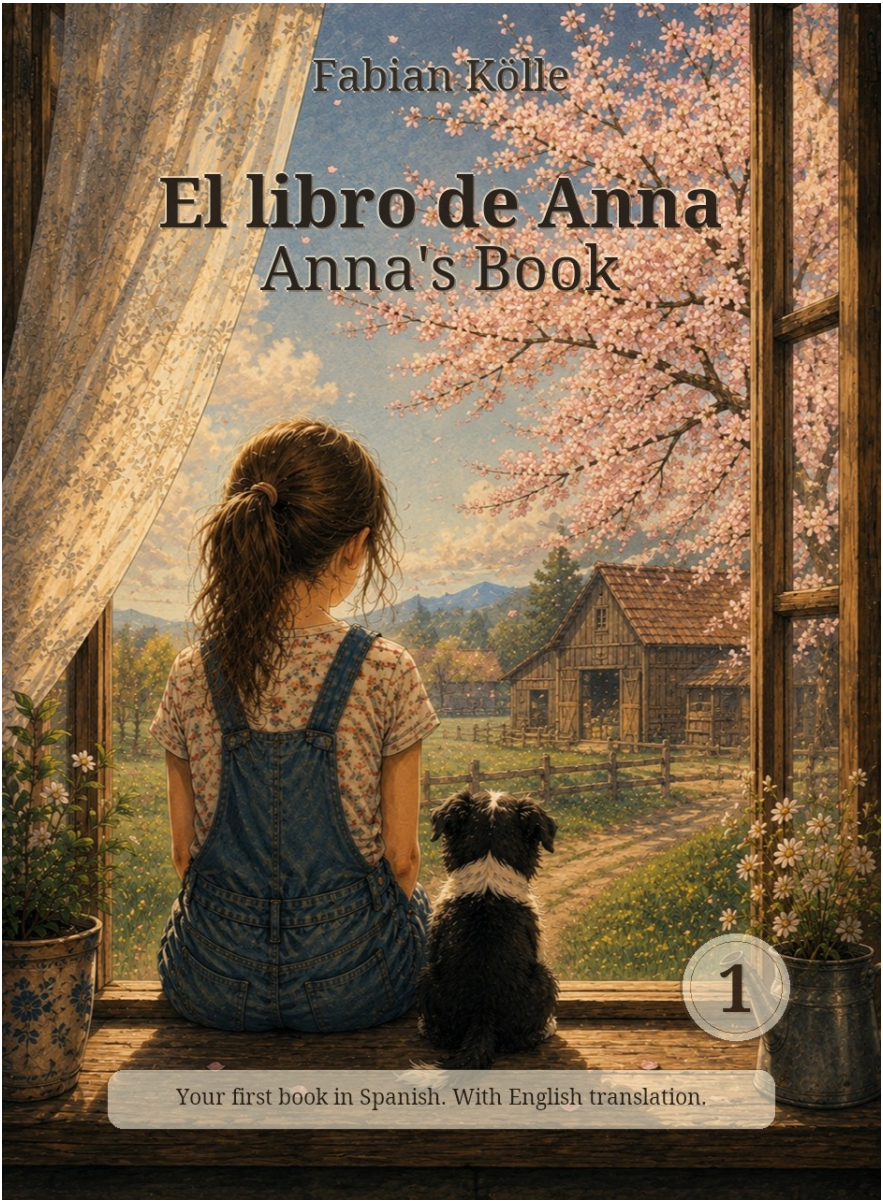
Fabian Kölle
El libro de Anna
Anna's Book
1
Your first book in Spanish. With English translation.

Anna's Book

Volume 1

Language: English

Learning language: Spanish

EN ES

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This book was written for language learners. First try to read the Spanish text before using the translation.

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Preface

Learning a new language isn't easy. It has a small life of its own: curiosity, lightness, secrets, but also concentration, practice, mistakes, and days when you feel stuck. Sometimes you think you have understood how it works. Sometimes you feel frustrated because important words have slipped away. As soon as you know the basics, something new appears, and suddenly it feels as if you're starting again. That's completely normal. Every step forward counts. One day you'll look back and realise how far you have come. You can be proud of that.

