



Argo Publishers

Rights List

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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.

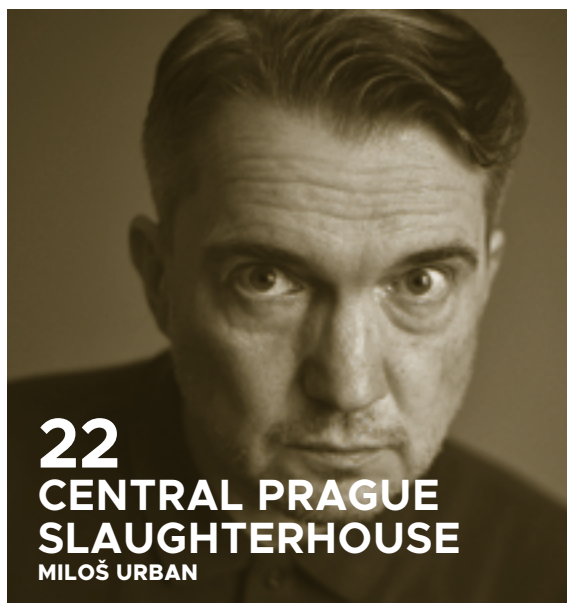
We publish several series of non-fiction books, ranging from history to humanities to astronomy and physics, with authors including **Madeleine Albright, Michelle Obama, Niall Ferguson, E. H. Gombrich, Jacques Le Goff, Naomi Klein** or **Stephen Hawking**. A substantial part of our catalogue is created 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**).



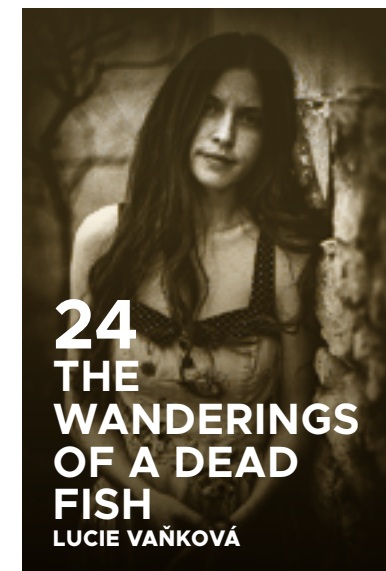
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Original novel, genre-crossing and bubbling with ideas

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 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 (2021)

Press voices

„And the language – the author seems to have conquered it completely. She writes with precision, with a slightly academic detachment, and this distance allows her to construct refined paragraphs, to put her punchy words in the right place, which further emphasizes the author's subtle wit.

It's as if you were reading a novel by an established British writer, intelligent and gifted with a distinguished sense of humor.“

— *Deník N*



The story of a family in Sudetenland

Press voices

"First of all, *A House Divided* (...) is a totally captivating read, a grand family novel. If you were to read only one new Czech book, make it Alice Horácková's *A House Divided*."

— Vogue

Alice Horácková A House Divided

This novel is about poachers and free-spirited women, owners of fabric mills and lady Spiritists in a mountain village in the Sudetenland of the first half of the twentieth century. Czechs and Germans share beds in mixed marriages and argue about which nationality to declare in the census, who will build a new school first, and who killed a dog named Masaryk. Secret romances, army desertions, casual wrongs and name changes ultimately end up costing real lives. Inspired by the history of her own family, by rosy memo-

ries and blue memoirs, photographs, old newspapers and archival finds, the author weaves a grand family saga. Alternating between male and female voices and between the fabulous and the documentary, she fully recreates the world that her own relatives have lost. Some of her kin were expelled from Czechoslovakia at the end of the war while others stayed. One of her uncles even befriended Reinhard Heydrich and "Aryanized" a Jewish textile factory.



THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS
LITERARY AWARD – BEST
FICTION DEBUT (2014)

Alice Horácková (b. 1980) is an alumna of Charles University's Faculty of Social Sciences. Her first book *Vladimíra Čerepková* (Argo, 2014), a literary biography of a forgotten Beat poetess, gathered a nomination for the **Josef Škvorecký Award** and the **2014 Magnesia Litera for Discovery of the Year**. She followed it up with a book of interviews with siblings of famous Czechs called *7x in a Supporting Role* (2016). Her third book was a confessional novel, *Unopened Letters* (2018), inspired by the true story of a widow of a famous, and very troubled artist.



A young urban intellectual's search for deeper meaning in life

Press voices

"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."

aktuálně.cz

Pavla Horáková

A Theory of Strangeness

At first glance, Ada Sabova may seem like a stereotypical urbanite. Disillusioned with relationships, the predictability of her life, and, most of all, her work at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Human Studies, Ada seeks amusement in noticing unusual, apparently coincidental details around her. She finds that these

occurrences actually seem to follow certain patterns, coalescing in what she privately dubs "a theory of strangeness". Ada's growing obsession with locating a coworker's missing son pushes her on a new path. Her neat, predictable life takes an unexpected turn.



