

Argo Publishers

Rights List

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Argo Publishers

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Argo is a major Czech publisher, renowned for its vast list of literary fiction, non-fiction and poetry, as well as trade and mass market fiction.

Argo books have won extraordinary acclaim over the years, including numerous literary awards, both Czech and international. Due to our books' success and quality, Argo has become the trend-setter and the market leader in Czechia, combining literary excellence with commercial success.

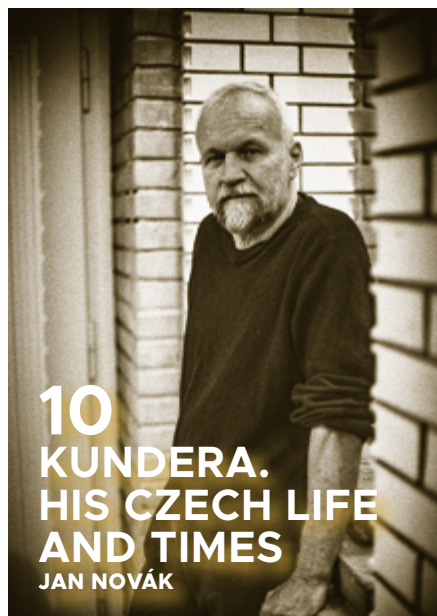
Specializing in translated literature (translations make up approximately 70 per cent of our titles), Argo authors include such present-day literary stars as **Orhan Pamuk**, **Kazuo Ishiguro**, **Leïla Slimani**, **Margaret Atwood**, **Peter Høeg**, **Roberto Bolaño**, as well as timeless classics, such as **James Joyce**, **Flannery O'Connor**, **George Orwell**, **Jorge Luis Borges**, **Herman Hesse**, **Franz Kafka**, **Jack Kerouac** etc.

We pay special attention to contemporary fiction in English, continually introducing such British and American authors as **Cormac McCarthy**, **Don DeLillo**, **Thomas Pynchon**, **Hilary Mantel**, **Donna Tartt**, **Michael Chabon**, **Edward St Aubyn**, **Sarah Waters**, **David Sedaris** etc.

We publish several series of non-fiction books, ranging from history to humanities to astronomy and physics, with authors including **Madeleine Albright**, **Michelle Obama**, **Niall Ferguson**, **E. H. Gombrich**, **Jacques Le Goff**, **Naomi Klein** or **Stephen Hawking**. A substantial part of our catalogue is created by bestselling authors, such as **Dan Brown**, **Khaled Hosseini**, **Paulo Coelho**, **G. R. R. Martin**, **Philip Pullman** and **Umberto Eco**.

Among our fastest-growing segments are science fiction and fantasy, with authors such as **J. R. R. Tolkien**, **Philip K. Dick**, **Douglas Adams**, **Neil Gaiman** or **Jeff VanderMeer**, comics (**Alan Moore**, **Alejandro Jodorowsky** and **Moebius**) as well as children's and young adults' books (**David Walliams**, **Markus Zusak**).





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The brilliantly depicted young urban intellectual's search for the deeper meaning of life

Press voices

"Pavla Horáková is a rare bird among contemporary Czech writers: educated, witty, sophisticated and a little mysterious. Just like her new novel, *Theory of Strangeness*, which Echo magazine has called the decade's smartest piece of Czech fiction."

— Echo Weekly

"Someone once said that a great work of fiction astonishes the reader by the ability to express something, they've until now believed to be inexpressible – something at which Pavla Horáková excels."

— Nový deník

Pavla Horáková Theory of Strangeness

Ada Sabová, a young academic from the "Institute of Interdepartmental Human Studies", is in many ways typical (though not stereotypical) of modern intellectuals trying to balance their personal life with their career. She has been through many things in both of them and so is guilty of a certain cynicism, or rather of an informed, sarcastic view of the world, the people around her, and herself. While searching for a colleague's lost son, she notes the ap-

parent coincidences around her, behind which, however, she senses a regularity and interdependence. She looks for an overarching definition of all these phenomena in her "theory of strangeness" and discovers that she cannot grasp the infinite complexity of the world through reason alone. And while the society around her clings on increasingly tightly to vacuous rules, Ada abandons their structures one by one and sets out towards freedom.



Pavla Horáková (b. 1974) is a Prague-based author, Czech radio presenter and literary translator. She has translated over 20 books from English and Serbian (including novels by Kurt Vonnegut, Saul Bellow and Iain Banks) and received two translation awards. *Theory of Strangeness* (Argo, 2018) is her second work for adults after bestselling novel *Johana* (2018) (along with Alena Scheinostová and Zuzana Dostálová). **Rights** to her most recent winning novel have been **sold to 10 countries so far.**

CZECHIA'S HIGHEST LITERARY HONOUR – BOOK OF THE YEAR (2019)

From the sample translation

"How often had I heard those words lately? How often had I said them myself? Is there a specific point in life when friends start parting with a "hang in there" rather than a simple "bye" or "take care"? Or was I simply so overwhelmed by my current misery that I saw trouble wherever I looked? Perhaps the notorious midlife crisis had de-

cided to show up way before I'd actually managed to acquire all that wisdom and wealth that was supposed to come with middle age. You can act young and dress young, you can try to put off adulthood and all its obligations and commitments as hard as you can, but you can't really trick time. My list of losses was constantly growing."



Remarkably dense and disturbing text from one of the most distinctive voices of contemporary Czech literature

Press voices

"Readers should take note of this novel, which takes Czech literature into the European league."

— Visegrad Insight

Pánek's novel disconcerts the reader with its linguistic abrasiveness and the self-destructive, self-centred approach of its main protagonist. It is as agitated and intoxicating as the exotic city in which it takes place."