When I began learning a new language, I wanted to read real, connected stories as soon as I could. I didn't want only grammar exercises and word lists. I wanted to read: to step into a story and improve almost without noticing. More than anything, I wanted to feel that the language already belonged to me a little.

But I found very few books that matched my level. Perhaps you know that feeling too.

Many language learners eventually reach for children's books. Not because they are especially interested in children's books, but because there is so little literature written for people who are still learning. The problem is that children's books are written for children, not for language learners. Even when the pictures look inviting, the vocabulary can be surprisingly demanding, while the subjects don't always speak to teenagers or adults. They are often very short as well. You read slowly, and yet the book is over before it has really

given you much.

But you don't lack life experience. You have memories, interests, opinions, feelings, and a view of the world. Perhaps you study, work, have children, or enjoy travelling. Perhaps you're interested in politics, history, literature, or music. You don't need to discover the world all over again. You're learning a new language so that you can describe it in different words.

I wrote this book for you.

Anna's Book isn't a language course, and it isn't a textbook. It's meant to give you what I was missing then: a story you can read, even while ordinary novels are still too difficult.

It tells the story of Anna, who is ten years old at the beginning, in language that follows your learning path. At first, the sentences are short and simple. From volume to volume, the language grows very gradually. Anna grows older, and your language grows with her. You meet the same characters, places, and words again and again until they become familiar. Little by little, new words, new structures, and new ways of expressing yourself are added.

The story begins in the present tense, because that is the tense you meet most often at the beginning. Later, past and future forms gradually appear. If you haven't learnt them yet, you can simply keep reading. You don't have to understand everything at once. In time, these forms will become familiar too, just as the first pages will one day feel natural to you.

Above all, I want to give you confidence.

You shouldn't be afraid to turn the page. If you understand one page, you'll understand the next one too. And if something is unclear, you'll always find the translation directly below. That means you don't have to interrupt the flow of reading. You can stay with the story, so that reading feels like reading again.

One day Anna will be an adult. She will think, feel, and speak like an adult, and you'll accompany her on that path. One day you too will reach a level where you can read novels written for native speakers. When that happens, this book will have done its job. It won't have brought you to the goal. You'll have done that yourself. But I would be glad if it could walk beside you for part of the way.

And perhaps, one day, you'll begin another language. Then you'll open this book again. In French. In Japanese. In Italian. Whatever the language, Anna will be ten years old again. Ozzy will be a young dog again. And perhaps it will feel a little like meeting old friends.

I have great respect for everyone who has the courage to learn a new language. I hope this book makes that path a little easier for you.

I wish you every success with your learning, and a great deal of pleasure in reading.

Introduction



Soy Anna. Tengo diez años. Vivo con mi familia en una casa. La casa tiene un jardín. En el jardín hay un árbol grande. Me gusta el árbol.

> I'm Anna. I'm ten years old. I live with my family in a house. The house has a garden. In the garden there is a big tree. I like the tree.

También tenemos un perro pequeño. El perro se llama Ozzy. Me gusta mucho Ozzy. Es muy rápido. Juego a menudo con el perro. Lanzo una pelota, y Ozzy corre rápido detrás de ella.

> We also have a small dog. The dog's name is Ozzy. I like Ozzy very much. He is very fast. I often play with the dog. I throw a ball, and Ozzy runs after it quickly.

A menudo me trae la pelota de vuelta. A veces no la trae. Entonces corro por el jardín y busco la pelota. Ozzy también busca la pelota. La encontramos, y Ozzy ladra.

> He often brings the ball back to me. Sometimes he doesn't bring it back. Then I run through the garden and look for the ball. Ozzy looks for the ball too. We find it, and Ozzy barks.

Es un perro listo. A veces Ozzy encuentra la pelota más rápido que yo. Entonces ladra. Entonces sé: la pelota está allí. Corro hacia Ozzy y veo la pelota. Así jugamos a menudo juntos.

> He is a clever dog. Sometimes Ozzy finds the ball faster than I do. Then he barks. Then I know: the ball is there. I run to Ozzy and see the ball. That is how we often play together.

