

# Argo Publishers

Rights List

autumn 2023 / winter 2024

**Argo** is a major Czech publisher, renowned for its vast list of literary fiction, nonfiction 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 time-less 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.

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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**).

#### **Argo Publishers**

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#### **Foreign rights (sales)**

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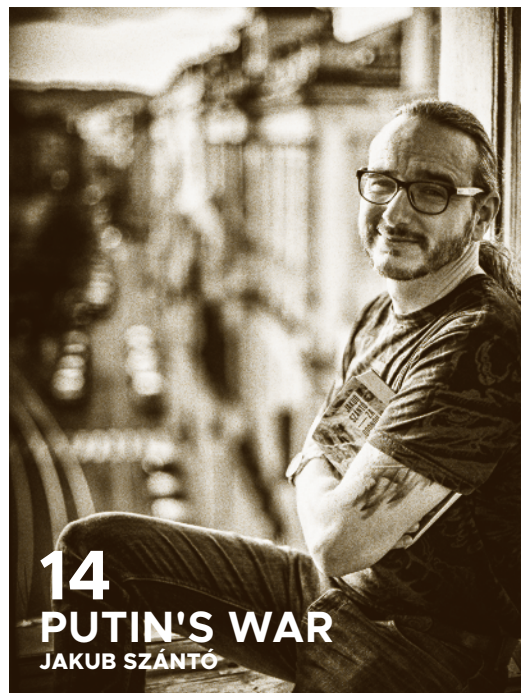
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Photographs © Jan Křikava, Richard Klíčník

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Can a woman wake up one day and say #MeToo twenty years later?

### Press voices

“The heroine's confession – an ageing intellectual, mother of two children and lover of many men – is harsh, bruising and fierce. And so it reads.”

— *Studies scholar*

## Petra Hůlová Trump Card

Entering her fifties, Sylvie Novak looks back on her successful career as a partisan writer and reflects on her complicated personal life. She revisits memories of an initiatory relationship with an older writer, reevaluating what happened long ago. And then there is the present: touring with her new book of feminist essays, dealing with the signs of ageing, and fighting the Invisible Wom-

an Syndrome, all of which Sylvie does in her own way. But on top of everything, Sylvie's daughter Judita, has no scruples about standing up to her mother, and eventually plays the ultimate card against her.

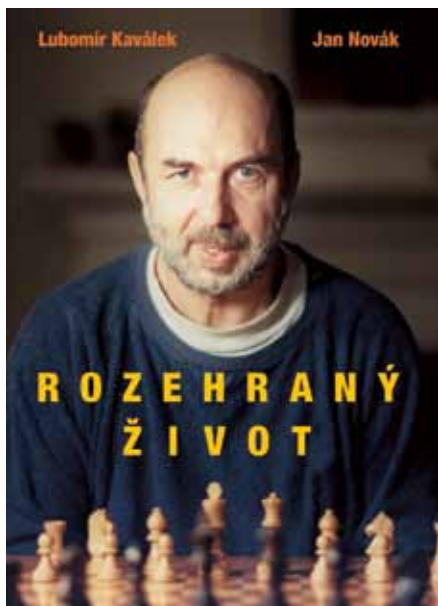
Against a backdrop of stereotypes, generational clashes, and various forms of social activism, we become spectators of a struggle.



foto © Richard Klíčník

WINNER OF CZECHIA'S TOP LITERARY AWARD (2003)

**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 languages, 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**. Her fourth novel, *Plastic Three-bedroom* (2006), won the **Jiří Orten Prize** for the best work of prose or poetry by an author under thirty; **Alex Zucker's** English Translation won the **PEN Translates Award**. Hůlová's fifth novel, *Taiga Station* (2008) won the **Josef Škvorecký Prize**. In total, her ten novels and two plays of hers have been translated into more than ten languages. *Fox Eyes* is her first children's book. *Trump Card* (2023), an extraordinary novel about culture wars in our everyday life, is her latest novel. She lives in Prague.



The story of one of the greatest Czech chess players of all time

## Jan Novák, Lubomír Kaválek

# Middlegame

Lubomír Kaválek was one of the most important Czech chess players of all time – his memoirs offer a fascinating insight into his life. Kaválek began his auspicious chess career in Czechoslovakia, achieving international grandmaster status, and moved to the USA after the Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968, where his career continued to rise. He became a three-time US champion, represented his new homeland at international tournaments and chess Olympiads, and entered the world's top ten in the mid-1970s. In 1972, as Bobby Fischer's runner-up, he took

part in "The Game of the Century", a major Cold War match in which an eccentric American famously defeated the reigning world champion, the USSR's Boris Spassky.

