



# Argo Publishers

**Rights List**

**autumn 2021 / winter 2022**

**Argo Publishers**

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**Foreign rights (sales)**

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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 the Czech Republic, 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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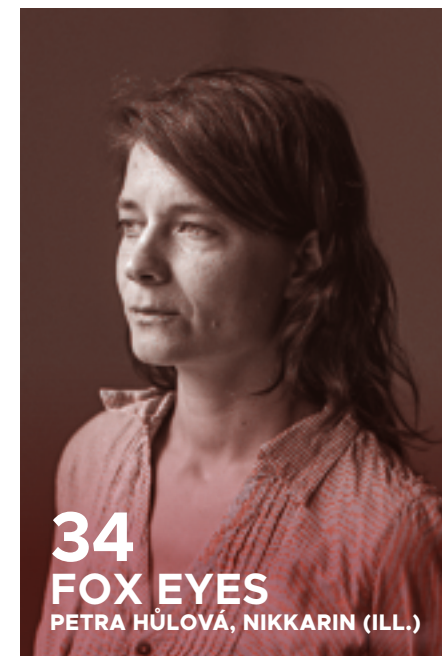
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**Original, genre-crossing  
and bubbling with ideas**

### Press voices

"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

Englishman Henry Robotham's girlfriend Angela disappeared in August 1968 – without a trace, as if swallowed by the Earth. She had been searching for her Czech ancestors in the ancient mining town of Jáchymov (Joachimsthal), known for its radon spa and brutal camps for political prisoners. Thirty years later, Henry heeds his therapist's advice and visits this city of uranium to confront the trauma that has been weighing on his soul. His neurotic partner Suzanne accompanies him to the post-Communist Czech

Republic. After a few hiccups upon arrival, Henry and Suzanne find their accommodation at Hotel Skłodowska – an establishment named after Marie Skłodowska-Curie, now owned by Estela Hans, a charismatic leader and peculiar local doctor. With the couple's arrival at the hotel, we enter a narrative experiment featuring fantasy, horror, and absurd elements. Along with Henry, we start digging into 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 what was then Czechoslovakia. She studied Journalism and Mass Communication at Charles University. After a brief stint as a journalist, she worked as a copywriter and occasional screenwriter for television. Her fiction often combines the real and the fantastic; influenced by Franz Kafka, Umberto Eco and Haruki Murakami, Elbe explores the theme of freedom and the never-ending fight against dark currents attempting to destroy it. Besides writing, Elbe works in graphic design and photography. She lives in Prague.

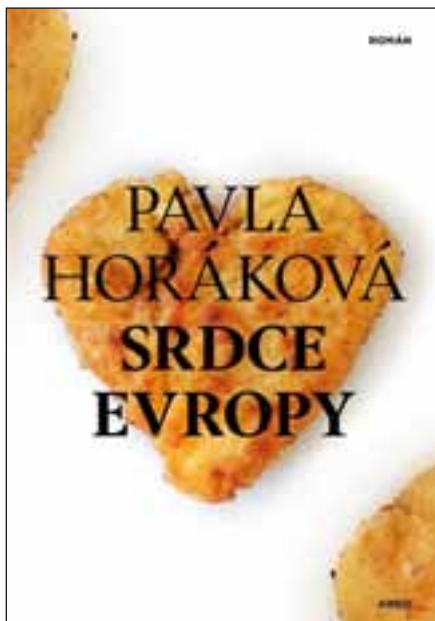
**THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY  
AWARD – BEST FICTION DEBUT (2020)**

### From the sample translation

"On the ground, everywhere around her, puddles of greywater. 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, the sheer volume, 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."





**The history of the Czech lands and Austria and the appealing story of two women**

## Pavla Horáková In the Heart of Europe

The new novel by Pavla Horáková is a fascinating dialogue between two narrative voices separated by more than a century. Anežka, a teacher, is trying to find her bearings in the chaos inside herself, as well as in the chaotic times she is living in, while poring over the manuscript of a memoir written by Kateřina: an eccentric, self-confident woman whose lack of formal education is more than offset by her natural wit and perceptiveness.

Both women are fascinated with Vienna, with its strange amalgam of worldliness and provincialism, its hectic present coexisting with a nostalgia for times that are long gone. Vienna of 1912, the proud imperial metropolis was at the apex of its glory, and the current Vienna of 2020, which we get to know through Anežka as she sets out to explore it in Kateřina's footsteps.

