

# Charlotte Coombe

- Award-winning literary translator working from Spanish, French & Catalan into English •

After more than a decade working as a freelancer, translating creative texts in gastronomy, the arts, travel and tourism, lifestyle, fashion and advertising, her love of literature drew her to literary translation, with a particular interest in women's writing, and short-form narrative. She was shortlisted for the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute Translation Prize 2023 for her co-translation of Marvel Moreno's *December Breeze*, received the Oran Robert Perry Burke Award for Literary Translation from *The Southern Review* in 2023, and was shortlisted for the Premio Valle Inclán translation prize 2019 for her translation of *Fish Soup* by Margarita García Robayo. In 2020, she co-founded the YouTube channel [Translators Aloud](#), shining the spotlight on literary translators reading from their work.

She has translated over a dozen fiction and non-fiction titles including: Abnousse Shalmani's *Khomeini, Sade and Me* (World Editions, 2016), which was awarded a PEN Translates grant; *The President's Room* by Argentinian author Ricardo Romero (Charco Press, 2017); a collection of novellas and short stories by Margarita García Robayo, published as *Fish Soup* (Charco Press, 2019); Eduardo Berti's novel *The Imagined Land* (Deep Vellum Publishing, 2018); *Holiday Heart* by Margarita García Robayo (Charco Press, 2020) which also won a PEN Translates award; Marvel Moreno's *December Breeze* co-translated with Isabel Adey (Europa Editions, 2022); and the nonfiction book *The Seaweed Revolution* by Vincent Doumeizel (Legend Press, 2023). Her translations of short stories and poetry by writers such as Antonio Diaz Oliva, Juan Villoro, Santiago Roncagliolo, Rosa María Roffiel, Edgardo Nuñez Caballero, Jimena González and Marvel Moreno have been published in anthologies and renowned literary journals. Her translation of *Far* by Rosa Ribas will be published by Foundry Editions in July 2024 and she is currently co-translating *Matar el nervi* by Anna Pazos, from the Catalan, with Laura McGloughlin (also forthcoming from Foundry Editions in 2025).

## Qualifications & credentials

- BA Hons in Modern Languages and European Studies from the University of Bath (2007)
- DipTrans IoLET - Diploma in Translation from the Chartered Institute of Linguists - Spanish to English - Specialised papers: Social Sciences and Literature (merit) - (2012)
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIL)
- Associate of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (AITI)
- Member of the Translators Association (Society of Authors)
- Member of the American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)
- Member of the Authors Guild
- 2017 Translate at City participant: Spanish workshop with Peter Bush
- 2018 BCLT Summer School participant: Spanish to English workshop with Anne McLean and Felix Bruzzone
- 2019 Residency at Translation House Looren, Switzerland
- 2020 International Literary Translation and Creative Writing Summer School 2020 Online: Training the Trainer
- 2021 - Residency at the Jan Michalski Foundation, Switzerland, to work on the co-translation of Marvel Moreno's *December Breeze*
- 2023 Funded residency for a sample translation, Translation House Looren, Switzerland.

## Awards & nominations

- 2023: Shortlisted for the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute Translation Prize 2023 for her co-translation with Isabel Adey of *December Breeze* by Marvel Moreno (Europa Editions, 2022).
- 2023: Longlisted for the John Dryden Translation Competition for *You're Very Quiet Today* translated from Ana Navajas's Spanish text *Estás muy callada hoy*.
- 2022: Recipient of the Oran Robert Perry Burke Award for Literary Translation for the translation from the Spanish of Antonio Díaz Oliva's story, 'Mrs Gonçalves and the Lives of Others' - *The Southern Review*, Spring Issue, 2022.
- 2019: Shortlisted for the Premio Valle Inclán, for a translation from the Spanish of *Fish Soup* by Margarita García Robayo.
- 2019: Longlisted for the BCLA John Dryden Translation Competition for her translation from Orlando Echeverri Benedetti's Spanish text *Criacuervo*.
- 2018: Pen Translates award for *Holiday Heart* by Margarita García Robayo.
- 2015: Pen Translates award for *Khomeini, Sade and Me* by Abnousse Shalmani.

### ***Publications – book length fiction & nonfiction***

- *Killing the Nerve*, Anna Pazos (co-translation with Laura McGloughlin, Foundry Editions, 2025)
- *Far*, Rosa Ribas (Foundry Editions, 2024)
- *The Seaweed Revolution*, Vincent Doumeizel (Legend Times/Hero Press, 2023)(Nonfiction)
- *December Breeze*, Marvel Moreno (co-translated with Isabel Adey; Europa Editions, 2022)
- *Holiday Heart*, Margarita García Robayo (Charco Press, 2020)
- *Fish Soup*, Margarita García Robayo (Charco Press, 2019)
- *The Imagined Land*, Eduardo Berti (Deep Vellum, 2018)
- *The President's Room*, Ricardo Romero (Charco Press, 2017)
- *Khomeini, Sade and Me*, Abnousse Shalmani (World Editions, 2016)
- *Traces of Sandalwood*, Asha Miró and Anna Soler-Pont (World Editions, 2016)
- *A Single Decision*, María Paulina Camejo (e-book edition, 2014; paperback edition, 2015)
- *The Solomon Islands Witness*, Marc de Gouvenain, (Pontas Literary & Film Agency, e-book edition, 2014)
- *Traces of Sandalwood*, Asha Miró and Anna Soler-Pont, (Pontas Literary & Film Agency, e-book edition, 2014)
- *Prisoners of the Black Octopus*, Alain Surget, in the 'Jolly Roger' series (Scribo, April 2011)
- *Escape from Veracruz*, Alain Surget, in the 'Jolly Roger' series (Scribo, April 2011)
- *Johnny Depp – Anatomy of an Actor*, Cahiers du Cinéma (Phaidon, May 2015)(Nonfiction)
- *How to publish an eBook without going nuts... and so somebody reads it*, Alejandro Aguayo (e-book, 2014)(Nonfiction)