— novinky.cz

Josef Pánek

Love in the Time of Global Climate Change

Love in the Time of Global Climate Change tells a tale of the global village we call Earth, the illogicality of racism and the unpredictable paths of the heart, and how we all fear change, while the greatest of all is taking place around us. The plot is straightforward: the protagonist, Tomáš, travels to attend a conference that takes place in Bangalore. He is a man struggling to pull himself together after a divorce, a scientist forced by our hectic, globalised world to learn to work with others and suppress his individuality for the sake

of his research. A more or less chance encounter with an attractive Indian participant at the conference leads to a night of intense passion, both in terms of sex and conversation. The author's playful ending leaves it to the reader's imagination to decide what has really happened. The novel is characterized by the author's relentless narration, story-telling for the sheer pleasure of story-telling, a verbal deluge sustained for pages on end, alternating between outright bragging and masochistic self-denigration.



Josef Pánek (b. 1966) received his masters and PhD in Prague, then worked in Norway and Australia, before finally returning to Czechia. He debuted with a collection of short stories *The Opal Digger* (2013). His second book *Love in the Time of Global Climate Change* (Argo, 2017) won the Magnesia Litera, Czechia's highest literary honour in 2018 and the **rights have been sold to 9 countries so far.**

CZECHIA'S HIGHEST LITERARY HONOUR – BOOK OF THE YEAR (2018)

Press voices

"In *Love in the Time of Global Climate Change* Pánek's writing continues a tradition of Czech literature that started with Bohumil Hrabal and can be traced to more recent writers such as Emil Hakl and Jáchym Topol. At the same time, Pánek's writing shows a kinship with writers such as Josef Škvorecký, particularly in the portrayal of life "elsewhere," i.e. outside the Czech environment."

"Readers should take note of this novel, which takes Czech literature into the European league."

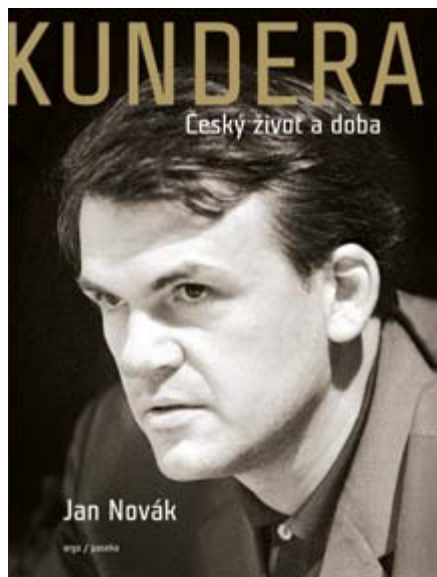
— Visegrad Insight

From the sample translation

"You've never been to India – imagine that. Now you find yourself in Bangalore, in the middle of the noise, the stink, the traffic chaos and an endless crowd of people that you've no defence against, you're frightened, disgusted and overwhelmed. You get out of the street into the safety of your hotel, but you still hear the noise, smell the stink, you are disgusted and excited at the same time, you want to understand, you've never experienced anything like this in your life. OK, you summon the courage to walk out of

the hotel and walk straight into something you think is a slum, having no idea what the slum is and how far you are from it. Anyway, in a clumsy and dense crowd of men in traditional clothing and women in the sari, you see an Indian girl wearing an ordinary T-shirt with jeans, she represents the only normal, familiar object to you in the surrounding turmoil, so you take her picture. She notices and tells you in fluent, perfect English to delete her picture. You shrug and do what she wants, and immediately forget the whole episode."

www.argo.cz/foreign-rights



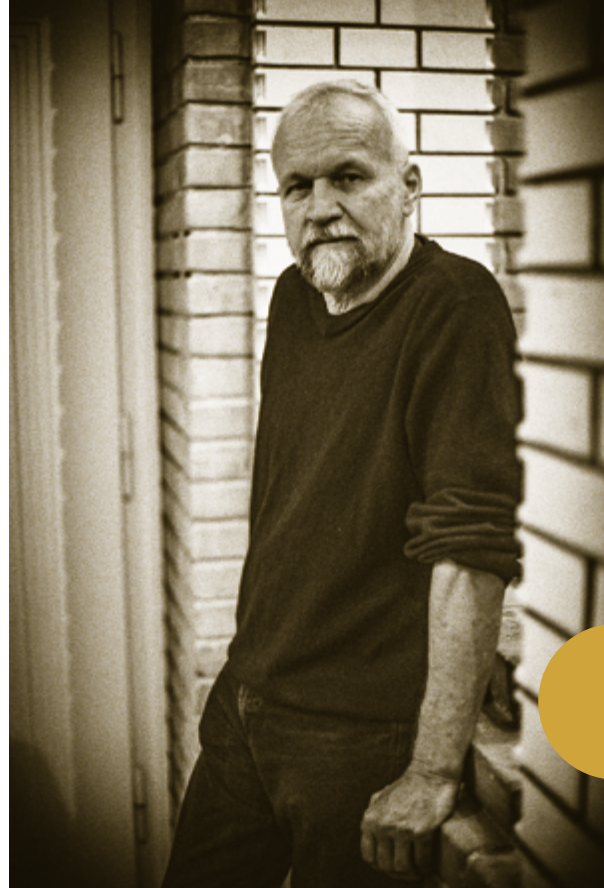
A masterpiece. A literary biography of Milan Kundera – perhaps the most famous living writer with Czech roots

Jan Novák

Kundera. His Czech Life and Times

Rather than a conventional scholarly biography, this book on Milan Kundera is an openly personal one – although it is indeed based on rigorous research of archival materials, contemporary documents, individual witness testimonies and Kundera's published texts. Novák is not intimidated by the topic and does not shy away from formulating direct and daring judgments. Milan Kundera's image here is that of an author who has always strived to

completely control his public image. However, as Jan Novák eloquently reveals, this effort is both futile and foolish: it makes one lose himself and forces the artist to increasingly perceive himself as identical with the image originally meant to be imposed only on the public. Novák's critical, meticulously researched book will certainly create controversy. And that is a good thing.