**Srdce Evropy** | October 2021 | 392 pages | English sample | **Rights to** *A Theory of Strangeness* **sold to** Poland (Stara szkola), Italy (Miraggi Edizioni), Bulgaria (Ergo), Macedonia (Makedonika Litera), Egypt (Al Kotob Khan), Spain (Reino de Cordelia),



**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. *A Theory of Strangeness* (2018) is her second work for adults after bestselling novel *Johana* (2018) (along with Alena Scheinostová and Zuzana Dostálová). The book was awarded the Czechia's highest recognition. **Rights** to her winning novel have been **sold to 11 countries so far**.

**THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS  
LITERARY AWARD – BEST WORK  
OF FICTION (2019)**

### Author's previous book

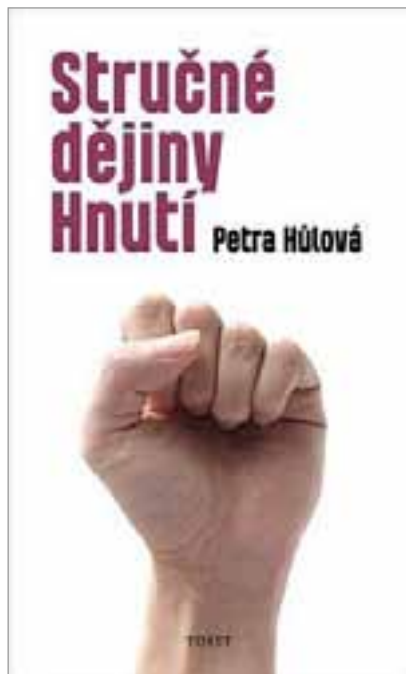


#### **A Theory of Strangeness**

At first glance, Ada Sabova, the protagonist, may seem like a stereotypical urbanite. Disillusioned with relationships, the predictability of her life, and, most of all, her work. Her neat, predictable life takes an unexpected turn.

Slovenia (Sanje), Hungary (Metropolis Media), Romania (Editura Casa Cartii de Stiinta), Croatia (Hena), Serbia (Srebrno drvo)

[www.argo.cz/foreign-rights](http://www.argo.cz/foreign-rights)



**When women take over:  
A feminist dystopian novel  
on sexual norms**

### Press voices

"One part *Animal Farm*, one part *The Handmaid's Tale*, one part *A Clockwork Orange*, and (maybe) one part *Frankenstein*, Czech writer Hůlová's novel dismantles the patriarchy and replaces it with a terrifying alternative."

— Kirkus Reviews

"In a dystopian future where women rule, society is re-educated to teach men—and women—that women should be valued for traits other than their appearance or age. The novel is dark and satirical; while feminism is in the foreground, the author somehow manages a balancing act between manifesto and critique."

— Lithub

## Petra Hůlová The Movement

The Movement's founding ideology emphasizes that women should be valued for their inner qualities, spirit, and character, not their physical attributes. Consequently, men have been forbidden to be attracted to women based on their bodies. Some continue with unreformed attitudes, but many submit – or are sent by their wives and daughters – to the Institute for internment and reeducation. However, the Movement also struggles with women and their "old attitudes", with many still undergoing illegal cosmet-

ic surgeries and makeup. Our narrator, an unapologetic guard at one of these reeducation facilities, describes how the Movement started, the challenges faced in her journey, and what happens when a program fails. Nevertheless, she is convinced the Movement is nearing its final victory – a time when everybody falls in line with its ideals. Outspoken, ambiguous, and terrifying, this socio-critical satire of our sexual norms sets the reader firmly outside of their comfort zone.



**THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY  
AWARD – BEST WORK OF FICTION (2003)**

**ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS – ALTA  
NATIONAL TRANSLATION AWARD, PEN  
TRANSLATES AWARD**

**Petra Hůlová** (b. 1979) is a fiction writer and the recipient of several literary awards, including the **Czechia's highest literary recognitions** – the Magnesia Litera, the Josef Škvorecký Award and the Jiří Orten Award. She studied language, culture, and anthropology at universities in Prague, Ulan Bator and New York and was a **Fulbright scholar** in the USA. Her first novel, *All This Belongs to Me* (2002), won the Magnesia Litera Award for Discovery of the Year. The English translation by Alex Zucker won the ALTA National Translation Award. *Plastic Three-bedroom* (2006) won the Jiří Orten Prize for the best work of prose or poetry by an author of thirty or under; Alex Zucker's English translation received the PEN Translates Award. *Taiga Station* (2008) won the Josef Škvorecký Prize. A total of ten novels and two plays of hers have been translated into more than ten languages. *Fox Eyes* (2021) is her latest book, first for children. She lives in Prague.

