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Foreign rights (sales)

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Argo Publishers is one of the leading Czech publishing houses, known for its strong literary profile and commitment to high-quality fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, and children's books. Founded in 1992, Argo has introduced Czech readers to major international voices while also championing contemporary Czech literature. Argo is widely respected for its editorial standards, innovative book design, and its broad, diverse catalogue. Over the past 8 years, Argo has been actively developing its foreign rights list. Its authors are regularly shortlisted for the most prestigious Czech literary awards. 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 80 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 translated fiction, continually introducing renowned authors such as **Cormac McCarthy, Don DeLillo, Thomas Pynchon, Hilary Mantel, Donna Tartt, Maggie O'Farrell, Miranda July, Rita Bullwinkel, Ben Lerner, Georgi Gospodinov, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld, Daniel Kehlmann, Katja Kettu, Maria Turtschaninoff, Jean-Michel Guenassia** etc.

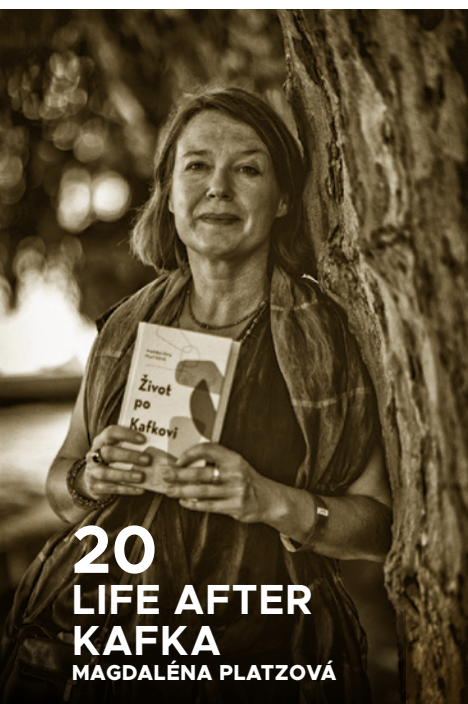
We publish several series of non-fiction books, ranging from history to humanities to astronomy and physics, with authors including **Madeleine Albright, Michelle Obama, Niall Ferguson, E. H. Gombrich, Jacques Le Goff, Naomi Klein, Rutger Bregman** or **Stephen Hawking**.

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, Ben Aaronovitch, Neil Gaiman** or **Jeff VanderMeer**, comics (**Alan Moore, Alejandro Jodorowsky, Manu Larcenet** and **Moebius**) as well as children's and young adults' books (**David Walliams, Tove Jansson, Katherine Rundell, Markus Zusak**).

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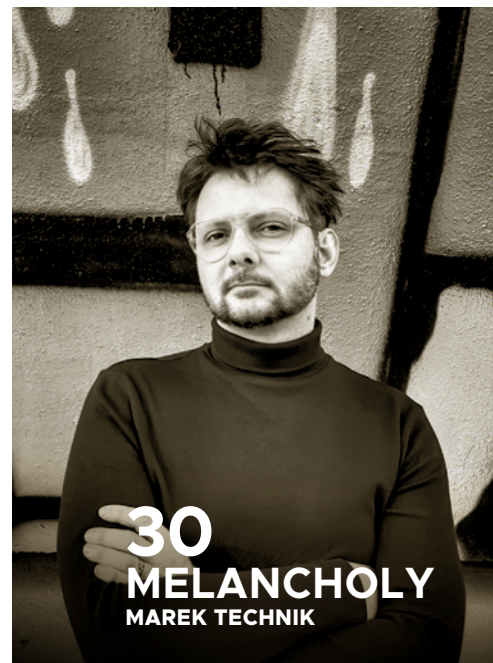
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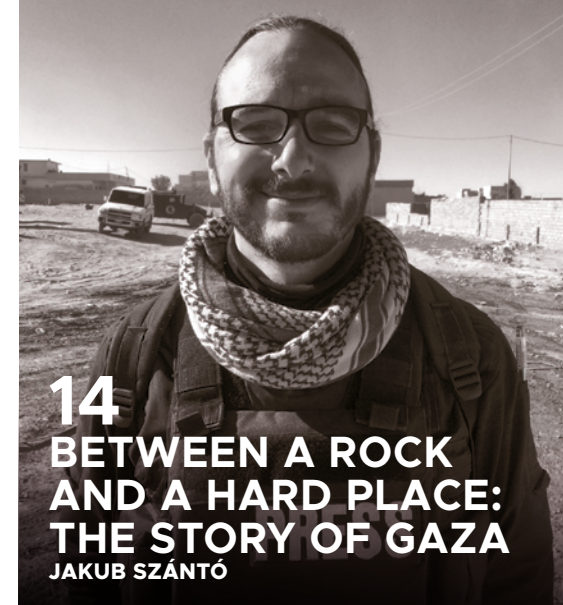