Jan Novák (b. 1953) is a prominent Czech-American author, translator and documentary filmmaker. His family emigrated to the U.S. in 1969, and nowadays he lives in Prague. He gained recognition for his first novel *The Wylis Dream Kit* (1985), which won the Carl Sandburg Prize and was in the wider nomination for the Pulitzer Prize. He later co-authored Miloš Forman's autobiography *Co já vím?* (Turnaround, 1994), which was translated into 22 languages, while his "true novel" *Zatím dobrý* (2004, published in English as *So Far So Good*, 2018) was awarded the Magnesia Litera, the main literary prize in Czechia.

CZECHIA'S HIGHEST LITERARY HONOUR – BOOK OF THE YEAR (2005)

Novák worked with Jaromír 99 on two graphic novels *Zátopek* (2016) and *So Far So Good* (2018). Both have been translated into six languages. Their most recent graphic novel is *Čáslavská* (2020), the story of an extraordinary woman – the great Czech gymnast.

Press voices

"Novák approaches the topic of Milan Kundera with 'American' professionalism."

— Echo

"Simple. Straightforward. To the point. Condensed, brisk, stylistically adept – and with an opinion, for which he, of course, takes full responsibility."

— Deník



A perfect idiosyncratic blend of humor and tragedy

"Uranova is immediately enthralling. (...) Original, genre-crossing and bubbling with ideas..."

— H7O.cz

"In the insipid stream of Czech fiction dealing with all kinds of darkness and failure, this book shines like a long-awaited piece of wilderness."

— Respekt

Lenka Elbe

Uranova

The protagonist of this story is Englishman Henry Robotham, whose girlfriend Angela disappeared in August 1968 – without a trace, as if swallowed by the Earth – while searching for her Czech ancestors in the ancient mining town of Jáchymov (Joachimsthal), known for its radon spa and brutal prison camps for political prisoners forced to mine uranium ore. Thirty years later, Henry heeds his therapist's advice and returns to the city of uranium and is ready to confront the trauma, which has been weighing on

his soul and defeat it once and for all. His neurotic partner Suzanne accompanies him on his trip to the post-Communist Czech Republic. With the couple's arrival at the Hotel Skłodowska – an establishment named after Marie Skłodowska-Curie – we enter a narrative experiment featuring elements of fantasy, horror and the absurd. Along with Henry, we start digging deep down the dark past and uncovering one of the many shapes of evil. Are you tempted by immortality, too?



Lenka Elbe (b. 1979) was born in Louny, a historical town in the North-West of then Czechoslovakia. She studied Journalism and Mass Communication at the Charles University's Faculty of Social Sciences. After a brief stint as a journalist, she started working as a copywriter in advertising and occasional TV scriptwriter. Her fiction often combines the real and the fantastical; greatly influenced by Franz Kafka, Umberto Eco or Haruki Murakami, Elbe explores the theme of freedom and the never-ceasing fight against the dark currents attempting to destroy it. Besides writing, Elbe works in graphic design and photography. She lives in Prague.

From the sample translation

On the ground, everywhere around her, puddles of grey water. Susanne Accord was clenching the edge of the bathtub, terrified, her face twisted in a tortured grimace. A strange liquid reminiscent of molten asphalt was trickling from her mouth in dark streams. She looked like she wanted to shout something, scream, even, but that black gunk, its sheer amount, made it impossible. All she could get out were a few weak mumbling sounds. It occurred to the doctor

that Suzanne would probably appreciate her saying something, offering an explanation, or at least sharing her terror. But she did not afford her client any of those things. (...) Estela dropped the jar. The keys swung on their chain and hit the side of the bathtub with a sharp crash. Susanne's eyes were now filled with not only fear but also black tears, which started forming around her tear ducts: the strange mass had started pouring from her eyes.



A funny, in-your-face autofiction that every imperfect woman will relate to

Press voices

"The autobiographical nature of Tereza Límánová's writing does not come across as showing off; she is after a true self-exploration, wanting to bear witness to her own life."

— *Lidové noviny*

Tereza Límánová Cheeky – Lazy – Useless

Tereza would love to be the perfect daughter, the perfect lover, and also the perfect wife and mother, just as her parents want her to be. But from the start, she knows this won't be easy. She loves to climb trees, avoids wearing skirts at all costs, stiletto heels don't fit her feet, and, in her eyes, none of the men who are interested in her could ever measure up to the famous Czech writer Ludvík Vaculík. She tries to comply a little: she bakes; she takes on the challenge of knitting; she tries

wearing lipstick and a skirt; and sometimes she even puts on high heels. It's never enough. The female voices of her clan follow Tereza around day and night with their relentless demands. But when her first son is born, something breaks. After she gives birth, the strong bonds tying together grandmothers, mothers and daughters start to come undone. The text is accompanied by original illustrations and photographs from the author's family archives.

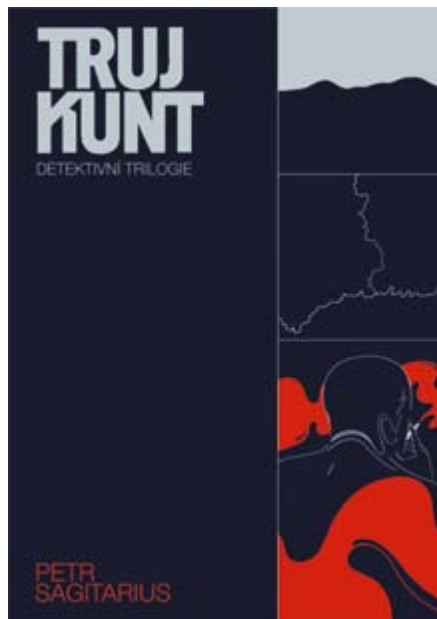


Tereza Límánová (b. 1965) studied French and Czech at the Faculty of Arts in Prague, and Czech Studies at University College London. She currently teaches languages at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University. In 2014, Revolver Revue published her book *Little House* (Domeček), an autobiographical text centered around her childhood in Malá Strana, right in the middle of Prague's oldest quarter. She translates from English and paints as well – to find out more about her art and its connection to the story of *Cheeky, Lazy, Useless*, go to terezalimanova.com.