[www.argo.cz/foreign-rights](http://www.argo.cz/foreign-rights)





**The most ambitious Czech sci-fi title of the last decade**

## Jakub Hussar

# O TU

O TU is a chronicle of the culture of the Tals, their rough voyage to the remote landfill called Coraab, and their subsequent colonization of the region. The remote landfill has always stimulated the imagination of travellers and adventurers. However, to fully appreciate its complexity, we must start at the very beginning of its era. And that's where Jakub

Hussar's historical sci-fi epic O TU (pronounced "oh two") takes us. The two-part novel O TU is no classic space opera-type science fiction. Much more reminiscent of serious historical fiction of the Mika Waltari type, it also boasts an attractive feature – an original soundtrack accessible via QR codes at the beginning of each chapter.

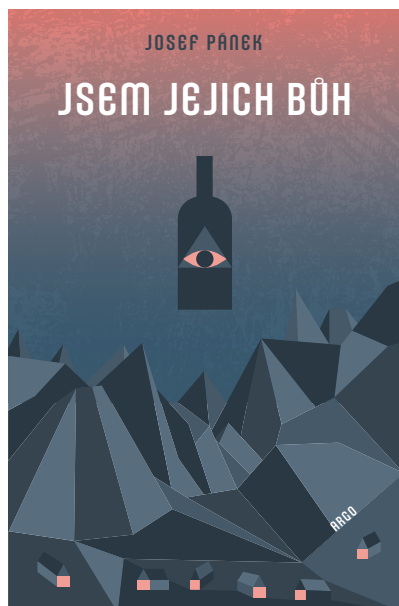


**Jakub Hussar** (b. 1985) is a director, producer and idea-maker. He studied directing and screenwriting at the Miroslav Ondříček Academy in Písek, where he has been teaching since 2009. He co-founded the creative group Trinity Pictures and ARK8, a gaming studio that produced an online card game set in the Coraab universe. In 2018, Hussar started HAZE, an innovative advertising agency where he works as the creative director. His literary opus magnum *O TU* results from twenty years spent creating the Tals-Coraab mythos and six years of work on the book itself.

### Press voices

"It's the year 4322. Sex with robots doesn't turn anyone on anymore."

aktualne.cz



**Bergen, Norway: Where loneliness and isolation get a whole new layer of meaning**

## Josef Pánek

# To Them, I Am God

I am an architect specializing in suspension bridge designs. I have worked on civil engineering projects, including the largest suspension bridge and the longest bridge in the world. I have spent ten years living in Norway and Australia. I play bass in a band, I'm an avid mountaineer, and I have travelled the world attending conferences. And the women around me have always adored me. I love them dearly: my friends from the times before I left and came back again. To them, I am God. And I can see how narrow-minded – and yes, dull – they are,

but I can also see their beauty. None of them has a clue about what they're really like, and neither do they suspect that I see them this way. Bergen, a city where it is always gloomy and dark, where it rains for half a year straight, where no shops are open on the weekend and where people communicate exclusively in Norwegian. In a city surrounded by mountains, one cannot climb. In a city where loneliness and isolation grow to new dimensions...



**Josef Pánek** (b. 1966) received his masters and PhD in Prague, then worked in Norway and Australia before returning to Czechia. He debuted with a collection of short stories entitled *The Opal Digger* (2013). His second book, *Love in the Time of Global Climate Change* (2017), won the Magnesia Litera, Czechia's highest literary honour, in 2018. So far, its **rights** have been **sold to 11 countries**.

**THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY AWARD – BEST WORK OF FICTION (2018)**

## Author's previous book



### Love in the Time of Global Climate Change

A tale of the global village we call Earth: the fallacies of racism, the heart's unpredictable paths, and how humans fear change. Relentless narration and sheer pleasure in storytelling.





**Strange accidents and terrifying incidents in the Czech countryside. A village novel you will want to read in the safe embrace of the city**

### Press voices

“A great dark psychological tale, almost a horror story, underlined by Czech village folklore, an evil organism, with variations on the fairy tale Little Red Riding Hood.