### ***Translations of short stories, poetry, essays and journalistic pieces in literary journals & anthologies***

- 'Little Animals' by Antonio Díaz Oliva (*The White Review Writing in Translation Anthology*, 2024)
- 'Mrs Gonçalves and the Lives of Others' by Antonio Díaz Oliva (The Southern Review, Volume 58:2, Spring 2022) – Winner Of The Oran Robert Perry Burke Award for Literary Translation
- 'City' by Jimena González, published in Modern Poetry in Translation, 2021
- 'Bridges of Bosnia' by Aitor Romero Ortega, published in Asymptote Journal, July 2021
- 'She Dances Alone' by Victor Vegas, published in World Literature Today, Autumn 2021
- 'Imagined Lands' by Eduardo Berti, essay published in Latin American Literature Today, 2021
- 'The Parable of the Bread' by Juan Villoro, published in the anthology: *And We Came Outside and Saw the Stars Again: Writers from Around the World on the Covid-19 Pandemic*, edited by Ilan Stavans, Restless Books, August 2020
- 'Pandemic Diary' by Ricardo Romero, published in the Words Without Borders series: Voices from the Pandemic, 2020
- Co-translation with Isabel Adey of the short story 'Self-criticism' by Marvel Moreno, pub. Project Plume
- Co-translation with Isabel Adey of the short story 'Tea in Augsburg' by Marvel Moreno, published by Latin American Literature Today
- Short stories and poetry for online journal Palabras Errantes: 'The Well', Santiago Roncagliolo; 'Landscapes with Beasts', Edgardo Nuñez Caballero; 'These are Things That I Only Tell Myself', Rosa María Roffiel
- Journalistic nonfiction pieces for the True Story Award: 'Freed Slaves Fight Back' by Tiphaine Gosse 'Somalia: Madobe, the Respectable Jihadist' by Bruno Meyerfeld
- Translations for Sumaùma: Journalism from the centre of the world. COLAPSO project for Latin America focus pieces on the environment, climate change and socioeconomic topics.

## Editing & proofreading

- Editor on *My Port of Beirut* by Lamia Ziadé, (tr. Emma Ramadan) (Pluto Press, 2023)
- Editor on *A Decolonial Feminism* by Françoise Vergès (Pluto Press, 2021)
- Second editor on *Older Brother*, Daniel Mella (tr. Megan McDowell) (Charco Press, 2018)
- Proofreader for *The Adventures of China Iron*, Gabriela Cabezón Cámara, (tr. Fiona Mackintosh and Iona Macintyre) (Charco Press, 2017)
- Proofreader for several novels for World Editions including *Gliding Flight* by Anne-Gine Goemans, *Mr Miller* by Charles Den Tex, *The Woman who Fed the Dogs* by Kristien Hemmerechts, *She is Not Me* by Golnaz Hashemzadeh and *We and Me* by by Saskia de Coster

## Recent literary samples seeking UK/US publisher – excerpts available at [cmctranslations.com/samples](https://cmctranslations.com/samples):

- ‘*The Mourner*’ by Carlos René Padilla (for VF Agencia Literaria)
- *La luz que cae* by Adolfo García Ortega (for Galaxia Gutenberg)
- *Volver a Canfranc* by Rosario Raro (for Agencia Carmen Balcells)
- *La Femme que Nous Sommes* by Emma Deruschi (for Susanna Lea Associates)
- *Humo* by José Ovejero (for Agencia Carmen Balcells)
- *West End* by José Morella (for Agencia Carmen Balcells)
- *El evangelio según María Magdalena* by Cristina Fallarás (for MB Agencia Literaria)
- *Estás muy callada hoy* by Ana Navajas (for Peters, Frasers + Dunlop Agency)
- *Noire précieuse* by Asya Djoulait (co-translation with Hannah Rácz-Embleton)
- *Je suis quelqu’un* by Aminata Aidara (co-translation with Eve Anderson)
- *La hija del este* by Clara Usón (for Agencia Carmen Balcells)
- *Ne m’appelle pas Capitaine* by Lyonel Trouillot (co-translation with Hannah Rácz-Embleton)
- *Reina* by Elizabeth Duval (for MB Agencia Literaria)
- *Las mujeres de la familia Medina* by María Fornet (for the author)
- *Feminismo Terapéutico* by María Fornet (for the author)
- *Criacuervo* by Orlando Echeverri Benedetti (for the author)
- *Cuerpos malditos* by Lucía Baskaran (for the author)

## Interviews & articles

- 2023: [Translators Aloud: Charlotte Coombe and Tina Kover \(in Bookanista\)](#)
- 2021: [Translators Aloud: A YouTube Project Shining the Spotlight on Literary Translators](#)
- 2020: [Translating Women interview about ‘Translators Aloud’](#)
- 2019: [Project Plume interview: Isabel Adey & Charlotte Coombe on translating Marvel Moreno](#)
- 2019: [Wessex Translations WIT month spotlight](#)
- 2018: [‘The Masterful Margarita’: A piece on translating Margarita García Robayo, in Bookanista](#)
- 2018: [Preview of the Building Bridges: Translating Women interview series 2019](#)
- 2018: [#Womenintranslation: un fenómeno literario de y por ellas \(in La Nación\)](#)
- 2015: [Intralingo spotlight on Charlotte Coombe](#)

## Reviews

Links to reviews of her translations appearing in publications such as the Times Literary Supplement, The Guardian, LA Review of Books and World Literature Today can be found here:

<https://www.cmctranslations.com/reviews>