From the sample translation

The old man sitting on a bench on the traffic island lifts his eyes in surprise. *What's that under your dress?* he shouts. I freeze. A few young guys loitering nearby look in my direction. They're waiting. Their prying eyes press against me. Do I get offended and stay silent, disdainful, like this is completely beneath me? Like it can't touch me? Or do I tell this perv, Fuck you, old man. *That* might be beneath me,

though. I can't think of a single zinger. Has he realized that I'm not wearing a bra? Or has he just worked it out from my bare shoulders? Exactly like back in high school, in a white top, standing in front of the headmaster, I'm mute. I don't want him to think... don't want to seem like I'm... but I also don't want to stand here like a statue, acting as if nothing happened. As if I'm deaf. I don't want to pretend.



A crime story about a detective as quirky and jaunty as the district he serves

Petr Sagitarius Trujkunt

Trujkunt is a peculiar area in the easternmost corner of the Czech Republic. Located by the tri-national border of Czechia, Poland and Slovakia, it has a distinct culture and specific Czech-Polish language of its own. It is a strongly religious region inhabited by the descendants of young men who were drafted by the Wehrmacht during World War II and still scarred by the division of the histori-

cally coherent Těšín-Silesia region. The specific set of conditions which have shaped this area are clearly reflected in the locals' mentality. Roman Saran, a quirky major in the Department of Criminal Investigation in Ostrava, deals with murders marked by unusual circumstances in this cleverly-structured, highly readable crime novel.

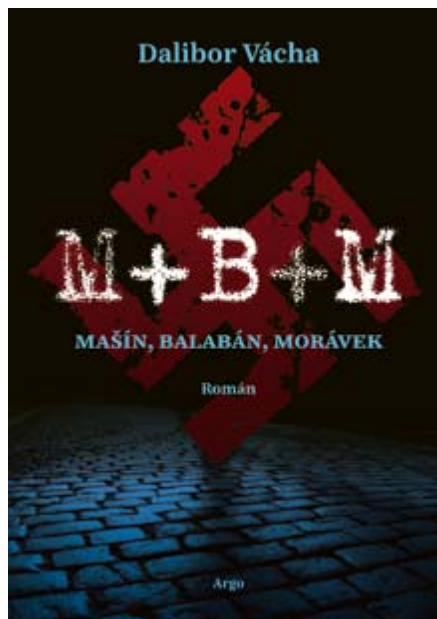


Petr Sagitarius (b. 1966) was born in Třinec as a Czech with Polish roots. In 2014, he started a blog, which allowed him to find his literary voice. He wrote his first crime novel in 2017 – and is working on the seventh part in the series already. His fictitious stories take place in real settings the author is intimately familiar with. All are connected through the individual characters' intertwining storylines.

From the sample translation

Roman Saran was a fighter by nature. The rumbling R's in his name should be enough of a warning to anyone who considered picking a fight with him. If he got punched, he never backed up; he would always get up and hit back twice. He was a mere 5' 7" tall, but his shoulders were wide and his body lean and muscular. Thanks to his unruly blonde hair, he had been cherubic as a child, but those days were long gone: his hair was still fair, but a twice-broken nose canceled out his angelic look in a way that impressed anyone he interrogated.

His sky-blue eyes were another powerful weapon in his arsenal. Just like he never ducked in a fight, he never dodged anyone's look. Depending on the situation, Saran's eyes posed one of two questions to his challenger: the first one being, "Do you really think I'm an idiot?" And the second, "Sure you wanna fight me?" Both were highly effective. His colleagues respected him for his tenacity and a quick mind.



The story of three heroes who, without hesitation, gave their lives for the liberation of Czechoslovakia

Author's previous book



For Freedom

The horrors of trenches full of mud, blood and corpse-eating rats. Stories of Czechoslovak legionaries who fought for freedom in France and longed to live through the first world war.

Dalibor Vácha M.B.M.

M+B+M. Josef Mašín, Josef Balabán, Jan Morávek. The Three Kings of the Nazi occupation era. Indisputable heroes who did not hesitate to give their lives for the liberation of Czechoslovakia. And yet they were also ordinary people with ordinary desires: they longed for love, they wanted families, to experience a calm evening free from fear of whoever might come knocking on the door of the “conspiracy apartment”...

Vácha's novel follows these three great figures of Czechoslovak history and their

resistance activities from 1939 until their very end. Day after day spent on the line between life and death, navigating a world where the enemy could be waiting around each corner, where a close friend could turn out to be a traitor. The author captures the gloomy, claustrophobic atmosphere of occupation, the city of Prague full of the Gestapo and informers, deserted streets and terror; a world where no-one knew when the Gestapo would appear to arrest them and put them against the wall...



Dalibor Vácha (b. 1980) is a Czech historian. His prose is mostly dedicated to the great wars of the 20th century and individual human destinies in those wars. He is the author of 14 best-selling novels. He writes about World Wars I and II, focusing primarily on the histories of the everyday in the Czechoslovak Legions, as well as the history of the interwar period. He does not forget the fantastic, however – he has written a post-apocalyptic novel.

From the sample translation

“This is not a game,” Balabán growled. Calm down, man, calm down, you can’t scare them off, you can’t be too pushy. It is strange that they are still alive and free. Dammit. Dammit. Calm down. You’re not angry at these two, no, you’re thinking about those other two, who are supposed to meet you later. They’re the ones you’re bringing bad news to... Is it really bad?

Why are they still staring at me like that? “Well, gentlemen, we’ll work together, then. We have proven ourselves to one another,” he smiled an encouraging smile. He spoke the way he always did. He wanted to organize, to build the great structure of anti-Nazi resistance; that was his plan, the goal he would sacrifice anything for.



