This article analyzes two recent peninsular novels, *El orden alfabético* (The Alphabetical Order), by Juan José Millás (1998), and *A caverna* (The Cave), by José Saramago (2000). Borrowing from such scholars as Jean Baudrillard and Manuel Castells and their work relating to the sign and its relation to our material and symbolic reality, I look at the problematic search for identity in a contemporary post-industrial, network society that the novels' main characters undertake. In these two novels, the main characters attempt to create their own spaces of agency in the face of a society that alienates and exploits. Interestingly, both works also dialogue with the allegory of the Cave from Plato's *The Republic* in their representation and critique of the forces that produce the daily reality that we consume.