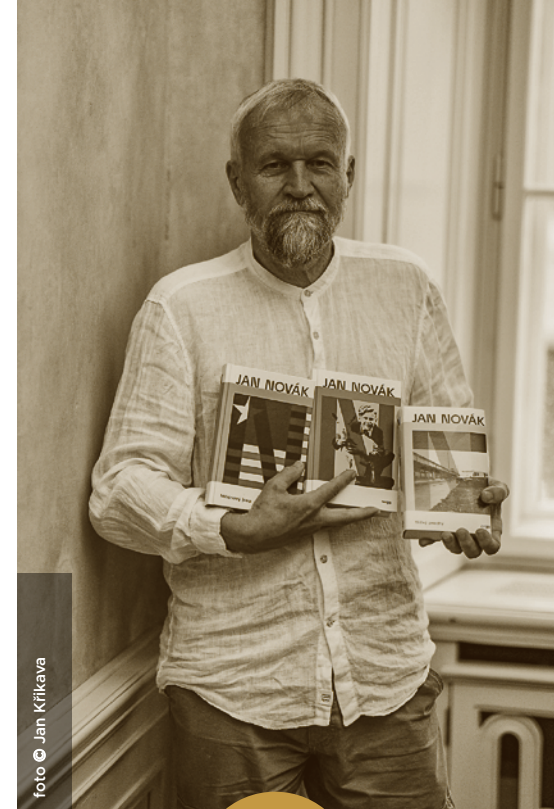
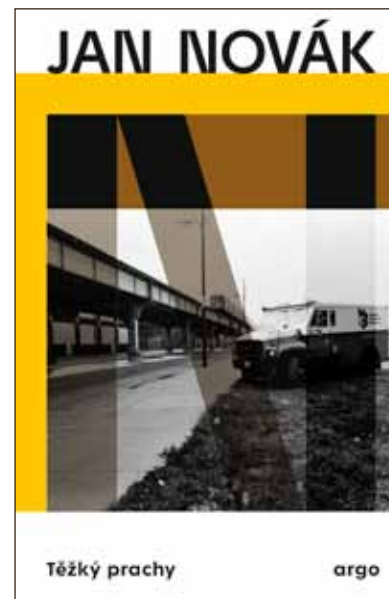
Kaválek tells his story in a very engaging and humorous way, while being considerate of readers who may not know the rules of chess. He avoids lengthy analysis of chess games, but manages to convey the excitement of chess battles to all. The memoirs were prepared for publication by Jan Novák, a long-time friend of Lubomír Kaválek.



foto © Jan Kříkava

**CARL SANDBURG AWARD (1985)**  
**FRIENDS OF LITERATURE AWARD (1985)**  
**MAGNESIA LITERA AWARD (2004)**  
**JOSEF ŠKVORECKÝ AWARD (2007)**

**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 and Berlin. He gained recognition for his first novel *The Wyllis 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 *Turnaround* (1994), which was translated into 22 languages, while his "true novel" *So Far So Good* (2004, 2018) was awarded **the Magnesia Litera**, the greatest literary prize in Czechia. Novák also collaborated with Jaromír 99 on two graphic novels, *Zátopek* (2016) and *So Far So Good* (2018), which have been translated into six languages. Last year Argo has published his three partly autobiographical novels *The Wyllis Dream Kit*, *Grandpa* and *Underpaid, but Armed*.



### Three partly autobiographical novels by a leading Czech writer and documentary maker

**THE WYLLIS DREAM KIT** is the story of a small-town Czech family, of a father who compensates for his status as an outsider – determined by both political circumstances and personal characteristics – with visions of wealth and illusions of a carefree life in the USA. When he succeeds in emigrating and settling in Chicago after the Russian invasion in August 1968, he fails, unable to cope with the clash between his “American dream” and the harsh reality of life in exile.

**GRANDPA** is the portrait of an old farmer, hardened by life's experiences, who in the last years of his life watches the gradual decline of his once thriving farm, which he is forced to hand over to a cooperative. The grandfather eventually becomes an employee on his own farm, although he never really comes to terms with the situation.

**UNDERPAID BUT ARMED** is based on the author's experiences with United Armored Services, a company that transports cash on the dangerous streets of the American city of Chicago. It's a shocking scan of contemporary America as well as a three-dimensional self-portrait of the writer himself.

**CARL SANDBURG AWARD (1985)**  
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**A novel inspired by the fate of Kafka's fiancée Felice Bauer**

### Press voices

“This book truly stands out from the current Czech prose production. The author develops some of her central themes. As in her previous books, her narrative is closely linked to history.”

————— ČT art

## Magdaléna Platzová Life after Kafka

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 behind the self-confident manner and hearty laugh of the accounts? And how far did Kafka's shadow reach in her life? Felice has never been considered worthy of independent study by literary scholars, and little is known about her life after her separation from the Prague writer. She married, had two children and emigrated to America.

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

Magdaléna Platzová began searching for traces of Felice in the United States in 2010, when Felice's son was still alive. Platzová met with him and his family, and the result is a book that is not only about Felice, but also about other people who were close to Kafka and whose fates are linked to the ruins of pre-war Europe, such as Greta Bloch, Ernst Weiss, Max Brod and Salomon Schocken.



foto © Jan Křikavá

**SHORTLISTED FOR CZECHIA'S TOP LITERARY AWARD (2023)**

**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, was educated in the United States and England, and holds 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 at the monthly *Literární noviny* and the weekly *Respekt*. From 2009 to 2012 she lived in New York, where she taught a **course on Franz Kafka at New York University**. She currently lives with her husband and three children in Lyon.

[www.argo.cz/foreign-rights](http://www.argo.cz/foreign-rights) | [veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz](mailto:veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz)



**Putin's War is a unique chronicle of the Russian-Ukrainian war**

### Press voices

"*Putin's War* provides a comprehensive picture of the war in Ukraine. It conveys the conflict from multiple perspectives and presents the most important things. *Putin's War* is a meticulously crafted book, written in an interesting form, presenting uncensored moments from a war whose end is still not in sight."