High-octane outlook of Israel and Palestine through ancient and modern history

Press voices

"This book decidedly does *not* intend to paint the Palestinians as victims, or Israel as a country full of suffering: optimism has an advantage here, albeit a small one."

aktualne.cz

Jakub Szántó From Isratine with Love

Jakub Szántó's core ambition is to present the fatefully intertwined region of Israel and Palestine – the Isratine – as a place bubbling with ordinary life, not just a site of conflict, and he makes no secret of his love for both its peoples. Focused on individual stories of people shaping history as well as those whose fates were shaped by it, he uncovers the wealth of personal motivations and questions of unique identity. Szántó offers a historical background of today's state of affairs, while his main goal remains disruption of the often-schematic percep-

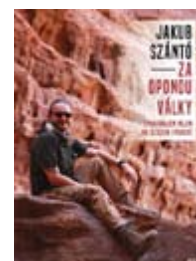
tions and black-and-white visions of the restless region. Speedy driving with hot female rallye drivers through narrow Palestinian streets. Scuba diving among the swarm of hungry sharks along the Israeli coast. Clenched-teeth storytelling by two old opposing veterans of the first Arab-Israeli war. The TV reporter's language is once again full of lively, sarcastic, and self-ironic humor. The book is accompanied by a wealth of Szántó's photographs from the years he spent in the Middle East as well as explanatory maps.



Jakub Szántó (b. 1977) is a journalist and television reporter. He is a holder of a Doctorate in Modern History at Charles University in Prague. Since 1999 he has worked as a television reporter. He has focused primarily on the Middle East and Africa, where he has covered a large proportion of international crises. Szántó is the holder of the Open Society Fund Prague's Journalism Award (2014) and the Ferdinand Peroutka Award for journalism (2017). Supported by over two decades of reporting from the Middle East crowned by five years as the permanent Correspondent in the region, the author offers in his two books – *Behind the Curtain of War* and *From Isratine with Love* – his unorthodox view of both the peoples, their lifestyle, culture, and history.

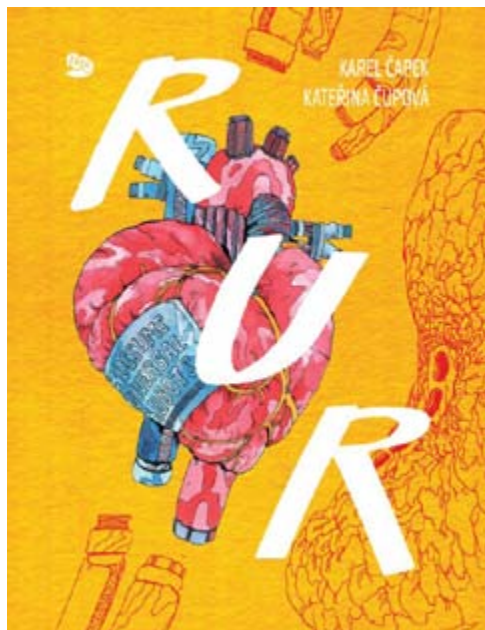
CZECHIA'S HIGHEST LITERARY HONOUR – READERS' CHOICE (2019)

Author's previous book



Behind the Curtain of War

An insider's detailed account of experiences as a war correspondent in the Middle East. The dramas of front lines, child and juvenile soldiers, famine, destitution and the pain of war or revolution.



A timeless commentary on the nature of human existence – and our future



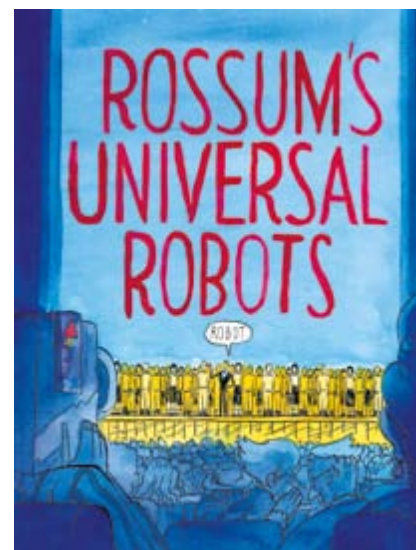
Kateřina Čupová (b. 1992, Ostrava) is a Czech animator and comic book artist, and a graduate from the renowned Department of Animation at the Tomáš Bata University in Zlín. Many of her works have been published in magazines and comic anthologies. Her webcomic *The Author's Apprentice* was published in print following a successful Kickstarter campaign. Her eye-catching, cartoon-like style is firmly rooted in decades of prized Czech animation.

Karel Čapek (1890–1938) was a key figure of Czech literature in the interwar period, a prolific journalist, fiction writer, playwright, translator, and critic. Among his best-known works are novels *The White Disease*, *Krakatit* or *War with the Newts*, and plays such as *R.U.R.*, *Pictures from the Insects' Life*, or *The Mother*. He was close to his brother Josef, with whom he co-wrote many of his works, and to the first Czechoslovak president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk. Karel Čapek used his writing to reflect on the looming political threat; he did not live to see World War II, unlike his brother, who was eventually murdered in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Kateřina Čupová, Karel Čapek R.U.R.