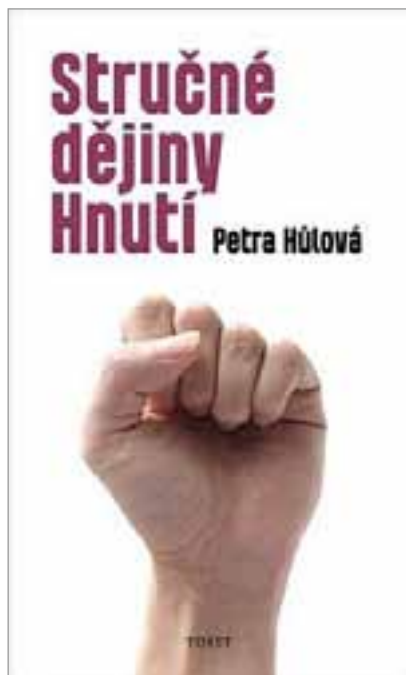
THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY AWARD – BEST FICTION (2019)

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 the bestselling novel *Johana* (2018) (along with Aleina Scheinostová and Zuzana Dostálová), and it was awarded Czechia's highest recognition. **Rights** to her winning novel have been **sold to 12 countries so far**. The latest book, *In the Heart of Europe* (2021), deals with the history of the Czech lands and Austria and the appealing story of two women.

www.argo.cz/foreign-rights | veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz

Teorie podivnosti | October 2018 | 360 pages | English summary, English sample, German sample, French sample | **Rights to sold to:** Poland (Stara szkola), Italy (Miraggi Edizioni), Bulgaria (Ergo), Macedonia (Makedonika Litera), Egypt (Al Kotob Khan), Spain

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



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

Press voices

“Hůlová’s novel dismantles the patriarchy and replaces it with a terrifying alternative.”

— *Kirkus Reviews*

“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 emphasises that women should be valued for their inner qualities, spirit and character rather than their physical attributes. Men have been forbidden to be attracted to women based on their bodies. Those who continue with unreformed attitudes submit to internment and re-education. However, The Movement struggles to reform women and their ‘old attitudes’.

The Movement’s historian is an unapologetic guard at one of the re-education institutions. She describes The Movement’s beginnings, her own journey, the challenges faced by all and the stakes of the programme. She believes The Movement is nearing its final victory – universal acceptance.

**Unapologetic, nuanced, terrifying.
Petra Hůlová at her best!**



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

Petra Hůlová (b. 1979)) provocative novels, plays, and screenplays have won numerous awards, including the ALTA National Translation Award for Alex Zucker’s translation of her debut novel, **All This Belongs to Me**, and she is a regular commentator on current events for the Czech press. She studied language, culture, and anthropology at universities in Prague, Ulan Bator, and New York and was a **Fulbright scholar** in the USA. Her eight novels and three plays have been translated into thirteen languages. Her novels are often narrated in the first person and range from intimate confessions to buoyant epic sagas. The Movement has been **sold to 7 countries so far**.

www.argo.cz/foreign-rights | veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz

Stručné dějiny Hnutí | April 2018 | 184 pages | English translation, English sample, German sample, French sample | **Rights sold to:** Worldeditions (USA), Afera (Poland),

Slovenia (Cankarjeva založba), Romania (Curtea Veche), Italy (Atmosphere libri), Hungary (Metropolis Media), Spain (Editorial Funambulista)



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

Press voices

“Pánek’s writing shows a kinship with writers such as Josef Škvorecký, particularly in the portrayal of life “elsewhere,” departed from the Czech environment.”

— *Visegrad Insight*

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 fallacies of racism, the unpredictable paths of the heart and how humans fear change while the greatest transformation of all is occurring around us. The plot is straightforward: the protagonist, Tomáš, travels to attend a sci-

entific conference in Bangalore. Recently divorced, he struggles doubly to work with others for the sake of research in an increasingly globalised world. A chance encounter with an attractive Indian participant at the conference leads to a night of lush intellectual passion.

Láska v době globálních klimatických změn | February 2017 | 160 pages | English synopsis, English sample, French sample, German sample | **Rights to Love in the Time of Global Climate Change sold to:** Poland (Stara szkola), Bulgaria (Perseus), Italy (Keller editore),



Josef Pánek (b. 1966) received his master’s 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 12 countries**. His latest book *To Them. I am God*, takes place in Bergen, Norway – where loneliness and isolation get a whole new layer of meaning.

THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY AWARD – BEST FICTION DEBUT (2018)

Press voices

“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*

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Croatia (Umjetnička organizacija Artikulacije), Egypt (Al Arabi), France (Éditions Denoël), Germany (KLAK Verlag), Serbia (Akademska Knjiga), Romania (Editura Casa Cartii de Stiinta), Netherlands (Uitgeverij Nobelman), Greece (Eurasia), Hungary (Metropolis Media)



A novel inspired by the fate of Kafka's fiancée

Press voices

"This book truly stands out from the current Czech prose production. The author develops some of her central themes. Her narrative is, as in her previous books, in close connection with history."

— ČT art

Magdaléna Platzová Felice Bauer

Who was Felice, a woman known to generations of Kafka fans only as a lover of meaty dishes, heavy furniture, and precise watches?

Who was the woman hiding behind the poised nature and hearty laughter in the accounts? And what was the reach of Kafka's shadow in her life? Felice has never been deemed worthy of independent study by literary scholars, and little is known about her life after her separation from the Prague writer. She got married, had two children, and emigrated to

America. For forty years, she kept the letters of the man who left her.

This book contains the lives of other people who were close to Kafka and whose fates are linked to the ruins of pre-war Europe, like Greta Bloch, Ernst Weiss, Max Brod, and Salomon Shocken. Salomon is quoted in the book saying, "If only we knew then what fate had in store for us, and how precious what we were experiencing was, we would have appreciated it more. All we can do now is fish for the pieces of a sunken ship."



Magdaléna Platzová (b. 1972) is the author of the novels *The Return of the Girlfriend* (2004), *Aaron's Leap* (2014), *The Anarchist* (2013), *The Other Side of Silence* (2018), and the short story collections *Salt, Sheep and Stones* (2003), and *The Recycled Man* (2008). She has also written two children's books. Platzová grew up in Prague, went to school in the United States and England, and earned a master's degree in Philosophy from Charles University in Prague. She worked as an actress and translator and later as an editor and journalist. From 2009 to 2012, she lived in New York, where she **taught a course on Franz Kafka at New York University**. She currently lives in Lyon with her husband and three children.



A modern ballad about human destiny and the animal in each of us

Press voices

“Through Pins or Needles is an awe-inspiring debut novel. It is one of the most original additions to Czech prose in recent times, and undoubtedly one of the most remarkable pieces of prose of the year.”

Deník N

Zuzana Říhová Through Pins Or Needles

Husband and wife Bohumil and Bohumila and 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 culminate 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 one of the Books of the Year in 2018 by a Czech literary web magazine.

NOMINATED FOR THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY AWARD – BEST FICTION DEBUT (2022)



An exploration of the psychology of one mother-daughter relationship

Press voices

“Marek Technik has written a hysterical book in the context of contemporary Czech literature. A rare and courageous example of hysterical realism. (...) We follow the wild ride along the thought paths of two disparate characters, as disparate as only a mother and daughter can be.”

—— Ivana Myšková, writer and journalist

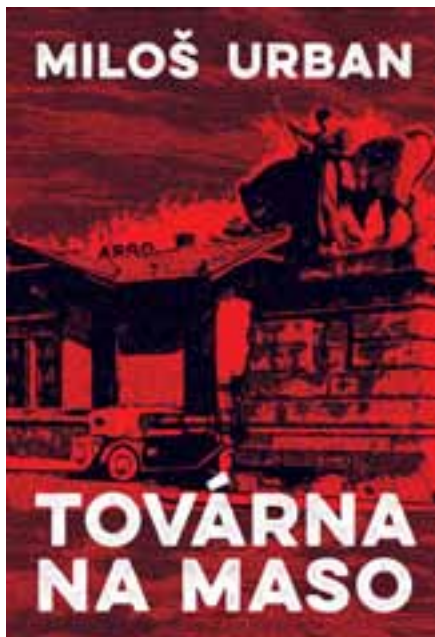
Marek Technik The Warning

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, 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 acts as the catalyst in a lab experiment, and the agents in the compound start reacting wildly. The mother thinks her daughter is losing her religion; the daughter thinks her mother is losing her mind, and both are fighting to save the other's souls.



Marek Technik 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 historical novel set during the First Republic in Prague's Holešovice-Bubny district

Press voices

"Urban is able to materialize the spirit of the time he tells about; he captivates with thoughtful details and unusual realities and always comes up with something new and current."