foto © Richard Klíčník

Alice Horácková

(b. 1980) is a graduate of Charles University's Faculty of Social Sciences. Her debut, *Vladimíra Čerepková* (Argo, 2014) – a literary biography of a forgotten female Beat poet – was nominated for the Josef Škvorecký Award and the 2014 Magnesia Litera for Discovery of the Year. She followed it up with *7× in a Supporting Role*

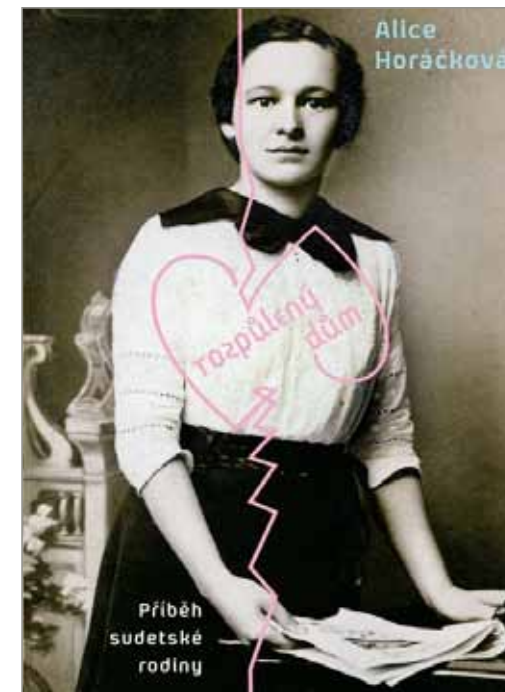
(2016), a collection of interviews with siblings of famous Czechs, and the confessional novel *Unopened Letters* (2018), inspired by the true story of the widow of a celebrated but deeply troubled artist. Her most recent work is an intimate dual biography, *Václav and Kamila Benda: Partners in Life and in Dissent* (2025).

The story of a family in the Sudetenland

Praise

"First of all, *A House Divided* is a totally captivating read, a grand family novel!"

Vogue



A House Divided

In a mountain village in the Sudetenland during the first half of the twentieth century, poachers cross paths with free-spirited women, fabric mill owners mingle with lady Spiritists, and Czechs and Germans share beds in mixed marriages – only to clash over which nationality to declare in the census, who will build the new school first, and who killed a dog named Masaryk.

Amid secret romances, army desertions, casual betrayals, and name changes, small choices end up costing lives. Drawing on the history of her own family – on rosy recollections and blue memoirs, on photographs, yellowing newspapers, and archival discoveries – the author weaves a sweeping family saga.

Shifting between male and female voices, between the fabulous and the documentary, she resurrects the vanished world her relatives once inhabited. Some of her kin were expelled from Czechoslovakia at the war's end, while others remained. One uncle even befriended Reinhard Heydrich and "Aryanized" a Jewish textile factory.

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WINNER OF THE TOP CZECH
LITERARY AWARD (2019)

Pavla Horáková

(b. 1974) is a Prague-based author, Czech Radio presenter, and literary translator. She has translated more than twenty books from English and Serbian, including works by Kurt Vonnegut, Saul Bellow, and Ian Banks, and has received two major translation awards. Her second work for adults, *The Theory of Strangeness* (Argo,

2018), followed the bestselling novel *Johana* (2018), co-written with Alena Scheinostová and Zuzana Dostálová, and has been **published in twelve countries**. Her latest novel, *Looking to the West* (2025), is a story of growing up behind the Iron Curtain and of what lingers after it falls.