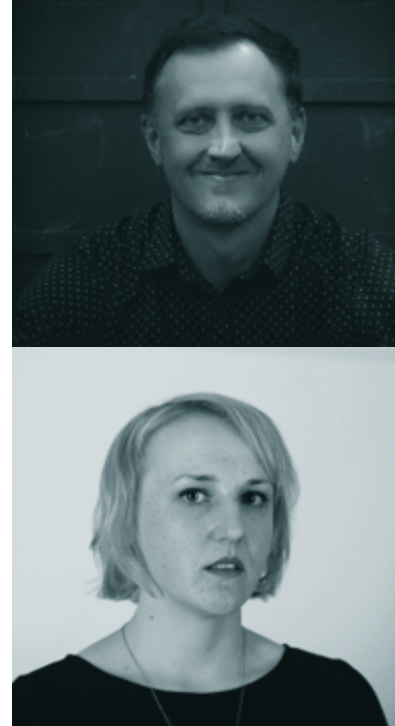
This comic book adaptation of Karel Čapek's *R.U.R.* is an attractive reimagining of a play which has lost nothing of its force since it was first staged in 1921. Ap-ropos, did you know that the word "robot" – invented by Karel Čapek's brother, the painter and writer Josef Čapek – also first appeared in print a century ago? In his timeless humanist drama, Karel Čapek addresses a number of moral, ethical, and philosophical problems that pertain to human existence. He ponders

the very nature of humanity, as well as its relationship to the machine, the question of technological progress, and its role in the future of our societies. The robots in Čapek's play are not the robots of our time, but rather biological creatures reminiscent of Frankenstein's monster. The illustrator works with great respect for the original text; her drawings are gentle yet full of vivid color, lightness, and elegance, and bursting with her original perspective.





The real story of one of the greatest figures in modern Czech history



Zdeněk Ležák (b. 1974) is a Czech writer, journalist, an editor in chief of magazines for kids and teenagers, and a graduate of the Josef Škvorecký Literary Academy. He mostly writes for children and teenagers; his favorite subjects include modern technologies and history. To date, he has published seventeen books, which have popularized the factual/historical comic book genre on the Czech scene. The author's website (in Czech) can be found at www.zdeneklezak.cz.

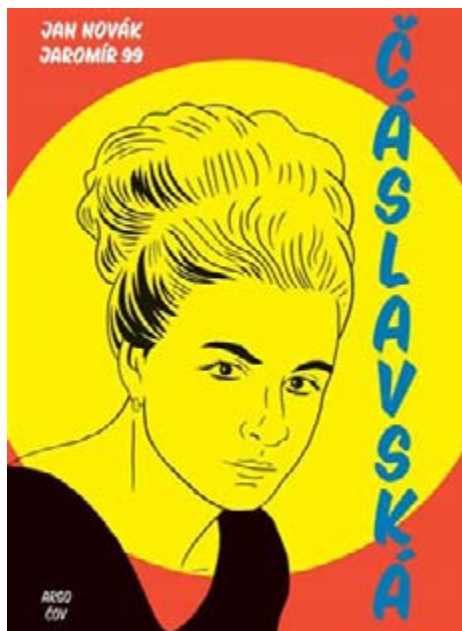
Štěpánka Jislová (b. 1992) is a Czech illustrator and comic book author. Before graduating from the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art, she won the CZ.KOMIKS student award for her short story *The Tree*. She spent a period as Scholar-in-Residence at the Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences in Orange, California. Her short comic stories have been published in a number of Czech and international anthologies such as Bobla, Dirty Diamonds, or CBA, and she co-founded the Czech branch of Laydeez Do Comics – an organization which strives to bring female comic book artists to a wider audience. Her work explores the world of legends and archetypes as well as current social trends.

Zdeněk Ležák, Štěpánka Jislová (ill.) Milada Horáková

Milada Horáková was executed in Prague on June 27, 1950, becoming the most famous victim of communist Czechoslovakia's political show trials. A lawyer and social worker by profession, she had served as a member of the Czechoslovak postwar parliament, fought for women's rights, and played an active role in several resistance movements. The author explores Dr. Horáková's life from her childhood and youth, through her resistance activities during WWII, Nazi imprisonment, entry into top politics after the

war, and her role in the democratic resistance movement after the communist coup d'état in 1948. The graphic biography then follows Horáková's arrest in September 1949, the series of interrogations she was subjected to, and the entire proceedings of her show trial, until the verdict and Horáková's execution. The book is an exceptionally gripping portrayal of the life of a famous feminist and fighter for freedom, democracy, and national emancipation, who drove the totalitarian regime up the wall.





The story of an extraordinary woman – the great Czech gymnast Věra Čáslavská



Jan Novák is a leading Czech writer and documentary maker. He has won the Chicago Maroon's short story contest, as well as the Carl Sandburg Literary Award from the Chicago Public Library Foundation. His novel *So Far, So Good* was the Magnesia Litera Awards Book of the Year 2005, and in 2020 he published a controversial literary biography, entitled *Kundera, His Czech Life and Times*. Novák already collaborated with Jaromír 99 on two graphic novels *Zátopek* (2016) and *So Far, So Good* (2018). Both have been translated into six languages.

Jaromír 99 is a Czech singer, songwriter, and artist who divides his time between the worlds of music and comics. He collaborated with Jaroslav Rudiš on the comics trilogy *Alois Nebel* (2003). He also worked as a co-screenwriter and artist on its film adaptation (2011), which was awarded Best Animated Film by the European Film Academy. He won a Muriel Award for his comic strip *Bomber* (2007), and he adapted Kafka's *The Castle* (2013) as a graphic novel for SelfMadeHero and received the nomination for the prestigious Eisner Award.