— Kosmas

## Jakub Szántó & Co. Putin's War

### Chronicle of the Ukrainian war by Czech TV correspondents

Personal accounts by seasoned Czech reporters, many with decades of experience in war zones, paint an authentic picture of all the important stages of the Russian aggression. From the anxious anticipation in the last days and hours before the invasion, through the massive attack and its inhuman effects on the civilian population, to the Ukrainian counter-offensives and the liberation of heavily damaged cities.

The book offers a detailed overview as well as powerful human stories from all the key fronts, the bombed-out rear, political negotiations at the highest level, and the events and atmosphere in Russian cities, as told by the Czech Television's correspondent in Moscow. The text is complemented by dramatic photographs taken by Czech Television's seasoned cameramen.



foto © Jan Kříkava

THE BEST-SELLING BOOK  
OF THE YEAR 2023 SO FAR

**Jakub Szántó** (b. 1977) is a journalist and television reporter. He holds a doctorate in modern history from Charles University in Prague. He has covered many international crises for television, focusing mainly on the Middle East and Africa. Szántó is the recipient of the Open Society Fund Prague Journalism Prize (2014) and the **Ferdinand Peroutka Prize for Journalism** (2017). Drawing on more than two decades of reporting, including five years as a permanent correspondent in the Middle East, the author's two books, *Behind the Curtain of War* and *From Israel with Love*, offer an unorthodox view of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples - their lifestyles, culture and history. This year, together with his Czech TV correspondents, he wrote *Putin's War*, a unique chronicle of the Russian-Ukrainian war.





**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 first in a series featuring lead investigator Laura Ara

The Minister of the Interior verbally attacks a young journalist who has written about his alleged links to the underworld. The threatening confrontation 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 way the murder is carried out bears a resemblance to a series of unsolved

murders in the Šumperk region seven years earlier.

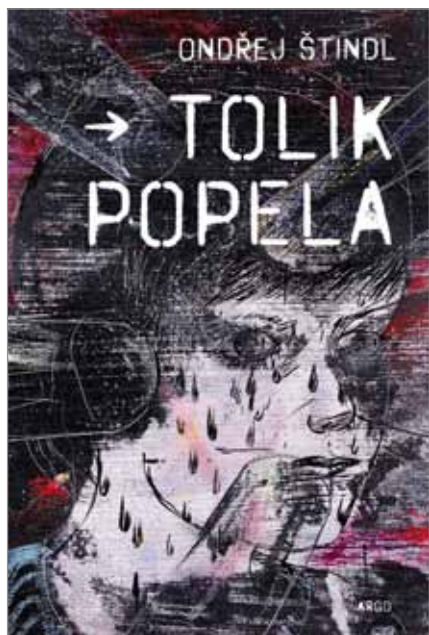
Chief investigator Laura Ara and her colleagues (including Václav Cesta, whom readers will know from the crime novel *Hear the Stags Singing*) wade through a morass of political mafia, godfathers and lobbyists with links to foreign criminal gangs. Was the killer's motive as simple as silencing an inconvenient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

**František Šmehlík** (b. 1995) was born in Ostrava. He dedicated his formative years to sport, especially judo, in which he is a three-time national champion. He is currently finishing his studies of Czech language and literature in Olomouc. A lifelong book lover, his favourite authors include Milan Kundera, Bohumil Hrabal and Ladislav Fuks. His mystery debut, *Hear the Stags Singing* (2021), captivates 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 killer. *The Beast* (2022) is the first story in a series featuring chief investigator Laura Ara.



foto © Jan Kříkava

**WINNER OF CZECHIA'S TOP  
LITERARY AWARD (2023)**



Another rich story with excellent narration by a beloved writer

### Press voices

“A fantastical story that thematizes the apocalypse as a symbol of extinction but also the promise of a new beginning.”

mojeargo



WINNER OF THE CZECH ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR LITERATURE (2023)

## Ondřej Štindl So Much Ash

Kryštof, an aging writer and translator, finds himself at a crossroads when he meets Kristýna, a young left-wing intellectual, and soon after, Kamil, a guru with a strange connection to Kryštof's deceased sister. The emerging pandemic changes life as he knows it, making the possibility of the end of

the world more real than ever. Indeed, Kryštof may be heading for a “personal apocalypse”, plagued by melancholy, the grotesque, intrusive memories and dark premonitions. He becomes a reluctant actor in what could be a story of great revelation or a cruel cosmic joke. Or a story of love.

**Ondřej Štindl** (b. 1966) is a renowned journalist who works as a columnist for the news site and daily paper Deník N. In his texts, like those of other members of the revolutionary generation, the starting points and legacy of the Velvet Revolution are a constant given. Coming to terms with Czech post-war history also occupies his artistic work. Štindl has written two novels, *Mondschein* (2012) and *To the Frontier* (2016), and several screenplays, two of which won the Czech Republic's most important film award, the Czech Lion. In February 2020, he was awarded the prestigious **Ferdinand Peroutka Prize for Journalist of the Year**. His latest novel, *So Much Ash* (2022), won the **Czech round of the European Union Prize for Literature**.



**A milestone in Czech fantasy, which in terms of originality and complexity can compete with the best foreign sagas of a similar style**

### Press voices

“Kadlečková enthusiastically enters the minds of her heroes; at key moments she grills them in front of the reader's eyes. It's like watching a scene from a Quentin Tarantino film.”