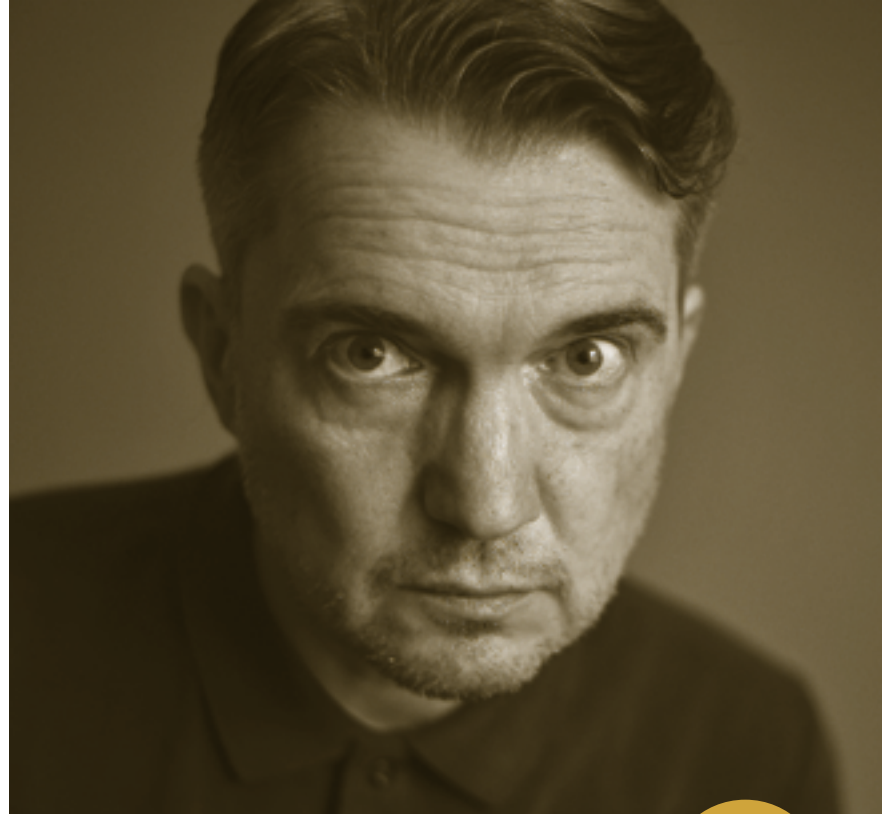
— databazeknih.cz

Miloš Urban

Central Prague Slaughterhouse

Leon Silkysbooth is as eccentric as the name he bears, yet he tries to live solely for his job and family. This engineer who stood at the birth of the neon illumination of Prague in the 1920s lets his creativity and diligence lure him to another profession: he is to improve the social image of the Central Prague Slaughterhouse. The largest slaughterhouse in Central Europe is untouchable, and its reputation is regularly cleansed and bleached by Le-

on's charm and wit. When a beautiful and disturbing woman arrives and becomes the slaughterhouse's newest employee, there is clearly something off about her. Leon decides to get to the bottom of it, and his life is suddenly turned upside down. As if it weren't bad enough that the slaughterhouse is a place to trade meat, now the dirty competition is trying to slither their way in, and human bones are discovered at the Maniny rendering plant.



THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY AWARD – BEST FICTION (2002)

Miloš Urban (b. 1967) is one of Czechia's most translated writers and has published a total of 16 books, including novels, novellas and short stories. The novels *Santini's Language* and *Water-Goblin* have been made into films. The adaptation of *Water-Goblin* was directed by Ondřej Havelka and entered cinemas in the spring of 2018; the book itself won Czechia's prestigious Magnesia Litera (2012) for its meditations on sacrifice in the face of ecological challenges. Urban's book *The Seven Churches* (1998), brimming with Gothic-styled murder and melancholy in the middle of old Prague, has sold tens of thousands of copies and was translated into twenty languages. Urban publishes a novel almost every year, each exploring new themes. He combines suspense with literary prowess.



A surreal novel filled with humor and references to Milan Kundera

Lucie Vaňková

The Wanderings of a Dead Fish

Ishtvan Sturgeon was born one September afternoon on Tram Number Seventeen from a poorly edited newspaper article – his father is a blatant lie and his mother lousy journalism. All he has is a lucky fish scale and proof that he is the intellectual progeny of one Methodius H., who claims this is all some sort of a mistake. Ishtvan must quickly learn how to navigate the hectic postmodern world while figuring out where he came from and who he is.

Convinced that he is the only one of his kind, he finds a spark of hope when he reads Kundera's *Immortality* and learns about the character of Agnes, born from the single gesture of an elderly lady by a pool. Ishtvan knows he must find Agnes.

But what if not even she can answer his questions? And why, when looking in the mirror, can't Ishtvan shake the impression that he looks like a slightly different person every morning?



Lucie Vaňková studied Journalism at Charles University and Scriptwriting and Dramaturgy at FAMU. She has worked as a cleaner, teahouse attendant, and creative mind in a digital agency. Currently, she makes living writing scripts for non-commercial films and commercial TV shows. She was born and raised in Prague, so she knows nothing about the real world. She has two cats and a small horse. She is married and has a son named Antonín.