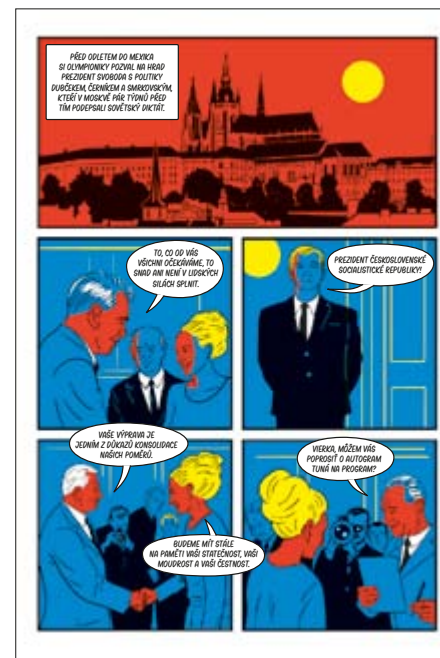
Jan Novák, Jaromír 99 (ill.) Čáslavská

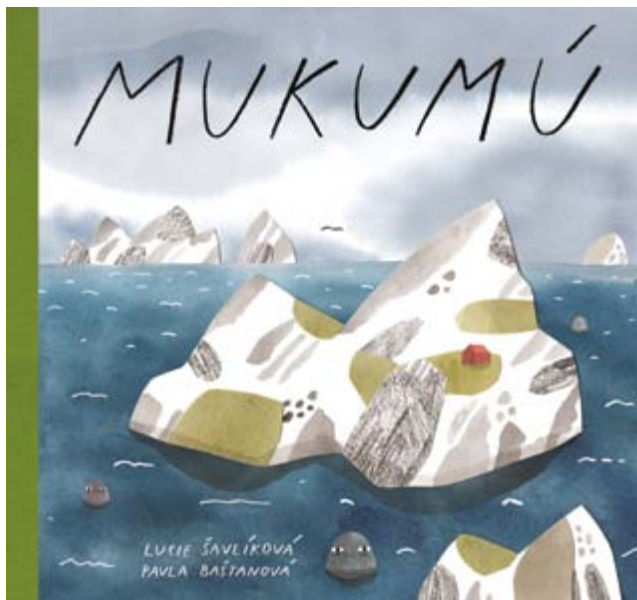
Mexico City, a mental health asylum in Prague, world championships and communist state police investigation rooms: This comic book adaptation of the life of the extraordinary Věra Čáslavská takes its readers on a ride.

Čáslavská, the most successful Czech sportswoman of all time and once the second most famous woman on the planet is a national symbol of courage. With seven gold medals and four silver ones, she ranks among the most memorable personalities in the history of the Olympic Games; still, she had to face several set-

backs in her life that nearly brought her to her knees. And as strong as she was, her marriage was hell.

She was a strong, loyal person who never gave up the fight against lies. After the Soviet invasion of 1968, she refused to withdraw her signature from the Two Thousand Words manifesto, calling for political reforms – though an Olympic champion, she preferred the humiliation of having to clean apartment buildings, which was the regime's punishment for her dissent. And that is by no means the end of her story.





Once upon
a time,
on a tiny
island in the
middle of an
inhospitable
land in the far,
far north...



Lucie Šavlíková (b. 1970) has had a long career as an editor, translator and author of children's books. She was nominated for the 2019 Golden Ribbon Award for her book *Black and White Holiday* (2018).

Pavla Baštanová (b. 1992) is a graduate in Animation Studies from UMRUM in Prague and UTB in Zlín. Animator, illustrator and artist who works on both commercial and artistic projects (films, spots, graphics, illustrations for books and magazines).



Lucie Šavlíková, Pavla Baštanová (ill.) **Mukumú**

Only one family lives on the island: Mom, Dad and their little daughter. Their life is a cycle of daily rituals and activities. And since there are no other children around, the little girl has to entertain herself. With all of the playfulness and imagination of childhood, she finds friends in the living and inanimate nature all around, where even tiny events are important.

The colorfully illustrated book was preceded by an animated film of the same name. The inspiration came from a time spent working on a Norwegian island farm. Get to know the mysterious and melancholy island and let it carry you into an enchanting, poetic world!





An adventurous trip beyond the TV screen for early and advanced readers alike

SHORTLISTED FOR
THE GOLDEN RIBBON
AWARD (2018)

Tereza Cz Dvořáková, Lucie Záhorová, René Melkus, Vladimír Bradáč, Nikkarin (ill.) Television Then and Now

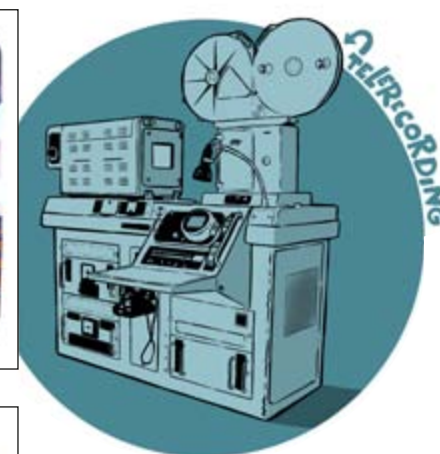
Everybody knows what television is. Many people have one at home and watch it daily. You all know what a TV looks like and what it shows. But do you know when it was invented – and how it works? What programs it used to show in the past, and what it shows today? What it meant to your parents and grandparents, and how it influences our everyday lives? And does it have a future at all – now that we live in the age of the internet?

Intended for all curious children 8 and older, as well as adults – parents, teachers, after-school club leaders – *Television Then and Now* follows in the footsteps of two earlier books: *How Cinema Was Born* (Argo, 2017) and *How a Film Is Made* (Argo, 2017). Like the previous volumes, it includes a section called “Experiments”, which is full of inspiration for at-home experiments with TV technology.



Tereza Cz Dvořáková et al.

(b. 1977) graduated from the Film Academy in Prague, she is also a film educator. Argo has published her successful books *How Cinema Was Born* (2017) and *How a Film is Made* (2019).





The amazing adventures of a young Jewish boy



Klára Smolíková is the author of many publications in which she brings Czech history closer to the readers through a combination of narrative, comic sequences and text boxes full of extra information.

Tobiáš Smolík, a graduate of Hebrew Studies, Ethnology and Social History, focuses on the popularization of Jewish history. He has collaborated on educational programs with the Jewish community in the town of Třebíč, which is rich with Jewish history, and is the bandleader of a klezmer group.

Vojtěch Šeda is a graduate of the Department of Illustration and Graphics at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. He works in illustration and comics, often on various topics from Czech history.



**Klára Smolíková, Tobiáš Smolík,
Vojtěch Šeda (ill.)**

Mordecai Laughed Bahhahah!