The Theory of Strangeness

A brilliantly told journey of a young intellectual in search of freedom and the meaning of life

The Theory of Strangeness is a sharp, witty novel about a young scientist who begins to notice peculiar patterns in everyday life – odd coincidences, hidden signals, moments that don't quite fit. As her carefully ordered world starts to unravel, she must confront the question of whether reason alone can make sense of reality. Blending humor, melancholy, and quiet wonder, Pavla Horáková offers a fresh perspective on the mysteries that lie beneath the surface. The result is a novel as intelligent as it is captivating – elegantly constructed, emotionally resonant, and shimmering with quiet strangeness.



Looking to the West

A coming-of-age story set in a world where ideology fades but the rules of the game endure



Prague in the 1980s—seen through the eyes of teenagers who crave Western jeans and VHS tapes above all else. David and Marta navigate the absurd rituals of late socialism with the instinctive ease of those born into it: what you say at school, you never say at home; what you do, you never speak of. Few suspect the normalization era is drawing to a close. Or do they? A decade later, David and Marta meet again – now adults, shaped by childhoods spent in the shadow of the Iron Curtain. And they face the question: can you ever truly return to what you left behind?

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Teorie podivnosti / *The Theory of Strangeness* | October 2018 | 360 pages | samples EN/FR/DE | **RIGHTS 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) | **Okno na západ** / *Looking to the West* | March 2025 | 256 pages | sample EN | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Italy (Bonferraro)



Petra Hůlová

ONGLISTED FOR THE TOP
CZECH LITERARY AWARD (2024)

(b. 1979) is a fiction writer and the recipient of several of Czechia's highest literary honors, including the Magnesia Litera, the Josef Škvorecký Award, and the Jiří Orten Award. She studied languages, culture, and anthropology at universities in Prague, Ulaanbaatar, and New York, and was a **Fulbright scholar** in the United States. Her debut novel, *All This Belongs to Me* (2002), won the **Magnesia Litera Award for Discovery of the Year**, and its English translation by Alex Zucker received the **ALTA National Translation Award**. Her fourth novel, *Plastic Three-Bedroom* (2006), won the **Jiří Orten Award** for the best work of prose or poetry by an author under thirty, with Zucker's translation earning the **PEN Translates Award**, while her fifth novel, *Taiga Station* (2008), received the Josef Škvorecký Award. Her novels and two plays have been translated into more than twelve languages. *Fox Eyes* is her first children's book, and her latest novel, *Trump Card* (2023), explores the culture wars embedded in everyday life. She lives in Prague.

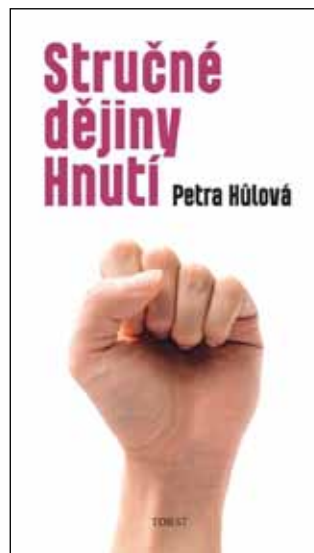
Trump Card

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

Entering her fifties, Sylvie Novak, a successful partisan writer, reflects on her complicated personal life and revisits a formative relationship with an older writer, reconsidering what truly happened all those years ago. In the present, she tours with a new book of feminist essays, confronts the signs of aging, and battles the Invisible Woman Syndrome – each in her own distinctive way. Meanwhile, her daughter Judita shows no hesitation in challenging her, eventually playing the ultimate card against her. Set against a backdrop of stereotypes, generational clashes, and varied forms of social activism, *Trump Card* invites us to witness a poignant and powerful struggle.



The Movement



Society is on the verge of fully
embracing The Movement's reforms –
but what happens to those who cannot
adjust?