A series of experiences in the Moravian countryside that will all make burst out laughing

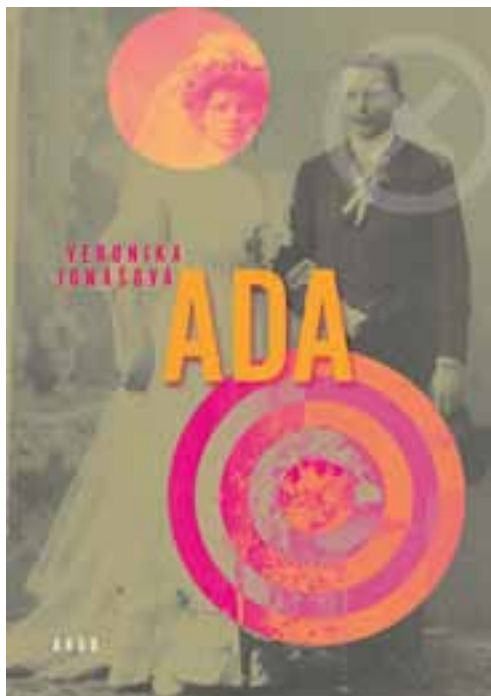
Eva Grestenbergerová In the Wild Country

Poor mental health forces doctoral student Malvína Velehorská to put her studies at Oxford on hold and return home to northern Moravia. What awaits her there is a very peculiar family – her father is a politician, her mother an autistic fan of Karel Gott, her grandparents morbidly austere Catholics, and her cousin an occasional alcoholic. Motifs involving local politics, folk festivities from feasts to hockey, driving lessons and cohabiting with children put Malvína at the cent-

er of bizarrely comic situations. As a social psychologist, she sees her family as a promising subject for anthropological study, but the role of a Moravian villager doesn't suit her too well. The book offers no moral lessons, but you might learn how to drink slivovitz like a tough guy, and find out whether agricultural engineers are real engineers, why politicians wear toilet paper under their jackets, and that ferret owners are frigid people.



Eva Grestenbergerová (*1993) has a degree in Psychology and Zootechnics. For eight years, she devoted her life to the sport. Her first literary achievement was the dystopian novel *Evil is Masculine*, followed by the non-fiction book *Loving Animals to Death*, dealing with the psychology of carnism and veganism. She also co-authored the animal rights publication *Unfreedom*. Apart from literature, animals are a big interest of hers. Although she has always flirted with satire, *In the Wild Country* is her first purely humorous piece of writing.



The reality of the infamous internment camp in the eyes of a young journalist

Veronika Jonášová

Ada

Anastázie is a young journalist who is far from happy. Her boyfriend just left her, and she has been humiliated at work. She needs to figure herself out, so she decides to visit her grandmother in the city of Olomouc. Unfortunately, she knows little about her journey into a past much more distant than her childhood. She discovers how important it is to find her roots if she wants to stand on solid ground.

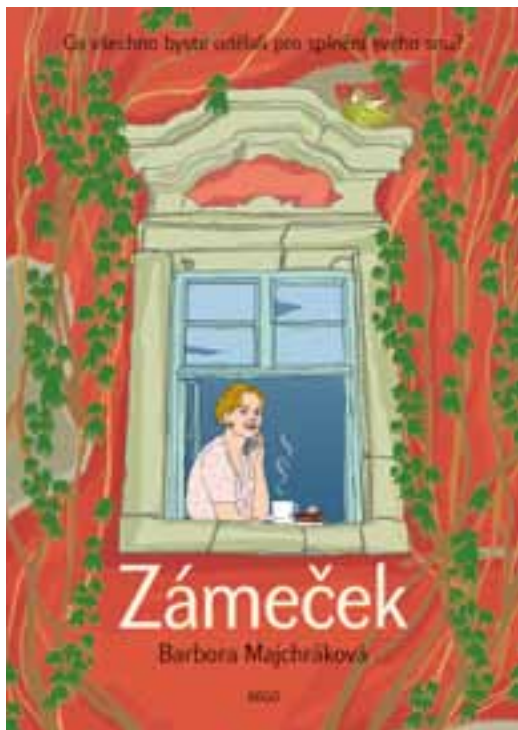
The novel takes inspiration from the fate of Heda Müller, the author's German great-great-grandmother, whose fam-

ily spent May of 1945 in the horrific, infamous internment camp for Germans in Nové Hodolany nicknamed Hodolany Hell.

The story, which gradually unfolds before the astonished eyes of Anastázie, previously unaware of this reality, is interspersed with contemporary documents: the memories of displaced Germans from Olomouc, the experiences of those interned, and the stories of the author's grandmother. This reality is an inseparable part of our history, and we must remember it.



