

AUTHOR WRITES OF HER BULIMIA "HELL"

When it comes to potentially **lethal** eating disorders, adolescent girls are the highest risk category. Many simply don't survive.

And while 28-year-old-Basque writer Espido Freire lived to tell the story - literally - of her seven-year-fight with the binge-and-purge eating disorder bulimia, the experience has left her **scarred** for life.

In her new book *Cuando comer es un infierno*, **released** yesterday, Freire painfully retraces those seven long years because, as she says, "if a writer isn't able to lend a voice to those who aren't capable of expressing themselves, then part of their vocation has been lost."

According to Freire, *Cuando comer es un infierno* "offers a realistic and personal view of bulimia - the seven years of suffering and the strength it took to get over them." Arriving at Barajas Airport earlier this week from Scotland, where she has spent the last two months as a visiting writer to various universities, Freire **headed** straight for her home in Madrid but couldn't avoid noticing the billboards filled with **skinny** models advertising next season's fashion on the road home

They immediately reminded her of her book and the exhaustion she felt after writing about the darkest period of her life.

Freire has a strong desire to tell her story - but still, she warns, she doesn't want to become a poster girl for bulimia. She doesn't just have that story to tell, she stresses. As a writer, she was the youngest-ever winner of the Planeta Award with her second novel *Melocotones helados* in 1998.

Her first two books were works of fiction but now, in *Cuando comer es un infierno*, she has gone down the autobiographical road to recount, with some **bitterness**, her difficult adolescence - cataloguing her terrible daily battles with the weighing scales.

(EL PAIS English edition with the International Herald Tribune, March 7, 2002)

Read the text and answer the following questions:

1. Guessing vocabulary from context. Read each definition below and choose the word from the list that matches the definition. (2 points, 0.4 each)

lethal, scarred, released, retraces, headed, skinny, bitterness

- (a) very thin: _____
- (b) went, moved in a particular direction: _____
- (c) marked, wounded: _____
- (d) anger, resentment: _____

(e) made available to the public: _____

2. Answer the following questions according to the text. Try to use your own words. (2 points, 0.5 each)

(a) Why is bulimia defined as a deadly eating disorder?

(b) What did Freire think when she saw the billboards with skinny models?

(c) What literary prize did Freire received for one of her books?

(d) How does *Cuando comer es un inferno* differ from Freire's previous two books?

3. Rewrite the following sentences maintaining the same meaning (1.5 points, 0.5 each)

(a) While Espido Freire lived to tell the story of her bulimia, the experience has left her scarred for life. (however)