Reflex

## Vilma Kadlečková MYCELIUM SERIES

**2013–2023, 8 books**

Vilma Kadlečková's eight-part saga Mycelium is one of the most daring undertakings in the history of Czech fiction. At first glance, it impresses with its size (over 3,700 pages in total), but also with the sophistication and complexity of its fantastic fictional world. The unique universe, initially ruled by the mycelial, technology-wielding planet Osse, contains a far-future version of Earth, where humanity is forced to resist the slowly spreading cultural and technological influence of the Osseans.

The series is a blend of science fiction and political thriller, but also contains a number of reflections on contemporary issues – including the role of church and religion in our lives, the paradox of exceptionalism that never comes without a price, and the age-old struggle between power and the responsibility that comes with it. Vilma Kadlečková has created a work as original and complex as the best foreign sagas of a similar style, a milestone in Czech fiction that cannot be overlooked.

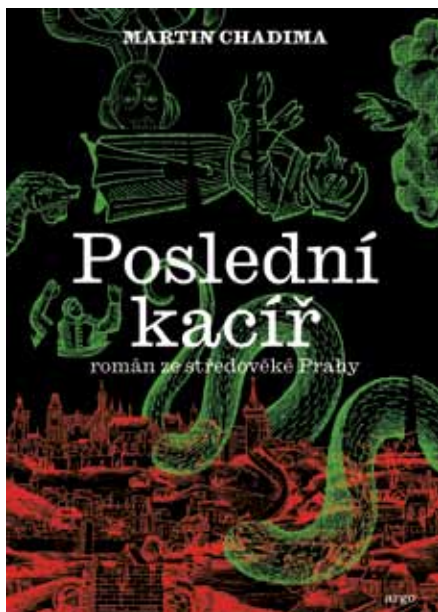


foto © Richard Klíčník

**Vilma Kadlečková** (b. 1971) has devoted almost twenty years to writing Mycelium, which has allowed her to play around with the story and really refine it. The cultural and political background of the story is varied, sophisticated and believable. Most of her works belong to the “Legends of Argente” cycle. These are stories that straddle the line between science fiction and fantasy (‘science fantasy’, ‘psychotronic science fiction’). Deep mysticism, psychotronics, science and faith... these are aspects that come together in the pages of Mycelium from the very first volume, making the saga an impressive piece of writing. Vilma Kadlečková received the **Book of the Year Award** from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror, as well as the **Best Original Czech and Slovak Book** of 2013. This year, Vilma Kadlečková won the **top prize (Magnesia Litera)** in the fantasy category for the eighth volume of Mycelium.

**WINNER OF CZECHIA'S TOP LITERARY AWARD (2023)**





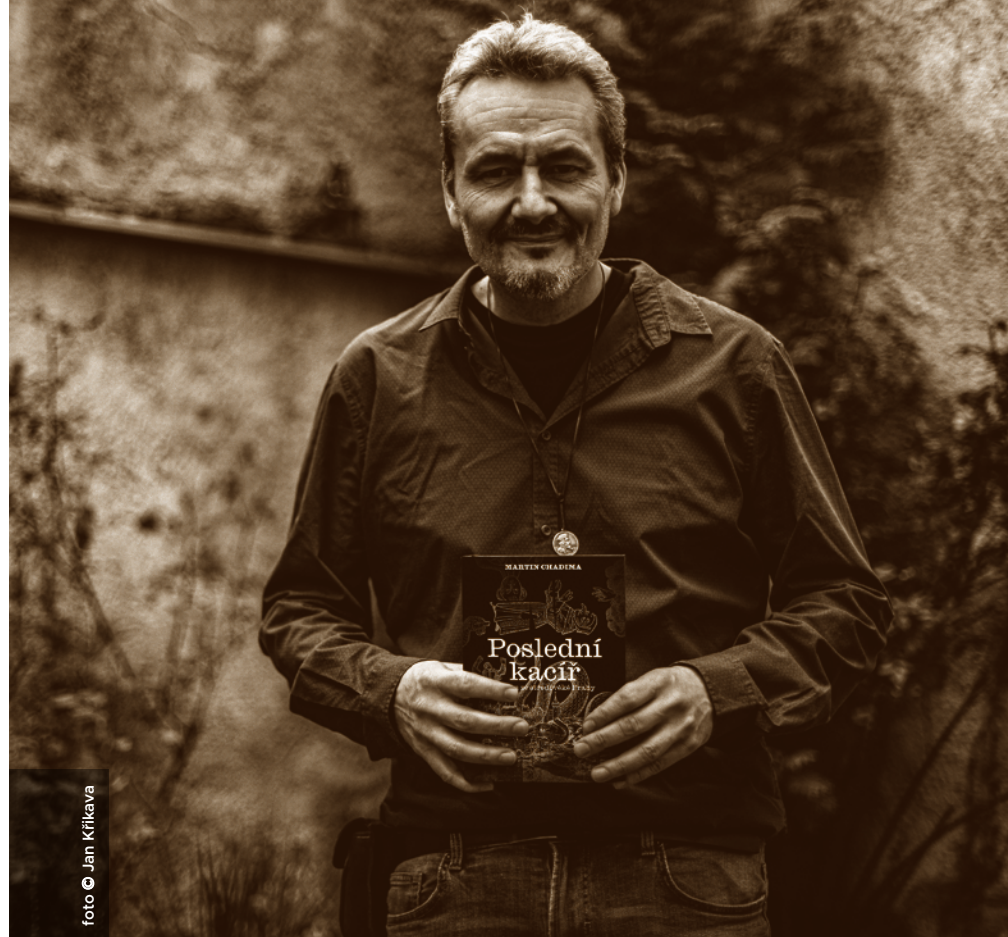
What would Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* be like if it were set in medieval Prague?