Veronika Jonášová (b. 1982) is a journalist. She studied Journalism and Media Studies at Charles University in Prague and Sciences Po in Paris. She worked for ten years as a TV reporter and presenter. She is currently a freelance writer for Czech media and film documentaries for Czech Television. In 2019, she moved to Berlin for the second time in her life. In addition, she has written two books about the city: *The Story of Berlin* and *The Wall Between Us*.



**A humorous novel
that encourages
women to pursue
their dreams**

Barbora Majchráková Little Castle

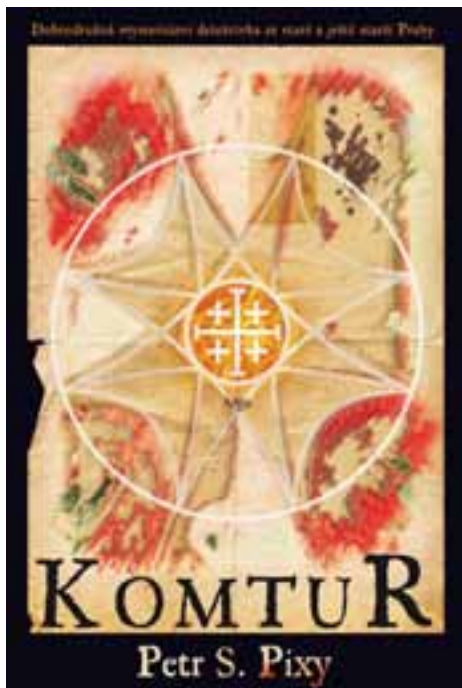
Would you give up your job? Money? Housing? A promising relationship with a bottle of wine? How far would you go? The heroine does all of the above and much more to achieve her fantasy of owning a castle. With a pastry shop inside! Doesn't it sound romantic? The only problem is that the castle – unlike those

in romance novel – has a leaky roof, bulging walls, and no windows. Nevertheless, Melusine walks its hallways from time to time. Moreover, the tower looks like it is about to collapse.

To make her dream come true, the heroine has one tiny little thing left to do – fix the castle!



Barbora Majchráková (b. 1985) is an alumnus of Charles University's Faculty of Law in Prague and practices law and quality management. She lives in a small town in South Bohemia and honed her writing skills since childhood. Her latest manuscript, *Little Castle*, is about fixing a small castle on the verge of ruin and not giving up even when the situation seems hopeless. In this piece of writing, three completely different characters gradually come together to save the dilapidated castle.



Prague, 1878. A gang of crooks plans to carry out the heist of the century

Petr S. Pixy

The Commander

When con artists meet, they can either con each other or join forces for a spectacular operation. In the thriving Prague of 1878, two duos manage both. Klára is a charming young lady raised in the streets of an old Jewish town, while the Bohemian Šimon hails from a circus. They are both great actors, masters of disguise and, above all, talented con artists. Following one of their fabulous con jobs, they meet Eda and Michal, old hands in

the business and thieves extraordinaire, who seek partners for a challenging and unusual commission from a mysterious, elite client. As they commence their plan to steal the crown jewels, centuries-old secrets rise to the surface. The con artists find themselves chasing the greatest gold treasure in the history of the country, uncovering the double lives of looming historical figures – and ultimately, something greater – at the risk of their own lives.



Petr Staníček, aka **Petr S. Pixy** (*1968), studied Mathematics but subsequently decided to devote himself to design and programming. He kept one of the first blogs in the country under the pen name Pixy, has written columns for the internet magazines weekly, and has penned several books. His novel *Commander* is his first work of fiction. Petr loves the Czech language and classical poetic forms.



Political murder-for-hire or a serial killer has risen from the dead?

Press voices

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

— Kosmas

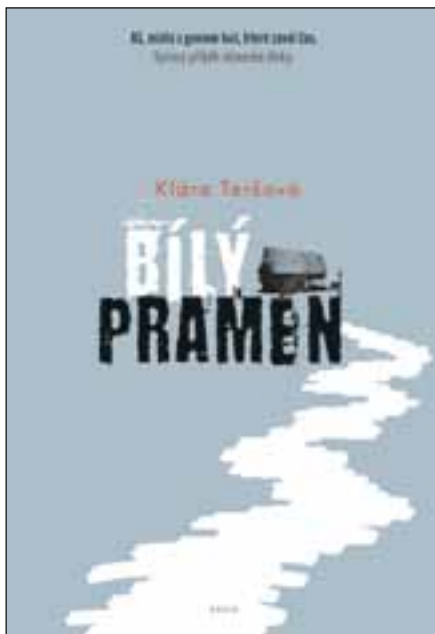


František Šmehlík The Beast

The minister of the interior verbally assaults a young journalist who has been writing about his alleged connection to the underworld. The threat-filled conflict is caught on camera, sparking a major media scandal. A few days later, the journalist and his girlfriend are murdered. All signs point to a contract killing, but the execution of the latter's murder carries a resemblance to a series of unsolved

murders committed in the Šumperk region seven years earlier. Chief investigator Laura Ara and her colleagues (including Václav Cesta, whom readers will know from the crime novel *Hear the Stags Singing*) wade through a morass of political mafia, godfathers, and lobbyists with links to foreign criminal gangs. Was the killer's motive as simple as to silence an inconvenient journalist?

