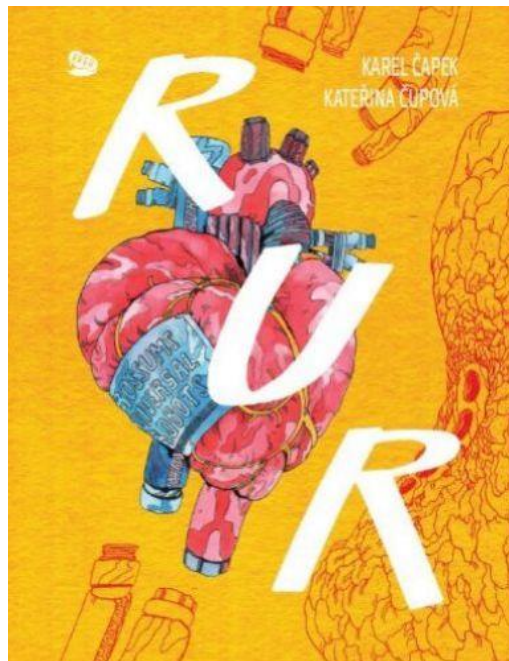




**BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL OF THE YEAR
(GOLDEN RIBBON AWARD)**



R.U.R.

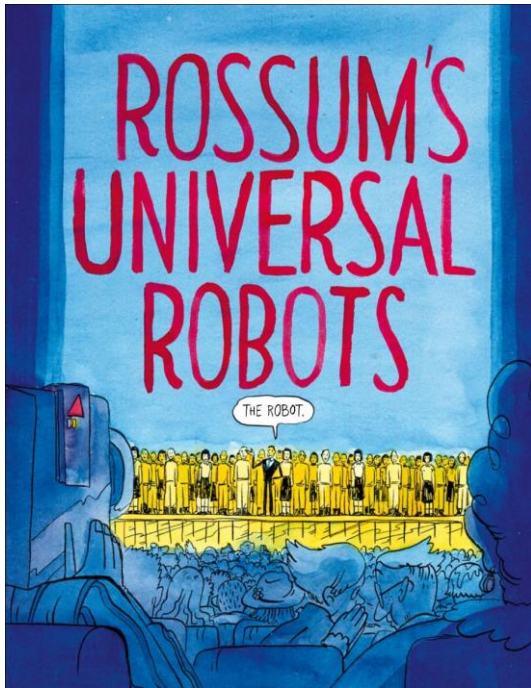
A TIMELESS COMMENTARY ON THE NATURE OF HUMAN
EXISTENCE – AND OUR FUTURE

by **Kateřina Čupová**

November 2020, 256 pages

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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 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**.

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

[MORE ABOUT THE BOOK](#)

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 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 was also nominated for her *R.U.R* this year'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. Among 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. He himself did not live to see World War II, though his brother was eventually murdered in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

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