There is no murder with a chainsaw. Man to man is a wolf!”

mojeargo

## Zuzana Říhová Through Pins or Needles

Husband and wife Bohumil and Bohumila, together with their mentally disabled son, move from Prague to a small village in the borderlands to work out their marital crisis. In the searing summer heat, they try to fit in among the locals; at first, they blame minor misunderstandings on their strangeness and lack of capacity to understand the social codes of the village. The sense of danger grows, though, as the lies, small and big, the “accidents” and the scary incidents

all start piling up. Then, one night, Bohumil and Bohumila come home to find the house empty: their son is gone. The series of uncanny events culminates on the third day after the boy’s disappearance when all the villagers gather outside the couple’s cottage in festive costumes. Did the local country bumpkins’ bizarre game turn into some perverse, modern folklore ritual? Are the lives of Bohumil and Bohumila in danger? And what has happened to their son?



**Zuzana Říhová** (b. 1981) studied Czech Language and Literature and Comparative Literature at Charles University in Prague. She has been working at the Institute of Czech Literature (Czech Academy of Sciences) since 2007 and was Head of Czech Studies at the University of Oxford from 2014–2017. Říhová, who has a lifelong interest in Czech avant-garde literature, has published a collection of poetry, *I’ll Let You in My House* (2016), and a novella *Little Eve* (2018), which was named as one of the Books of the Year in 2018 by a Czech literary web magazine.



**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 near the tri-national border of Czechia, Poland and Slovakia, it has a distinct culture and Czech-Polish language. It is a strongly religious region inhabited by the descendants of young men drafted by the Wehrmacht during World War II, who remain scarred by the division of the Těšín-Silesia region. The conditions that shaped this area are evident in the mentality of locals.

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.

### Press voices

“An action hero of the Sylvester Stallone or Arnold Schwarzenegger type. A punch is never far away. To each his own.”

*mojeargo*



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

### 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 cancelled out his an-

gelic 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 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 quick mind.



**Naturalistic fiction about  
countryside living**

## Lukáš Palán

# Crude Shape

As the next-door neighbour likes to say, a thing that's broken just got a new shape. It can indeed be true for old mugs or plates – but what about an entire community? This story of an unnamed village, so generic it could be anywhere, really deceiving and misleading the reader from the get-go. Everything here is somehow familiar: the badly behaved youngsters who fight boredom by shooting their air rifles at passing cars, or wild-riding their bikes around the town square; the neigh-

bours quibbling in a community so close-knit that everyone sees into everyone else's plates – and bedrooms; the regulars at the village pub endlessly debating the state of the world in a way recognizable in a local dive anywhere. Everybody is waiting for Egon, the only one from the village who got anywhere in life, while the atmosphere is growing tense and a new future is looming – one with a markedly different shape, and possibly much more brutal, than today.



**Lukáš Palán** (b. 1986) has lived in Dublin and Porto, where he opened an English-language bookstore and successfully went bust. An ex-bookseller and ex-music journalist, he now works in education at Charles University. He has published two books of poetry: *Cunt, Shit, Hitler, Prague* (2014) and *Loughorn* (2016), as well as a novella titled *Zero Sum* (2020). His distinctive prose, intentionally raw and underscored by very dark humour, shows the influence of the masters of the naturalistic novel and current dystopic writing.





**A psychological thriller about family, jealousy, and B-movie horrors**

### Press voices

“Young Bohemian Bukowski. Witness to a generation longing to live their lives by their own rules.”

kosmas

## Miroslav Pech

# There's No More Borders, Dad

Dad has a lot to worry about. Things are pretty much getting out of control. And so he takes his little daughter and runs. He runs from the police, from the spectres, from himself. Yet, no one can escape the consequences of their actions...

Miroslav Pech has moved to a new genre this time – his latest book is a psychologi-

cal thriller. Some of the familiar themes his readers might expect are still present, though: family drama, fear of failure, love for B-list movies. Except for this time, there is just a splash of more blood.



**Miroslav Pech** (b. 1986) has had various jobs: printer, shop assistant, ancillary worker, warehouse worker, editor and driver. He is the author of the collections of short stories *I Will Write to Pavia* (2013), *Very Funny Videos* (2014), *The Americans eat cactuses* (2017). In addition, his novels *Cobain's Disciples* (2017) and *Father from Birth* published by Argo, have become very successful with Czech readers.