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.



**A disturbing testimony
of a time and people we
would rather forget**

Press voices

"A great novel about a subject that we
avoid and yet is part of our history."

————— *Databáze knih*

Klára Teršová The White Spring

Aš: the westernmost town in the country was once the crown jewel of the Sudetenland, where the textile industry and trade flourished. A town that once housed countless shops, restaurants, and cafés. This story of a time when everything began crumbling down begins in 1915 and ends with the expulsion of Germans from Czechoslovakia. Politics, however, loom in the background of this work of literature.

Hedvika, the protagonist, is both detached and connected, indifferent and

invested, rebellious and humble. She is confronted with alienation and love – the kind of love you read about in romance novels but presented here without embellishments.

The *White Spring* is a tribute to Aš, whose former glory is now long forgotten... Yet the author's imaginative portrayal depicts Aš as a rich and beautiful town with enormous potential. That is why she writes about it and why she lives there.



Klára Teršová was born in Aš in 1989. She majored in Political Science at the University of Hradec Králové and Economics at the Czech University of Life Sciences. She spent two semesters in Salamanca and Granada in Spain and worked as an intern in Brussels. After graduating, she took a job in public administration and dreamed of becoming a diplomat in a Hispanic country. She started writing at an early age for school newspapers and magazines and pleasure. She found inspiration for *The White Spring* in the city's past and present, its dilapidation and beautiful nature. The author currently runs her café in the village of Vernéřov near Aš. She blogs about baking, the Aš region, and life at the edge of the world.



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

Press voices

“Even though the reader knows how it will end, he devours every page until the inevitable end. It is a story of courage, not only of the assassins themselves, but also of those neglected “ordinary” people who helped them even at the cost of their own lives.”

— *Databáze knih*

Dalibor Vácha

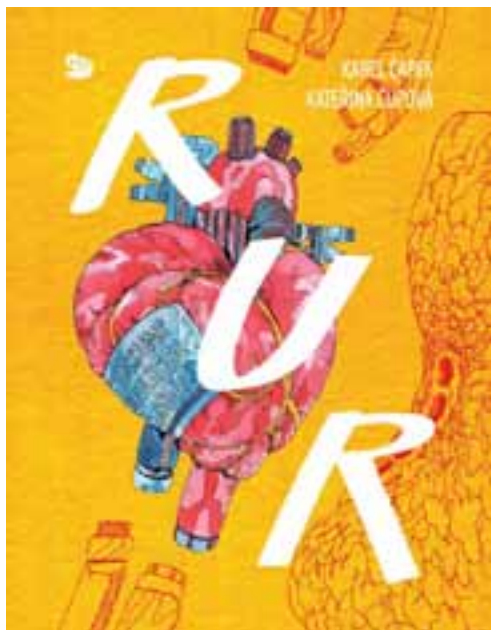
Death in the Choir Loft

The assassination of the acting Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich is considered one of the most courageous acts in the context of the Czechoslovak resistance and in the context of World War II. The novel *Death in the Choir Loft* depicts the preparations for the assassination of the Nazi butcher, the hell that was unleashed after the execution, and the apocalyptic final battle at the Cathedral of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Prague. The book also touches upon the claustrophobic at-

mosphere of the time caused by German repression and remembers the immense bravery of all those who helped the paratroopers and, more often than not, paid for it with their lives the lives of their families. The central figure of the book is Lieutenant Adolf Opálka, a brave man and the commander of the Czechoslovak paratroopers, who has always stood in the shadow of the heroes Gabčík and Kubiš as well as the traitor Karel Čurda – until now.



Dalibor Vácha (b. 1980) is a Czech historian and author of fourteen best-selling novels. His prose is mainly dedicated to the great wars of the 20th century and individual human destinies within them. In addition, he focuses primarily on the history of daily life in the Czechoslovak Legions and the interwar period. However, he does not forget the fantastic and has written a post-apocalyptic novel.