The Movement's founding ideology insists that women be valued for their inner qualities, spirit, and character rather than physical appearance. Men are forbidden from being attracted to women based on their bodies, and those who cling to outdated attitudes face internment and re-education. Yet, The Movement also struggles to transform women and their 'old attitudes'. The Movement's historian, an unrepentant guard at a re-education facility, recounts the origins of The Movement, her personal journey, the collective challenges, and the high stakes involved. She firmly believes The Movement is approaching its ultimate victory – universal acceptance.



WINNER OF THE TOP CZECH LITERARY AWARD –
THE BEST DEBUT NOVEL (2021)

Lenka Elbe

(b. 1979) lives in Prague and holds a degree in journalism and mass communication from Charles University. After a brief career in journalism, she transitioned to advertising and occasionally worked as a television writer. The central theme of her work is freedom and the eternal struggle against the dark forces that seek to destroy it. She often blends reality

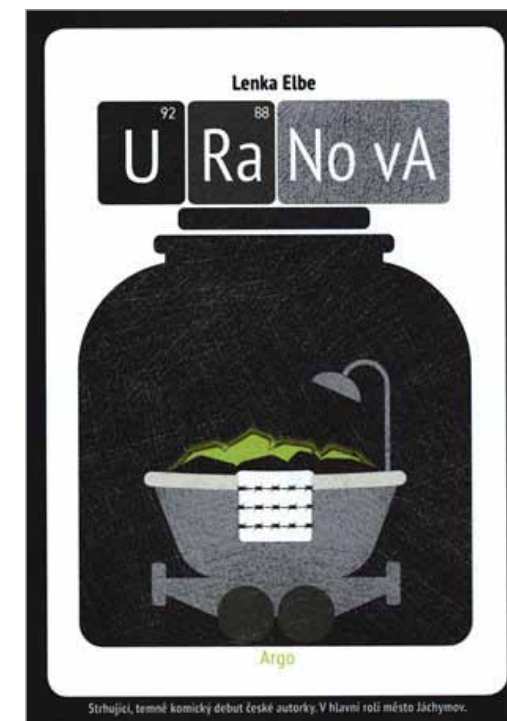
with fantasy in her writing, drawing inspiration from authors such as Franz Kafka, Umberto Eco, and Haruki Murakami. In addition to writing, she is active in graphic design and photography. Her novel *Uranova* was selected for the seventh Susanna Roth Award for beginner translators of Czech literature.

A thrilling, darkly comic novel set in a town steeped in mining tradition

Praise

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

H7O.cz



Uranova

The story follows Henry Robotham, an Englishman in his 50s whose girlfriend Angela vanished without a trace in August 1968 while searching for her Czech ancestors in Jáchymov. Thirty years later, urged by his therapist, Henry returns to the town known for uranium, silver, and brutal political crimes to finally confront the trauma that has plagued his soul for decades. Accompanied by his neurotic partner Suzanne, Henry's journey into the post-revolutionary Czech Republic launches a bold literary experiment blending fantasy, absurdity, and horror.

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Uranova | September 2020 | 400 pages | samples EN/DE/FR | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Poland (Wydawnictwo Kobiectwo), France (Éditions Aux Forges de Vulcain)



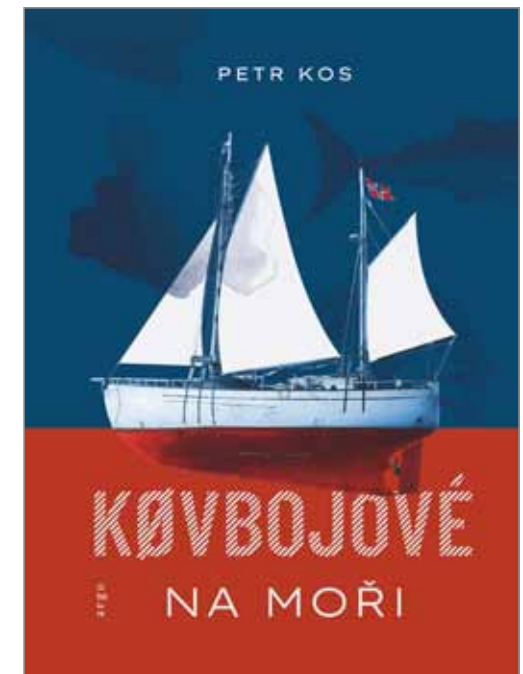
foto © Petr Kos

Petr Kos

(b. 1981) wears many hats – bookseller, librarian, sound engineer, graphic designer, fisherman, deckhand, and carpenter. He spent eight seasons aboard Alaskan fishing boats, and for the past seven years has been restoring the century-old

wooden ship *Anna* from Tromsø, sailing her along the Norwegian coast. In winter, he builds wooden houses and writes. His debut carries the scent of tar, the sea, and unvarnished adventure.