### Author's previous book



#### Father from Birth

Dad is expecting the birth of his first child. He begins to write diary entries for this unknown being, describing his experiences at work and what he has seen and heard on the bus.



#### Cobain's Disciples

A novel about a “lost generation for the 21st century. If you thought that life would be rosy, with unlimited possibilities for the youth after the fall of communism, you're way off the mark...



**The body of a girl, brutally murdered, is found in a Moravian mountain settlement. And anyone could be the killer**

### Press voices

“The story has momentum, reminiscent of Nordic style. A sophisticated world of police investigators, quirky yet very human and real.”

— kosmas

**František Šmehlík**

## Hear the Stags Singing

The body of a brutally murdered girl is found in a small settlement in the Moravian Beskydy mountains. She appears to be the victim of a sex maniac; all the signs are there. Miroslav Lada, the head of the murder investigation department in the local metropolis of Ostrava, deduces that the murderer is to be found among the locals. His team, including new investigative officer Roman Nitka, begins to untangle the web of relationships in

the village, uncovering links to the narcotics business. An unsuccessful musician, a filthy goat-herder, a stern architect and his mentally underdeveloped son enter the scene. The investigators' personal lives seep into the search: they share the same goal, but different motivations propel their hunt for the murderer. Will they finally manage to unite and rid the region of the monster? Will they be quick enough to prevent another blow?



**František Šmehlík** (b. 1995) is a native of Ostrava. He dedicated his formative years to sports, mainly judo, in which he is a three-time national champion. He is now finishing his Czech Language and Literature studies in Olomouc. A lifelong lover of books, his favourite authors include Milan Kundera, Bohumil Hrabal and Ladislav Fuks. His crime novel debut, *Hear the Stags Singing* draws readers with a well-developed plot and a unique ability to capture the complicated social bonds in a small community where anyone could be the murderer.

An exploration of the psychology of one mother-daughter relationship

## Marek Technik

# The Warning

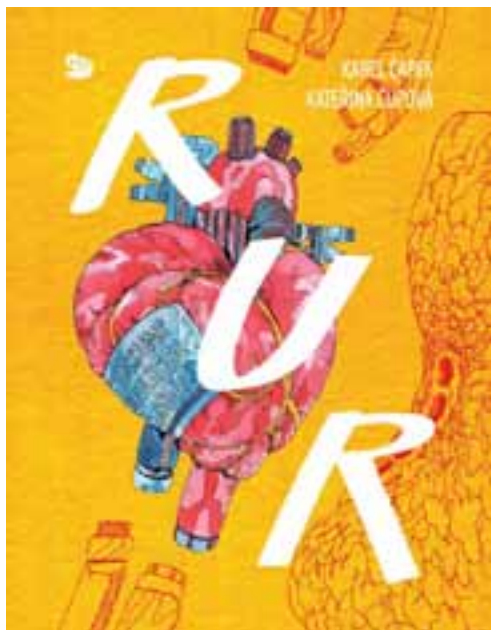
Is this a generational conflict, an issue characteristic of today's deeply divided society, or a clash between faith and rationality? After losing their husbands, mother Jarka and daughter Karolína have had to find ways of coping with the death of a loved one. Intelligent Karolína tends to rationalize everything, yet she often unexpectedly succumbs to anger and other strong affects. Her mother, who is

more attuned to emotion, strives to save Karolína from intellectual nihilism: in her view, the world can never be fully understood through reason only. An unhinged religious blogger who suddenly appears on the scene puts mother and daughter against each other. The mother thinks her daughter is losing her religion; the daughter thinks her mother is losing her mind. Both are fighting to save the other's soul.



**Marek Technik** (real name Marek Jančík) was born in Olomouc in 1982. In 1999, he realized that literature is the most complex means of representing the human experience. He is an ENTP personality, enjoys reading catalogues and creating lists, loves animals, and is a vegetarian. He has been a film and literature critic since 2010. *The Warning* is his prose debut. He lives in Prague.





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

**GOLDEN RIBBON AWARD (2021)**

### Press voices

“A wonderful adaptation of one of the famous sci-fi works of the 21st century. Robots, technology, machines.”