También tengo un hermano. Se llama Mats. Mi hermano tiene catorce años. Es cuatro años mayor que yo. Es mi hermano mayor. Mats también juega a veces con Ozzy.

> I also have a brother. His name is Mats. My brother is fourteen years old. He is four years older than I am. He is my big brother. Mats sometimes plays with Ozzy too.

A veces Mats corre por el jardín, y Ozzy lo sigue. Entonces corren los dos. A veces Mats también lanza la pelota, y Ozzy la trae de vuelta.

> Sometimes Mats runs through the garden, and Ozzy follows him. Then they both run. Sometimes Mats also throws the ball, and Ozzy brings it back.

A Ozzy le gusta mucho cuando Mats juega con él. Pero Ozzy también duerme mucho. Es un perro joven y tiene que dormir mucho. Tiene dos meses.

> Ozzy likes it very much when Mats plays with him. But Ozzy also sleeps a lot. He is a young dog and needs to sleep a lot. He is two months old.

Ozzy duerme en su cesta o en el jardín. Su cesta está en la casa. Está en la sala. En verano Ozzy duerme a menudo en el jardín. Mats dice que en invierno Ozzy duerme en la sala.

> Ozzy sleeps in his basket or in the garden. His basket is in the house. It is in the living room. In summer Ozzy often sleeps in the garden. Mats says that in winter Ozzy sleeps in the living room.

Entonces hace demasiado frío en el jardín. En invierno los perros pueden jugar en el jardín, pero no dormir en el jardín. Ahora es verano. En verano Ozzy puede dormir en su cesta.

> Then it is too cold in the garden. In winter dogs can play in the garden, but they can't sleep in the garden. Now it is summer. In summer Ozzy can sleep in his basket.

También puede dormir en el jardín. En el jardín hace suficiente calor. Ozzy puede dormir donde quiera. Se

acuesta y duerme. Ozzy es muy dulce cuando duerme.

> He can also sleep in the garden. It is warm enough in the garden. Ozzy can sleep wherever he wants. He lies down and sleeps. Ozzy is very sweet when he sleeps.

Juego a menudo con Mats dentro de la casa. A veces jugamos al escondite. Yo me escondo, y Mats me busca. O Mats se esconde, y yo lo busco.

> I often play with Mats in the house. Sometimes we play hide-and-seek. I hide, and Mats looks for me. Or Mats hides, and I look for him.

Para mí es fácil encontrar a Mats. Es grande y se ve fácilmente. Conozco todos los escondites de la casa. Soy más pequeña que Mats. Es difícil encontrarme. A veces Mats busca durante mucho tiempo.

> It is easy for me to find Mats. He is tall and easy to see. I know all the hiding places in the house. I am smaller than Mats. It is hard to find me. Sometimes Mats looks for a very long time.

Eso no le gusta. Entonces llama, y yo digo: aquí estoy. Vuelve a llamar, y yo vuelvo a decir: aquí estoy. Se acerca. Entonces me encuentra. Nos reímos.

> He doesn't like that. Then he calls, and I say: Here I am. He calls again, and I say again: Here I am. He comes closer. Then he finds me. We laugh.

Por la tarde comemos juntos. Mamá, papá, Mats y yo. Nos sentamos a la mesa en la sala y comemos y hablamos. A

menudo hay patatas, zanahorias y pasta.

> In the afternoon we eat together. Mum, Dad, Mats, and I. We sit at the table in the living room and eat and talk. There are often potatoes, carrots, and noodles.

Lo que más me gusta es la pasta. Mamá cocina a menudo pasta, papá cocina a menudo patatas. Mamá cocina patatas pocas veces. No le gustan tanto. Pero a Mats le gustan las patatas.

> I like noodles best. Mum often cooks noodles, Dad often cooks potatoes. Mum rarely cooks potatoes. She doesn't like them very much. But Mats likes potatoes.

Las patatas y las zanahorias crecen en el campo. Es nuestro propio campo. Tenemos una granja. Papá es agricultor. Trabaja a menudo en el campo. Mamá tiene una tienda pequeña.