**Martin Chadima**

## The Last of the Heretics

The story of Ondřej of Ježov and his friend Petr of Pelhřimov is set between 1419 and 1420 against the backdrop of the much-anticipated arrival of the Antichrist. Spurred on by a mysterious ancient text, the two men embark on a quest to unravel a mystery that dates back to the reign of Charles IV and beyond, when French heretics still roamed the land. The two friends' arduous jour-

ney through old Prague is fraught with obstacles, including being hunted by insidious enemies and dealing with the murders of those involved in the apocalyptic rampage that is sweeping Prague and all of Europe. The narrative is interwoven with a colourful tangle of medieval signs, meanings and symbols, leading the reader to an unexpected ending.



**Martin Chadima** (\*1970) is a high school and university teacher and a clergyman of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. Most of the books he has published to date are historical non-fiction. For a long time he worked for Czech Radio and Czech Television, where he proposed and wrote scripts for a number of programmes on spiritual and historical themes.



## The strongest voice of contemporary Czech literature

### Press voices

“The reader is caught up in the powerful flow of the plot, and perhaps here and there recalls the classic Issac Bashevis Singer or the contemporary star Guzela Yachyna.”

————— *Jáchym Topol*

“Great history is intertwined here with the fate of one man. There is no doubt that we are in one of Snyder’s bloody countries’.”

————— *Jan M. Heller*

# Alexey Sevruk

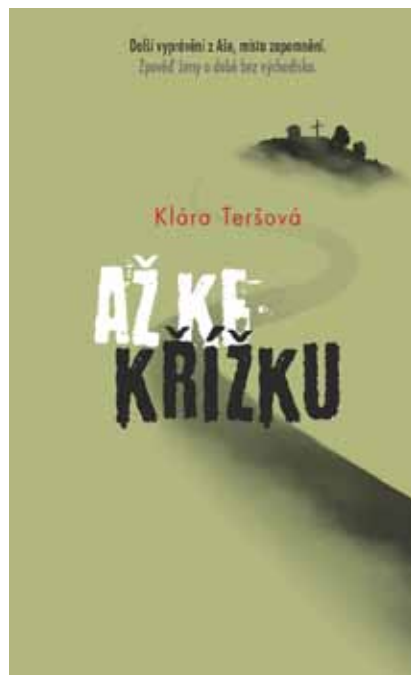
## A European Woman

This novel captures the fractured, flickering and ambiguous image of a Ukrainian province – the Polesia region – through the memories of an elderly woman. The narrator, Maria, was born to a Ukrainian peasant mother and a Czech prisoner of war. Her chronicle, composed of powerful images and fragmented stories, follows the fate of the cen-

tral family and various other characters and figures who make up a colourful mosaic of life in the Volyn Oblast from the 1920s to the present day. The narrative canvas is partly tattered, burnt and therefore incomplete, splintering into smaller, more personal stories, brutally interrupted by the dramatic arcs of Eastern Europe.

**Alexey Sevruk** (\*1983 in Kiev, Ukraine) is a poet, novelist, journalist and translator. He has lived in the Czech Republic since the age of twelve, having moved there with his parents as part of the government’s programme to repatriate Volhynian Czechs and their relatives. He studied Ukrainian and Slavonic studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University. He has translated the works of Yurii Andrukhovych and Serhiy Zhadan into Czech and Patrik Ouředník’s experimental prose *Europeana* into Ukrainian. As the editor-in-chief of a literary monthly, he has also written for several domestic and foreign journals, magazines and anthologies. He works as an archivist at the Museum of Czech Literature.

foto © Jan Kríkava



**A disturbing testament to a time and people we would rather forget**

### Press voices

“Reflections on the meaning of motherhood, self-sacrifice, caring for the family and the inability to love all children equally add a timeless dimension to the story. A seemingly ordinary life that is certainly not easy.”

————— Kosmas

## Klára Teršová

# The Way to the Cross

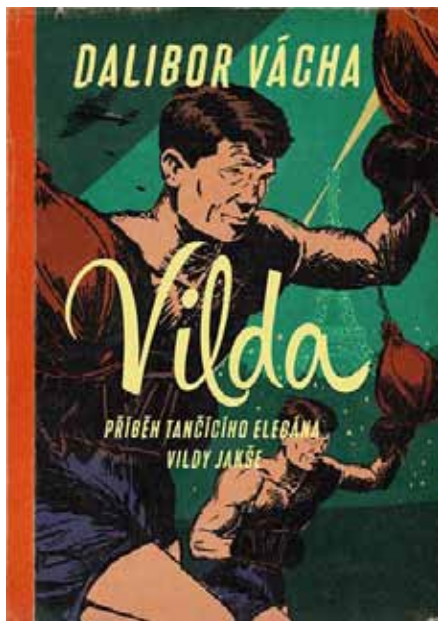
The year is 1970. Eliška Mazochová, her husband and their two-year-old daughter have moved from the small town of Volary to the outskirts of the country – the city of Aš – where they hope to hide from the powerful influence of the totalitarian regime. Eliška, who grew up under totalitarianism, struggles with the many roles she has to play in life. She feels she has failed as a mother and a wife. She

struggles with deep-seated feelings of shame, and it's only when death knocks at her door that she begins to work on correcting her mistakes. The question is: will it be too late? The characters we meet along the way are an image of the city, a symbolic representation of its surroundings. After all, every city is built by its inhabitants. Is Aš still alive, or has she already breathed her last?