Cheerful and amusing journey through Jewish history

Mordecai is not the clockmaker's dream son. His grades are hardly stellar, and he does more harm than good in his father's workshop. His parents complain about him to a wise rabbi who has brought a precious wall clock to be repaired: It has started losing time, he says. But clumsy Mordecai drops the clock, which shatters into a thousand pieces... and with it, time itself breaks.

In this original adventure, complemented by beautiful double-page illustrations, a young Jewish boy guides the reader through ten centuries of Jewish history in the Czech lands through looking at everyday life and its changes, holidays and customs, the varieties of human nature and fates... all in a truly entertaining way.





An imaginative story
full of linguistic
creativity



Tereza Verecká, Mikuláš Podprocký (ill.) Thump-O-Whacky Ceilin'podes

Our little heroine Sara is quite an ordinary girl, living in quite an ordinary house – until a new tenant shows up: he is far from ordinary. He owns a very strange telescope and claims he has fallen out of the ceiling and would love to get back there somehow. And that he is not the only one who lives there, oh no – there are entire unmapped lands up on the ceiling, whose fauna, flora and entire civilizations we know nothing about.

This book is special at first sight – everything that takes place on the ceiling is typeset upside down! The illustrations by painter and sculptor Mikuláš Podprocký, also playing with this idea, give the ceiling civilization its unique atmosphere. This book will have you turning your head in excitement!



Tereza Verecká (b. 1985) is an author, dramaturge and playwright. She studied scriptwriting at the Jaroslav Ježek College and theater dramaturgy at the Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. She is the author of several radio plays, children's stories and other texts for children and adults. She is an active member of the BodyVoiceBand theater group.

Mikuláš Podprocký (b. 1978) is a Slovak artist who left his sculpting practice to dedicate himself to videogame development and comic book writing and illustration. He worked on videogames such as *Mafia 2* and *Mafia 3* or the cult RPG *Kingdom Come: Deliverance*. So far, Argo has published two volumes of his comic series *Wilderness*, as well as a number of books with Podprocký's illustrations and cover art.



MINISTRY OF CULTURE GRANTS FOR PUBLISHING

CZECH LITERATURE ABROAD

Every year, the Czech Ministry of Culture awards grants to support the publication of Czech prose, poetry, drama, essays, comics and children's literature abroad.

PUBLISHERS CAN APPLY FOR FUNDING FOR

- | translation costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing)
- | graphic design, typesetting and printing costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing)
- | copyright costs (up to 15% of the total cost of publishing)
- | promotion costs (up to 25% of the total cost of publishing)

PUBLISHERS, AGENTS AND TRANSLATORS CAN APPLY FOR FUNDING FOR

- | the translation of an excerpt of between 10–25 standard pages of text (a standard page is 1800 characters with spaces)

MAGAZINES CAN APPLY FOR FUNDING FOR

- | translation costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing) of an issue where at least 50% of the total content is dedicated to original Czech literature

DEADLINES

15th May, 15th November

SELECTED BACKLIST

Dvořáková, Cz, Tereza: *How a Film is Made / Jak se dělá film*, children's book, 2019

Dvořáková, Cz, Tereza: *How Cinema Was Born / Jak vznikl film*, children's book, 2017

Kadlec Vratislav: *The Boundary of the Woods / Hranice lesa*, magical realism, Czechia's highest Literary honour – book of the year, 2019

Novák, Jan: *So far so good. The Mašins and the Greatest Story of the Cold War / Zatím dobrý. Mašínovi a největší příběh studené války*, Czechia's highest Literary honour – book of the year, 2013

Novák, Jan: *Turnaround, a co-authored autobiography of Milos Forman / Co já vím? Biografie Miloše Formana*, 2013 (third completed issue)

Novák, Jan: *A Life Beyond Category. An interview with John Bok / Život mimo kategorie. Rozhovor s Johnem Bokem*, 2015

Novák Jan, Jaromír 99: *So Far So Good / Zatím dobrý*, graphic novel, six foreign editions, 2018

Novák Jan, Jaromír 99: *Zátopek / Zátopek*, graphic novel, six foreign editions, 2016

Szántó Jakub: *Behind the Curtain of War / Za oponou války*, reportage story, 2018

Štindl, Ondřej: *Until you get dizzy / Až se ti zatočí hlava*, historical fiction, 2020

Štindl, Ondřej: *To the Frontier / K hranici*, 2016

Štindl, Ondřej, Bolf Josef (ill.): *Mondschein / Mondschein*, dystopian fiction, 2012

Urban, Miloš: *Kar / Kar*, murder mystery, 2019

Urban, Miloš: *The Shutter / Závěrka*, erotic novel, 2017

Urban, Miloš: *Urbo Kune / Urbo Kune*, sci-fi novel, 2015

Urban, Miloš: *She came from the sea / Přišla z moře*, noir, 2014

Urban, Miloš: *Praga piccola / Praga piccola*, historical tale, 2012

Urban, Miloš: *Boletus arcanus / Boletus arcanus*, novel, 2011

Urban, Miloš: *Lord Mord / Lord Mord*, gothic horror, 2008

Urban, Miloš: *Dead girls / Mrtvý holky*, collection of stories, 2007

Urban, Miloš: *Santini's language / Santiniho jazyk*, historical crime novel, 2005

Urban, Miloš: *The shadow of the cathedral / Stín katedrály*, crime comedy, 2003

Urban, Miloš: *The Water-Goblin / Hadrman*, green novel, Czechia's highest Literary honour – book of the year, 2002

Urban, Miloš: *Seven churches / Sedmikostelí*, gothic horror, 1999

Vácha, Dalibor: *For Freedom / Za svobodu*, historical romance, 2019

Vrba, Michal: *Around Jakub / Kolem Jakuba*, historical novel, shortlisted for the Czechia's highest Literary honour – book of the year, 2019

Vrba, Michal: *The Slingshot / Prak*, psychological novel, 2016



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