> The potatoes and carrots grow in the field. It is our own field. We have a farm. Dad is a farmer. He often works in the field. Mum has a small shop.

Trabaja como vendedora. Vende nuestras patatas y zanahorias en la tienda. También vende huevos y miel. Vende leche y queso. Vende muchas cosas en la tienda.

> She works as a shopkeeper. She sells our potatoes and carrots in the shop. She also sells eggs and honey. She sells milk and cheese. She sells many things in the shop.

Papá trabaja en el campo. Cultiva verduras como patatas y zanahorias. Las verduras crecen en la tierra. Necesitan mucha agua y sol. A veces no llueve.

> Dad works in the field. He grows vegetables like potatoes and carrots. The vegetables grow in the ground. They need a lot of water and sun. Sometimes it doesn't rain.

Entonces papá da agua a las plantas. Más tarde las verduras son lo bastante grandes. Entonces papá conduce el tractor por el campo. Saca las verduras de la tierra. Después podemos comerlas.

> Then Dad gives the plants water. Later the vegetables are big enough. Then Dad drives the tractor across the field. He takes the vegetables out of the ground. Then we can eat them.

O mamá las vende en la tienda. Papá también trae leche de las vacas. Con ella hace mantequilla y queso. El queso tarda mucho en estar listo. Papá tiene que esperar mucho.

> Or Mum sells them in the shop. Dad also gets milk from the cows. He makes butter and cheese from it. It takes a long time until the cheese is ready. Dad has to wait a long time.

La mantequilla está lista más rápido. Papá hornea pan a menudo. Me gusta mucho su pan. Lo como a menudo con mantequilla y queso. Entonces pienso en las vacas que nos dan la leche.

> The butter is ready faster. Dad often bakes bread. I like his bread very much. I often eat it with butter and cheese. Then I think of the cows that give us the milk.

En el arroyo - By the Stream



Hoy es sábado. Voy con Mats al bosque. Ozzy también viene con nosotros. Corre delante de nosotros. Mats y yo queremos ir al arroyo. Queremos ver peces. Llevo una bolsa conmigo.

> Today is Saturday. I go into the forest with Mats. Ozzy is with us too. He runs ahead of us. Mats and I want to go to the stream. We want to see fish. I have a bag with me.

En la bolsa hay pan y una botella de agua. Si tenemos hambre, podemos comer pan. Si tenemos sed, podemos beber agua. Mamá dice: Ozzy no debe comer pan.

> In the bag there's bread and a bottle of water. If we're hungry, we can eat bread. If we're thirsty, we can drink water. Mum says Ozzy shouldn't eat bread.

No debemos darle pan a Ozzy. Ozzy puede beber agua del arroyo. No necesita nuestra agua. Pero también hay algo para Ozzy en la bolsa.

> We shouldn't give Ozzy bread. Ozzy can drink water from the stream. He doesn't need our water. But there's also something for Ozzy in the bag.

Hay dos galletas para perros en la bolsa. Mats y yo no podemos comer las galletas para perros. Tampoco queremos comerlas. Ozzy debe comerlas. Más tarde.

> There are two dog biscuits in the bag. Mats and I aren't allowed to eat the dog biscuits. We don't want to eat them either. Ozzy should eat them. Later.

El bosque no está lejos. Vamos a menudo al bosque. Allí hay muchos árboles altos. Podemos oír pájaros. Ozzy corre entre los árboles. A veces se detiene.

> The forest isn't far away. We often go into the forest. There are many tall trees there. We can hear birds. Ozzy runs between the trees. Sometimes he stops.

Entonces nos mira. Después sigue corriendo. Hay muchos caminos en el bosque. Mamá quiere que nos quedemos en los caminos.

> Then he looks at us. After that he runs on again. There are many paths in the forest. Mum wants us to stay on the paths.

No debemos correr por medio del bosque. Todos los árboles se parecen. Es difícil volver a encontrar el camino. Para Ozzy es fácil. A menudo se queda cerca de nosotros.

> We shouldn't run into the middle of the forest. All the trees look similar. It's hard to find the way again. For Ozzy it's easy. Often he stays close to us.