**THE MIROSLAV IVANOV  
PRIZE – BEST HISTORY  
BOOK (2023)**

**Klára Teršová** was born in Aš in 1989. She studied 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 Spanish-speaking country. She started writing at an early age for school newspapers and magazines and for fun. By chance she came back to Aš. Soon after, she founded the non-profit organisation Smrčiny, which aims to develop a contradictory, beautiful place. She found inspiration for *The White Spring* in the town's past and present, its dilapidation and its 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 elegant dancer, boxer and pilot Vilda Jakš

## Dalibor Vácha

# Vilda

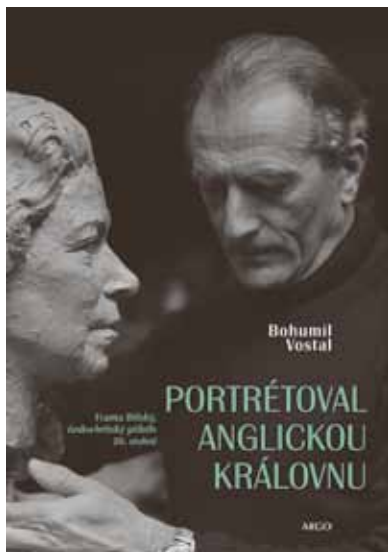
The novel tells the story of Vilda Jakš, a Czechoslovak middleweight boxing champion who lived the glamorous life of a celebrity in Prague and Paris in the 1930s. When Czechoslovakia was mobilised in 1938, he refused to stay in France and returned to do his military service. After Germany occupied his homeland,

he fled the newly established Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and, after an adventurous journey, served in a Czechoslovak unit in France, joining the 31 Czechoslovak Squadron of the Royal Air Force. There he became a gunner, which eventually proved fatal.



foto © Jan Kříkava

**Dalibor Vácha** (b. 1980) is a Czech historian and author of fifteen bestselling novels. His prose is mostly dedicated to the great wars of the 20th century and the individual human destinies within them. He focuses mainly on the stories of everyday life in the Czechoslovak legions and the inter-war period. However, he has not forgotten the fantastic and has written a post-apocalyptic novel. His latest novel *Death in the choir loft* tells about the assassination of acting Reichsführer Reinhard Heydrich is considered one of the most courageous acts. The story of the heroes who gave their lives without hesitation for the liberation of Czechoslovakia.



**Franta Bělský is a largely forgotten Czech-born sculptor who left an indelible mark on the history of Great Britain**

## Bohumil Vostal

# Sculpting the Queen of England

*Sculpting the Queen of England*, tells the fascinating story of royal sculptor Franta Bělský – a story of courage, suffering and inspiration – from his early childhood, through emigration, to life in the UK as a respected artist whose reputation led him to become the only Czech artist to have the honour of sculpting the royal family: not only Queen Elizabeth II herself, but also Prince Philip and Prince William. In addition to the compelling and dramatic life story of one of the most remarka-

ble yet little-known artists Czechoslovakia has ever produced, the book features exclusive quotations from Bělský's unpublished manuscript *The World Beyond the Channel*, previously unpublished photographs, drawings and numerous new insights into the life of a sculptor directly linked to the influential British cultural milieu of the twentieth century. All of this is set against the backdrop of the recently concluded New Elizabethan Age as seen through contemporary eyes.



**Bohumil Vostal** is a journalist and the author of a documentary about the sculptor Franta Bělský, which premiered on ČT24 on the 100th anniversary of his birth. Vostal covered the wedding of Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan, the funeral of Prince Philip, the platinum jubilee and the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. In 2018, he made a TV series about Czech exile in England called *Forgotten Protests*, which was nominated for the FPA Awards in London. He has worked as a correspondent for Czech Television in London (2018-2022), Brussels (2012-2017) and currently in Washington. From 2000 to 2005 he was a freelance editor for the BBC's Czech department in Prague.





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

**GOLDEN RIBBON AWARD –  
BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL OF  
THE YEAR (2022)**

### Press voices

“The search for themes from Marvel superhero comics in the Czech environment has paid off. The artwork is dynamic, colourful and full of little jokes and visual effects.”

— *iliteratura*



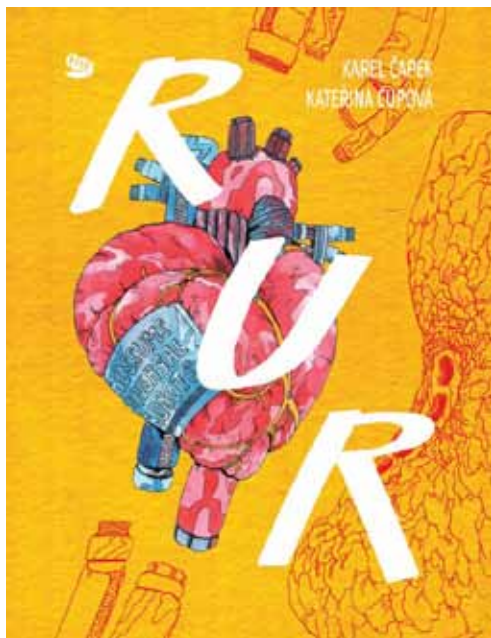
**Kateřina Čupová** (b. 1992, Ostrava) is a Czech animator and comic book artist and a graduate of the renowned Department of Animation at the Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín. Many of her works have been published in magazines and comic anthologies. Her webcomic, *The Author's Apprentice*, was published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

## Kateřina Čupová The Magic Pot

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.