— kosmas



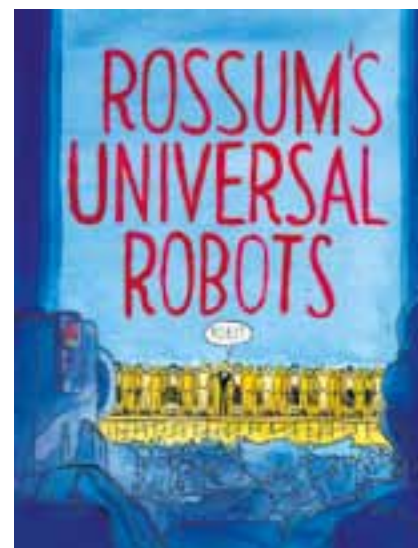
**Kateřina Čupová** (b. 1992, Ostrava) is a Czech animator and comic book artist, and a graduate from the renowned Department of Animation at the Tomáš Bafa University in Zlín. Many of her works have been published in magazines and comic anthologies. Her webcomic *The Author's Apprentice* was published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

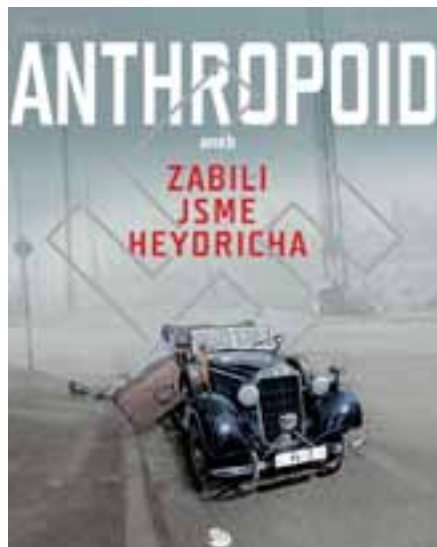
**Karel Čapek** (1890-1938) was a key figure of Czech literature in the interwar period as a prolific journalist, fiction writer, playwright, translator and critic. His best-known works are novels *The White Disease*, *Krakatit* and *War with the Newts*, and plays such as *R.U.R.*, *Pictures from the Insects' Life* and *The Mother*. Karel Čapek used his writing to reflect on the looming political threat.

## 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. Apropos, 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 several moral, ethical, and philosophical problems that pertain to human existence. He ponders

the very nature of humanity and 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 colour, lightness, and elegance, and bursting with her original perspective.





**The story of the paratroopers who assassinated Nazi tyrant Reinhard Heydrich**

### Press voices

"One of the most important milestones in the history of Czechoslovakia. A very well crafted graphic novel, clear, concise and, above all, comprehensible."

— kosmas



**Zdeněk Ležák** (b. 1974) is a Czech writer, journalist, a chief editor of magazines for kids and teenagers and a graduate of the Josef Škvorecký Literary Academy. He primarily writes for children and teenagers; his favourite subjects include history and modern technologies. He has published more than seventeen books, which have popularized the factual-historical comic book genre in the Czech scene. The author's website (in Czech) can be found at [www.zdeneklezak.cz](http://www.zdeneklezak.cz).



**Michal Kocián** (b. 1960) had an early passion for drawing and a keen interest in animated series; as a child, he was fascinated by Kája Saudek's work and French comic book artists. Having run his desktop publishing studio and advertising agency, he has dedicated himself to comic book and magazine publishing since 2005. He focuses on themes from history.

## Zdeněk Ležák, Michal Kocián (ill.) Anthropoid

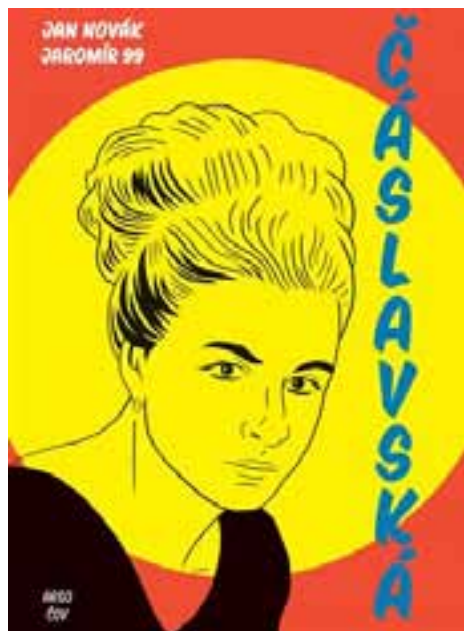
Seven Czechoslovak paratroopers from five different units died in the Saints Cyril and Methodius Cathedral, the main Orthodox church in Prague, on June 18, 1942. It marked the tragic end of Operation Anthropoid, one of the most significant actions of Czechoslovak resistance, whose objective was the assassination of Reichsprotektor Reinhard Heydrich. Although only two men carried out the assassination attempt itself, other para-

troopers helped prepare the operation; all these men met their shared fate in the cathedral's crypt.