Pero a veces corre por medio del bosque. Lo llamamos. Vuelve rápido. Conoce el camino. Es un perro listo.

> But sometimes he runs into the middle of the forest. We call him. He comes back quickly. He knows the way. He's a clever dog.

Ozzy llega primero al arroyo. Yo soy la segunda, Mats el tercero. Nos sentamos en la orilla. Ozzy bebe del arroyo. El agua es muy clara. Pero no veo peces.

> Ozzy is the first to arrive at the stream. I'm second, Mats is third. We sit down on the bank. Ozzy drinks from the stream. The water is very clear. But I don't see any fish.

Tal vez los peces tienen miedo de Ozzy. Mats toma un palito de la orilla. Lo pone en el arroyo. El palito flota en el agua. Nos levantamos y seguimos el palito.

> Maybe the fish are afraid of Ozzy. Mats takes a small stick from the bank. He puts it into the stream. The stick floats on the water. We stand up and follow the stick.

A Ozzy le gusta mucho eso. Mueve la cola. Vemos que está contento. El palito flota más rápido. Ozzy ladra y corre detrás. Mats y yo tenemos que reírnos.

> Ozzy likes that very much. He wags his tail. We see that he's happy. The stick floats faster. Ozzy barks and runs after it. Mats and I have to laugh.

Entonces el palito se queda entre dos piedras grandes. Nos acercamos. El palito no se mueve. Pero veo un pez. No, ¡son tres peces! Nadan cerca de las piedras.

> Then the stick gets stuck between two big stones. We come closer. The stick doesn't move. But I see a fish. No, there are three fish! They swim close to the stones.

Ozzy también los ve. Quiere jugar con los peces. Pero Mats dice: ¡No, Ozzy! Ozzy lo entiende. No entra en el agua. Se queda en la orilla.

> Ozzy sees them too. He wants to play with the fish. But Mats says, "No, Ozzy!" Ozzy understands that. He doesn't go into the water. He stays on the bank.

Miramos los peces durante mucho tiempo. Son oscuros, pero brillan al sol. No nos tienen miedo. Porque estamos tranquilos y no nos movemos. Pero me entra hambre.

> We watch the fish for a long time. They're dark, but they shine in the sun. They're not afraid of us. Because we're quiet and don't move. But I get hungry.

Digo: Mats, tengo hambre. Mats dice: sí, yo también. Nos sentamos sobre una piedra grande. La piedra es lo bastante grande para que podamos sentarnos uno al lado del otro.

> I say, "Mats, I'm hungry." Mats says, "Yes, me too." We sit down on a big stone. The stone is big enough for us to sit next to each other.

Saco el pan de la bolsa. Ozzy me mira. Él también quiere comer algo. Pero el pan no es para Ozzy. Mats le da una galleta para perros.

> I take the bread out of the bag. Ozzy looks at me. He wants something to eat too. But the bread isn't for Ozzy. Mats gives him a dog biscuit.

Ozzy se alegra y mueve la cola. Comparto el pan con Mats. Le doy a Mats un trozo grande, y él dice: gracias, Anna. El pan de papá está muy rico.

> Ozzy is happy and wags his tail. I share the bread with Mats. I give Mats a big piece, and he says: Thank you, Anna. Dad's bread is very tasty.

Todo está rico cuando uno tiene hambre. Pero el pan de papá está especialmente rico. Comemos despacio. El sol está caliente sobre mi piel. Ozzy ya se ha comido su galleta.

> Everything tastes good when you're hungry. But Dad's bread is especially tasty. We eat slowly. The sun is warm on my skin. Ozzy has already eaten his dog biscuit.

Está aquí acostado junto a mis pies. Creo que duerme. Todavía hay dos peces allí. Oigo un pájaro. Está sentado en un árbol, pero no puedo verlo. Mats mira el arroyo.

> He's lying here next to my feet. I think he's sleeping. Two fish are still there. I hear a bird. It's sitting in a tree, but I can't see it. Mats looks at the stream.