**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 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.*'s comic book adaptation. Her eye-catching, cartoon-like style is firmly rooted in decades of prized Czech animation.

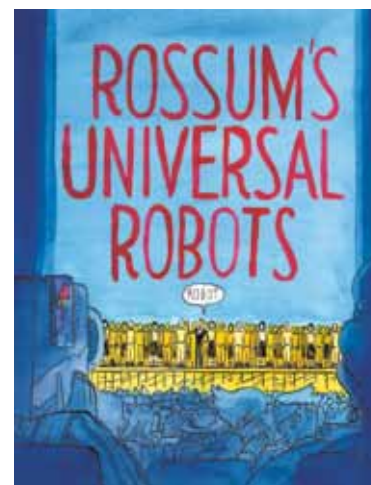
**Karel Čapek** (1890–1938) was a key figure of Czech literature in the inter-war period as a prolific journalist, fiction writer, playwright, translator and critic. His best-known works are novels *The White Disease*, *Krakatit* and *War with the Newts*, and plays such as *R.U.R.*, *Pictures from the 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.



[www.argo.cz/foreign-rights](http://www.argo.cz/foreign-rights) | [veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz](mailto:veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz)



A collection of pictures and short comics about the peculiarities of life in South Korea through a Czech's eyes

### Press voices

"Anyone who has spent time abroad will recognise themselves or their foreign friends in many of the situations. The different cultures and how they meet make for many funny and surprising moments."

— Kosmas

## Kateřina Kang

# Kateřina in Kimchi Land

What do you think of when someone mentions South Korea? For most people it is K-pop or kimchi. But did you know that there are rules for landing in South Korea? Do you know how many kinds of soy sauce there are, or why Koreans go to the beach fully clothed? And why is everyone either a Kim, Park or Lee? *Kateřina in Kimchi Land* is a collection of pictures and comic-strip vignettes

about the curiosities of life in South Korea through the eyes of a Czech woman who had the opportunity to spend several years in this fascinating country with her Korean family. Through simple drawings, she introduces the reader to Korean society, education and, among other things, the joys and sorrows of life with a Korean husband.



foto © Jan Kříkava

**Kateřina Kang** was born in Prague in 1994. She studied Korean Studies at Charles University. In 2016, she visited South Korea for the first time as part of an inter-university exchange, where she met her future husband. In the following years she returned to Korea several times. In 2019, she started sharing her experiences from South Korea on Instagram as @jina\_tvori and now has nearly twenty-five thousand followers. She is currently trying to balance motherhood and creative work.



How the body works,  
how to look after it and  
how to use it right

### Press voices

"This book is bursting with ideas! Its basic aim is achieved: to help young readers understand how the human body works."

— *iliteratura*

**Barbora Klárová,**  
**Kristýna Plíhalová (ill.),**  
**Martina Kupsová (graphic design)**

## Tricky Body

What is the one thing that every human being has? A body. During childhood and adolescence we learn how the body works, how to take care of it and how to use it properly. But what if the body stubbornly decides to behave strangely? What if it does what it thinks is best,

regardless of the will of its "owner"? Little Pěva begins to notice just that, and as if that weren't enough, the annoying and cunning fairy Mžitka seems to appear whenever it happens. The story is partly a fairy tale, but it is full of useful advice.



foto © Jan Kříkava

SHORTLISTED FOR THE GOLDEN  
RIBBON AWARD (2023)

**Barbora Klárová** has loved making things up since she was a child. As soon as she learned to write, she started putting the products of her imagination on paper. In 2003, she won an English-language essay contest (organised by SPUSA – the Society of Friends of the USA) with her short story "When No One Was Looking". She then began writing reports, reviews and interviews for magazines, and later scripts for Czech television programmes. She co-authored the successful children's book *Překlep a Škrálop* (winner of the Magnesia Litera and Zlatá stuha awards), and in 2020 Czech Radio broadcast her children's stories *The Extraordinary Stories of an Engineer* as part of the legendary Hajajaja series, which was published in book form a year later. She is also a professional musician and presenter.



Love and dreams are the most powerful things in the world



**Eva Papoušková,  
Galina Miklínová (ill.)**

## No School Today

It's the start of a new school year. Two girls named Eva share a desk in a school in the old town of Brno. The brunette loves Winnetou, the Apache chief, while the redhead adores Pippi Longstocking. Their new nicknames bring a sense of adventure into the grey of their lives – it is the 1970s and the country is under strict totalitarian rule, in the process of normalisation. What people say behind closed doors can't be repeated in school. Even their classmate and friend Karel, who is secretly in love with Pipi, knows this.