This 100-page comic book follows all participating units of paratroopers from the moment of the jump until their heroic death. It describes the events with precision, aiming to bring this historic moment closer, especially to the young generation of readers.







The story of an extraordinary woman, the great Czech gymnast

### Press voices

"How rich life can be and what one can endure! What a story! But what story? It was life! It's much more colourful than just toil, sweat, a beam and a bowed head."

— goodreads

## Jan Novák and Jaromír 99 (ill.) Čáslavská

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 Olympic Games history. Still, she faced several setbacks in life that nearly brought her to her knees. Stronger was, her marriage was hell: Her husband was jealous of her fame, cheated on her constantly, and treated Čáslavská herself with aggression.

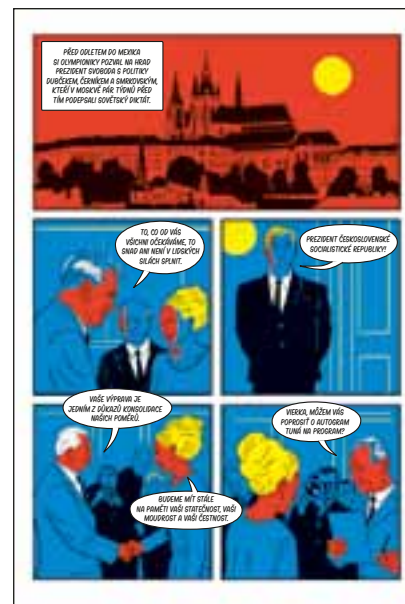
After the Soviet invasion of 1968, Čáslavská refused to withdraw her signature from the Two Thousand Words manifesto, which called for political reforms. Instead, the Olympic champion essentially opted to clean apartment buildings following the regime's punishment for dissent. And that is by no means the end of her story... Věra Čáslavská was a strong, loyal person who never gave up the fight against lies.



**Jan Novák** is a leading Czech-American writer, screenwriter, and playwright. He has won the Chicago Maroon's short story contest and the **Carl Sandburg Literary Award** from the Chicago Public Library Foundation.

**Jaromír 99** divides his time between the worlds of music and comics. He is a well-known musician and the artist behind the *Alois Nebel* (2003) trilogy. He also worked as a co-screenwriter and artist on its film adaptation (2011), awarded Best Animated Film by the European Film Academy. In addition, 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**, which was nominated for the prestigious **Eisner Award**.

Their graphic novels *Zátopek* and *So Far So Good* were translated into six languages. English translations are available.







**An adventurous,  
fantastical alternative  
history ride**

### Press voices

"First young adult novel by the well-known author! The great risky venture of two siblings in which they get to see people they've only read about in history books and places they've never been before."

mojeargo



**Petra Hůlová** (b. 1979) is a fiction writer and the recipient of several literary awards, including the Czechia's highest literary recognitions – the Magnesia Litera, the Josef Škvorecký Award and the Jiří Orten Award. She studied language, culture, and anthropology at universities in Prague, Ulan Bator and New York and was a Fulbright scholar in the USA. English translations of her works by Alex Zucker have won ALTA National Translation Award and PEN Translates Award. A total of ten novels and two plays of hers have been translated into more than ten languages. *Fox Eyes* (2021) is her latest book, first for children. She lives in Prague.

## Petra Hůlová, Nikkarin (ill.) *Fox Eyes*

*Fox Eyes* is a story about 13-year-old brother-and-sister twins Eda and Zuzka, who decide to change the course of history. In their bathroom, they discover a tunnel that leads from present-day Prague back to the time of the Soviet occupation in 1968. The two teens save the

life of their grandfather, whom they never had the chance to meet, and together they fly to Moscow to defend Czech freedom. Will they succeed? And if they do, what consequences will it have for their lives in the present?