Él dice: «Me gusta el bosque».
Yo pregunto: «¿Por qué?»
«Porque aquí todo está tan tranquilo. En el pueblo oímos y vemos a muchas personas. Aquí solo se oyen los pájaros, el agua y el viento.»

> He says, "I like the forest."
> I ask, "Why?"
> "Because it's so quiet here. In the village we hear and see many people. Here you hear only the birds, the water, and the wind."

«Sí», digo. «A mí también me gusta el bosque.»
Nos sentamos un rato más, luego nos levantamos. «Ven», dice Mats. Toma la bolsa. Ozzy se despierta. Volvemos despacio al pueblo.

> "Yes," I say. "I like the forest too."
> We sit for a while longer, then we stand up. "Come on," says Mats. He takes the bag. Ozzy wakes up. We slowly walk back to the village.

En el camino nos encontramos con la señora Rossi. Es de Italia. Ozzy se alegra de verla. Corre hacia ella. La señora Rossi lo acaricia.

«¡Hola!», dice la señora Rossi. «¿Adónde vais?»

> On the way we meet Mrs Rossi. She's from Italy. Ozzy is happy to see her. He runs to her. Mrs Rossi pets him.
> "Hello!" says Mrs Rossi. "Where are you going?"

«Venimos del arroyo», dice Mats. «Ahora volvemos a casa».
«Qué bien», dice la señora Rossi. «Hace un tiempo estupendo para dar un paseo».
Tiene una cesta en la mano.

> "We're coming from the stream," says Mats. "Now we're going back home."
> "Nice," says Mrs Rossi. "It's wonderful weather for a walk."
> She's holding a basket in her hand.

«¿Qué hay en la cesta?», pregunto.
«Leche, huevos, queso y miel», dice la señora Rossi. Se ríe.
«Lo compré en la tienda de vuestra madre».

> "What's in the basket?" I ask.
> "Milk, eggs, cheese, and honey," says Mrs Rossi. She laughs. "I bought them from your mother."

Mats y yo sonreímos.
«Hasta pronto», dice la señora Rossi.
«Adiós», dice Mats.

> Mats and I smile.
> "See you soon," says Mrs Rossi.
> "Bye," says Mats.

La señora Rossi sigue su camino. Ozzy la mira todavía un rato. Luego vuelve corriendo hacia nosotros. El pueblo ya no está lejos. Ya puedo ver nuestra casa.

> Mrs Rossi walks on. Ozzy watches her for a while. Then he runs back to us. The village isn't far away now. I can already see our house.

Papá todavía trabaja en el campo. Veo su tractor. Mamá está delante de la tienda y habla con un hombre del pueblo. Lo conozco.

> Dad is still working in the field. I see his tractor. Mum is standing in front of the shop and talking to a man from the village. I know him.

Se llama señor Hansen. El señor Hansen tiene una gata, Mimi. Mimi ya es vieja y ya no quiere jugar. Pero le gusta mucho cuando la acaricio.

> His name is Mr Hansen. Mr Hansen has a cat, Mimi. Mimi is already old and doesn't want to play anymore. But she likes it very much when I pet her.

Entonces ronronea. Mimi puede ronronear muy fuerte. Me gusta cuando Mimi ronronea. Entonces sé que está contenta. Es dulce.

> Then she purrs. Mimi can purr very loudly. I like it when Mimi purrs. Then I know that she's happy. She's sweet.

Vamos a la tienda. Mamá nos ve y sonríe.
Pregunta: «¿Os gustó el paseo?»

«Sí», dice Mats.
«Vimos peces», digo yo.

> We go to the shop. Mum sees us and smiles.
> She asks, "Did you enjoy the walk?"
> "Yes," says Mats.
> "We saw fish," I say.

Mamá se alegra. «Entonces fue un buen día», dice.
Pienso en el bosque y el sol, en Mats y Ozzy, en el arroyo y los peces y el pan. Tiene razón. Fue un buen día.

> Mum is pleased. "Then it was a good day," she says.
> I think of the forest and the sun, of Mats and Ozzy, of the stream and the fish and the bread. She's right. It was a good day.

This is where the sample ends.