, according to Penguin Random House's 2026 edition. Its treatment of a mother's struggle for her daughter's education provides a thematic connection. Remolino de sueños approaches this readership through an Afghan doctor's efforts to establish a school for girls in a refugee camp in Pakistan.

PUBLICATION & FORMAT

Genre: Literary fiction; social realism
Length: approximately 64,000 words; 254 pages
Original language: Spanish
Publication: Caligrama, 2021; at the time part of Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial
ISBN: 978-84-18073-31-1 | eBook 978-84-18073-80-9
Market reach: Distributed in Spain, with additional print and eBook sales through Amazon in Latin America, Europe and the United States

RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Translation rights: Worldwide; all languages available
Spanish-language rights: Copyright retained by the author; distribution currently managed under a terminable co-publishing agreement with Caligrama
English material: Chapter One translation sample available

RECEPTION & MEDIA

"A narrative that captures the reader's emotions from the very first line."
Revista Kametsa (translated from Spanish)

Revista Kametsa review | Tregolam review | La Ninfa Eco | Jueves de Escritores

Also featured by Instituto Cervantes Utrecht and interviewed by Caligrama. Goodreads reader rating: 4.93/5 (30 ratings).



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karina Miñano is a Peruvian novelist, poet, creative-writing teacher and communications professional based in the Netherlands since 2004. She writes with a sustained interest in displacement, gender, memory and the ways private lives are shaped by social structures.

She holds a Master's degree in Creative Writing from Valencian International University (VIU) and trained as a creative-writing teacher at the University of Alcalá. She previously taught semiotics and message analysis at Universidad de San Martín de Porres in Lima.

Miñano is President of the Association of Hispanic Writers in the Netherlands and has served in the Dutch Foundation for Literature's advisory network, assessing Spanish-language works for possible translation into Dutch. She is also the author of the poetry collection *Mientras el roble cede a la noche* (2025), and teaches creative writing and lectures on Latin American literature.

SELECTED RECOGNITION

Her poem "*Mutilada*", which addresses female genital mutilation, received second prize in the 2019 Dia de la Dona poetry competition in Spain. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in literary publications and anthologies in Europe and Latin America.

PROFESSIONAL CONTACT

karinaminano.com
Email: karina.minano@gmail.com
info@karinaminano.com
Mobile: +31612646765
Based in: The Netherlands

English translation sample available on request.