A detective story told  
in the truly unusual  
form



**Šárka Ledenová, Hana Prokopcová,  
Petra Slabá (ill.)**

## The Sweet Scent of Crime in Paris

Mr Magnifixer – one rather rotund accountant – sets off for his dream holiday in France, not knowing that he is about to be part of a great crime investigation. On the train there, he meets Mr Armagnac. There's something odd about this, Mr Armagnac, though... What could it be? Ah! That's it – he has no nose! Yes, you read that right. One night, when Mr Armagnac was asleep, his unique, delicate nose was stolen, and no wonder: that nose is worth its weight in gold. Mr Ar-

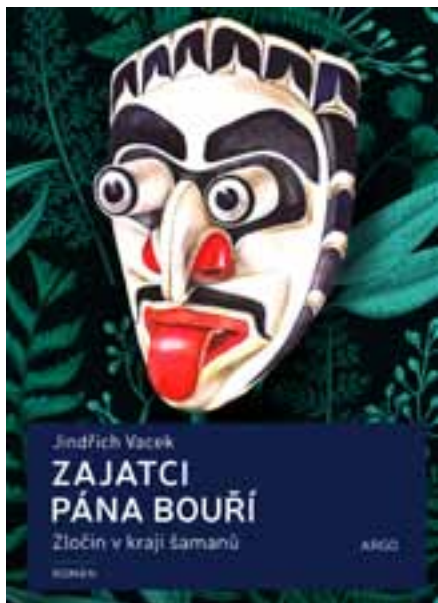
magnac happens to be the best perfumer in France! Mr Magnifixer has always dreamt of becoming a detective, takes up the case and starts after the first lead like a tracker dog. His investigation takes him and Mr Armagnac to all different corners of France, and a heap of funny and thrilling adventures ensues. And best of all – the readers themselves can shape the events! At the end of each chapter, they can decide where to take the story next...



**Šárka Ledenová** (b. 1987) and **Hana Prokopcová** (b. 1989) are both first-time publishing authors. Both hold an MA from the Josef Škvorecký Literary Academy; Šárka also has a BA in film direction and screenwriting and a BA in the Czech language for the deaf and hard of hearing. Illustrations by Petra Slabá.







**Adventures in the rich world of Indigenous life and mythology**

### Press voices

"A great informative read for young adults."

kosmas

## Jindřich Vacek, Barbora Dančová (ill.) Captured by the Tempest Master

When Bernard and his friends are shipwrecked, ending up on the coast of British Columbia, they find the body of a man from the Kwakiutl Indigenous people. Immediately accused of murder, they must solve the case to save themselves. Scenes from Indigenous mythology, which hold the key to the crime, are carved into the house's pillars where the

White captives are being held, yet they do not take notice. Instead, they keep wandering in a sort of labyrinth, where nothing is as it seems... Apart from the intriguing story, the author's deep knowledge of Indigenous life and his erudite afterword explaining the relevant period in North American history makes for a multi-layered narration.



**Jindřich Vacek's** (b.1955) alma mater is the Charles University in Prague. He taught Czech at Bucharest University for 12 years and has been a long-time editor at Argo Publishing House. A prolific translator from several languages, he has received the important Josef Jungmann Award for his translation from Yiddish. In addition, he has published the memoir *All My Wanderings* (2021). *Captured By the Tempest Master* is his fiction debut.





## SELECTED BACKLIST

Bušta, Pavel: Cajthaml David (ill.):  
*LoboTommy / Lobotomik*, 2019

Horáková, Pavla: *A Theory of Strangeness / Teorie podivnosti*, ten foreign editions, 2018

Kadlec, Vratislav: *The Boundary of the Woods / Hranice lesa*, 2019

Kadlečková, Vilma: *Mycelium series / Mycelium* – více dílů, 2013–2021

Límanová, Tereza: *Cheeky Lazy Useless / Drzá líná neschopná*, 2020

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

Pánek, Josef: *Love in the Time of Global Climate Change / Láska v době globálních klimatických změn*, ten foreign editions, 2017

Pech, Miroslav: *Father from Birth / Otec u porodu*, 2018

Pech, Miroslav: *Cobain's Disciples / Cobainovi žáci*, 2017

Szántó, Jakub: *From Isratine with Love / Z Izrastiny s láskou*, 2020

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

Štindl, Ondřej: *Until You Get Dizzy / Až se ti zatočí hlava*, 2020

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

Urban, Miloš: *Carlsbad / 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 / Mrtvé 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 / Hastrman*, green novel, Czechia's highest Literary honour – book of the year, 2002

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

Vácha, Dalibor: *M + B + M / M + B + M*, 2020

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



## 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