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



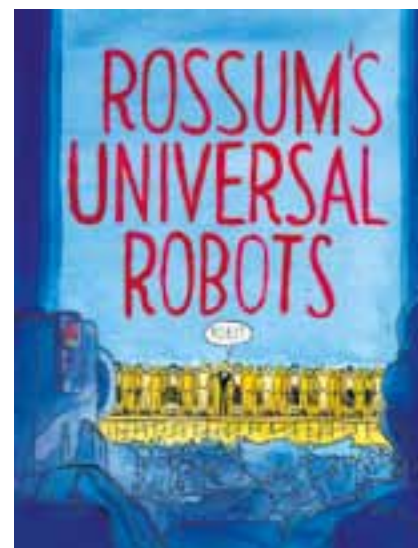
Kateřina Čupová (b. 1992, Ostrava) is a Czech animator and comic book artist, and a graduate from the renowned Department of Animation at the Tomáš Bata University in Zlín. Many of her works have been published in magazines and comic anthologies. Her webcomic *The Author's Apprentice* was published in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





**A family chronicle and
a harsh picture of the
countryside**

Petra Braunová

Ibka

A harsh picture of the countryside and the urban periphery of the last third of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century. The main character, the author herself, is sent by her parents to the Pošumaví region for the summer. There, she has a hard time getting along with her grandmother, who mysteriously ignores her. To the sensitive Prague child, the days seem endless and the world around her strange: the village is marked by its littleness and rejection of otherness. Step

by step, the main character figures out the 'why' of it all, uncovering family secrets, old wrongs, the root causes of tensions in the family, and the reason her beloved father likes to break out in fits of desperate rage. She decides to rebuild an old school building and transform it into a meeting place for local children. Even at the cost of hurt feelings and disappointment, Petra forges her way through life, breaking free from the family rut and the confines of social conventions.



Petra Braunová (b. 1967 in Prague) is an established, genre-versatile author. She writes books for beginner readers, children in primary and secondary school as well as adults. Her repertoire of genres consists of real-life stories, psychological probes into the inner workings of characters and interpersonal relationships, adventure stories, science fiction and fantasy pieces, psychological thrillers, and biographical and popular science books. The author's young adult novel *Czech Maid, or I Was an Au Pair*, was awarded the Czech Golden Ribbon award.



What good is a magic porridge pot in this day and age?

Press voices

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

kosmas

Kateřina Čupová The Porridgeman

Víťa has a clear idea: he will use it to become a superhero and fight crime as Porridgeman! However, the sleepy Czech village he lives in is all out of crime, and he and his two friends begin to despair. However, there might be more to the vil-

lage than it seems. A secret has been lurking beneath the surface for years—one that surpasses all ordinary crime. For children and adults alike, this new comic by Kateřina Čupová is one to feast on, whether or not you like porridge.



Kateřina Čupová (b. 1992, Ostrava) is a Czech animator and comic book artist and a graduate of the renowned Department of Animation at the Tomáš Baťa 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 the **Golden Ribbon Award** (Best graphic novel of the year) for her **R.U.R.** comic book adaptation. Her eye-catching, cartoon-like style is firmly rooted in decades of prized Czech animation.

GOLDEN RIBBON AWARD – BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL OF THE YEAR (2020)





**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* 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?





An adventurous, thrilling, and dangerous journey into the mystery of a meteorite



Veronika Valentová

The Mušlovka Meteorite

Do you know where to find Prague's Mušlovka quarry? Because that is where Tom, Matouš and Bětka are searching for fossils. Now, if they found a dinosaur bone, that would be a discovery for the books! What they do end up finding is miles away from a prehistoric skeleton: a strange black egg-shaped rock that made its way to the quarry from a distant part of the universe. What follows leaves the three friends astounded:

anyone who carries the rock suddenly becomes incredibly lucky. No more waiting for the bus or the tram, they always come right on cue. No more bad grades – with the stone, the children are able to solve even the most complicated math problems. But everything comes at a price. Whoever possesses the stone loses all their physical strength and becomes paranoid, suspecting everyone of wanting to steal the miraculous meteorite.



Veronika Valentová

(born in 1974 in Prague) studied French at Charles University's Faculty of Arts and currently works in Brussels as a translator for the European Economic and Social Committee. She also writes books: she has published three novels to date. Aside from that, she doubles as a songwriter, writing lyrics in French for Belgian chansonnier Yves Fournau.



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

Čupová, Kateřina (ill.), Čapek Karel: *R.U.R.* / *R.U.R.*, graphic novel, 2020

Horáková, Pavla: *In the Heart of Europe* / *Srdce Evropy*, 2021

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: *Čáslavská* / *Čáslavská*, graphic novel, 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

Palán, Lukáš: *Crude Shape* / *Surový tvar*, 2021

Sagitaris, Petr: *Trujkunt*, three series, 2020–2022

Šmehlík, František: *Hear the Stags Singing* / *Slyšet jeleny zpívat*, 2021

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