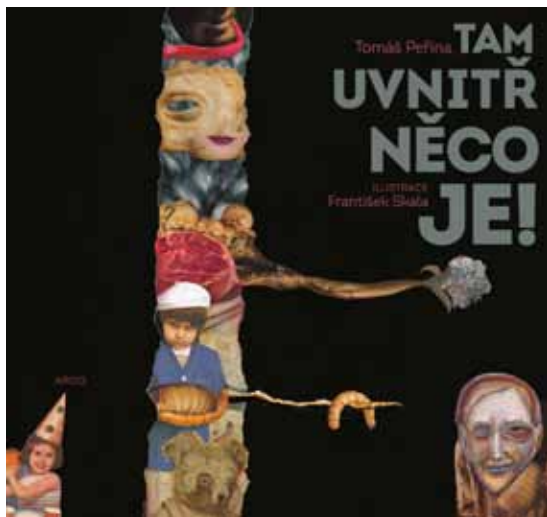
Meanwhile, the trio embarks on expeditions where honour and glory are at stake, saving Indians and horses. They create a newspaper called The Red Arrow, where they can be brutally honest. They fight a teacher on the verge of a nervous breakdown, their class teacher and the school caretaker. The three children suspect that love and dreams are the most powerful things in the world – qualities that persist even when oceans of distance separate people.



foto © Jan Kříkava

**Eva Papoušková** (\*1969 in Brno) majored in English at Masaryk University in Brno and later studied screenwriting and dramaturgy for film and television at FAMU in Prague. Since graduating, she has translated and written a number of children's books. Her book *Kosprd and Telecí* won the Golden Ribbon and the SUK We All Read award. She has written screenplays for fairy tale adaptations, several successful TV series and feature films.

**Galina Miklínová** (\*1970) is a Czech illustrator and animation director. She graduated from UMPRUM in Prague in 1997. She also studied at the University of Humber-side in the UK. She has illustrated books by Marka Míková, Eva Papoušková, Alena Mornštajnová and Petr Stančík, among others, and has received numerous awards in the Czech Republic and abroad.



**Horror poetry for children and adults in the style of Tim Burton and John Kenn Mortensen**

## Press voices

“An brilliant collection of excellent poetry, illustrated with even more superb pictures. Its dark humour will amuse you and make you laugh until you lose your breath. Absurdity and wit as it should be!”

— Kosmas

**Tomáš Peřina,  
František Skála (ill.)**

# Something hiding in there

This book looks strange at first glance, and there's something hidden in it... Although it's intended for children, it has a chance of becoming a must-read for the whole family, because Tomáš Peřina's imagination has been enhanced by the famous artist František Skála –

it's a bolt from the blue! You may never have read such funny children's poetry before, and you certainly won't read it again for a long time – poetic horror stories full of puns and unexpected points, accompanied by numerous scary illustrations.



foto © Richard Klíčník

Although **Tomáš Peřina's** (\*1980, Prague) surname might seem to predestine him for love poetry, he has chosen the path of horror. What he has in common with the monsters he writes about is that they rarely appear and he prefers a quiet life.

**František Skála** (\*1956) is a Czech sculptor, painter, graphic artist, children's book illustrator, musician and dancer. He studied woodcarving at the School of Applied Arts in Prague (1971–1975) and television and film graphics at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (1976–1982). In total, he has illustrated over twenty books, many of which have won prestigious awards.



## SELECTED BACKLIST

- Elbe, Lenka: *Uranova. / Uranova*, fiction, 2020
- Horáčková, Alice: *A House Divided / Rozpůlený dům*, historical fiction, 2022
- Horáková, Pavla: *A Theory of Strangensee / Teorie podivnosti*, fiction, twelve foreign editions, 2018
- Horáková, Pavla: *In the Heart of Europe / Srdce Evropy*, historical fiction, 2021
- Hůlová, Petra: *Fox Eyes / Liščí oči*, children's book, 2021
- Hůlová, Petra: *Daddy Thief / Zlodějka mého táty*, fiction, 2019
- Hůlová, Petra: *The Movement / Stručné dějiny hnutí*, dystopian novel, eight foreign editions, 2018
- Jonášová Veronika: *Ada / Ada*, historical fiction, 2022
- Kadlec, Vratislav: *The Boundary of the Woods / Hranice lesa*, fiction, 2019
- 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: *Zátonek / Zátonek*, graphic novel, six foreign editions, 2016
- Pánek, Josef: *To Them, I Am God / Jsem jejich bůh*, fiction, 2022
- Pánek, Josef: *Love in the Time of Global climate Change / Láska v době globálních klimatických změn*, fiction, twelve foreign editions, 2017
- Palán, Lukáš: *Crude Shape / Surový tvar*, fiction, 2021
- Říhová, Zuzana: *Through Pins or Neddles / Cestou špendlíků nebo jehel*, horror story, three foreign editions, 2021
- Šmehlík, František: *Hear the Stags Singing / Slyšet jeleny zpívat*, crime story, 2021
- Štindl, Ondřej: *Until You Get Dizzy / Až se ti zatočí hlava*, fiction, 2020
- Štindl, Ondřej: *To the Frontier / K hranici*, fiction, 2016
- Technik, Marek: *The Warning / Varování*, psychological novel, 2022
- Teršová, Klára: *The White Spring / Bílý pramen*, history book, 2022
- Urban, Miloš: *Meet Factory / Továrna na maso*, historical fiction, 2022
- Urban, Miloš: *Carlsbad / Kar*, murder mystery, 2019
- Urban, Miloš: *The Shutter / Závěrka*, erotic novel, 2017
- Urban, Miloš: *Seven churches / Sedmikostelí*, gothic horror, 1999
- Vácha, Dalibor: *Death in the Choir Loft / Smrt na kúru*, historical fiction, 2022
- Vácha, Dalibor: *M + B + M / M + B + M*, historical fiction, 2020
- Vácha, Dalibor: *For Freedom / Za svobodu*, historical fiction, 2019



Illustration © František Skála

## 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

15<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> November