For those who aren't afraid to weigh anchor and venture into the unknown



Cowboys at Sea

Petr Kos makes his debut with a book steeped in the scent of fish, tar, and authenticity. The product of fifteen years of lived experience—seasons in Alaska, life at sea, and countless hours aboard the century-old sealing ship *Anna* from Tromsø – it charts the journey of a man who, instead of dreaming, weighed anchor and set sail for adventure. First to the icy waters of Alaska, then along the rugged Norwegian coast, his tale weaves ship repairs, long voyages, and the camaraderie of fishermen with quiet reflections on a harsh childhood in communist Czechoslovakia. A raw, uncompromising account of will, freedom, and the search for one's place in the world.

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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. Argo has also published his partly autobiographical novels *The Wyllis Dream Kit*; *Grandpa* and *Underpaid, but Armed*; *Alaska*; *Commies*; *Thughs*, *Gypsies*, *Snitches* and *Poets*.

Novák's masterpiece captures the most powerful material Czech history has offered since 1945

Praise

"This is a contemporary thriller and the hard-to-believe actions of these people bring to mind the Northern sagas or Homer, which feature similar heroes. But in contrast to legends and myths, these were all actual people."

— Josef Škvorecký



So Far So Good

The true story of three young Czech men whose daring anti-Communist resistance and 1953 escape to West Berlin sparked the largest manhunt in Eastern Bloc history. To this day, the question of whether the Mašín brothers were heroes or murderers continues to divide the nation. This nuanced, sophisticated portrait brings to life an extraordinary cast: Father Mašín—soldier, legionnaire, and one of the "Three Kings" of the Protectorate era—his wife Zdena, mother-in-law Emma, daughter Nenda, and sons Josef and Ctirad Mašín, along with their friends and accomplices.

The gripping tale of five young men, armed only with pistols and facing a 20,000-strong East German Volkspolizei force, reads like a western. *So Far So Good* won the 2004 Magnesia Litera for Czech Book of the Year, became a bestseller, and has remained in print ever since.

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WINNER OF THE TOP CZECH
LITERARY AWARD (2018)

Josef Pánek

(b. 1966) earned his master's and PhD in Prague, then worked in Norway and Australia before returning to Czechia. He debuted with a short story collection, *The Opal Digger* (2013), and his second book, *Love in the Time of Global Climate*

Change (2017), won the Magnesia Litera, Czechia's highest literary honor, in 2018. The novel has been **sold to 12 countries**. His latest work is a portrait of a scientist undone by truth – and by a system that no longer wants to hear it.

Láska v době globálních klimatických změn / *Love in the Time of Global Climate Change* | February 2017 | 160 pages | samples EN/DE/FR | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Poland (Stara szkoła), Bulgaria (Iskry), Italy (Keller editore), Croatia (Umjetnička organizacija Artikulacije), Egypt (Al Arabi), France (Éditions Denoël), Germany (KLAK Verlag), Serbia (Akademska Knjiga),

Love in the Time of Global Climate Change

We are all a little racist in this global village called Earth

In *Love in the Time of Global Climate Change*, Tomáš travels to Bangalore for a scientific conference – and finds himself lost in translation between continents, cultures, and his own inner selves. As he navigates the chaos of a globalized world, memories of a past love in Iceland re-surface, forcing him to confront everything he thought he had left behind.

This is a novel about displacement, modern loneliness, and the invisible lines between East and West – told in a voice that is urgent, searching, and unmistakably real.



Portrait of a Scientist in a Postindustrial Society

A gripping, provocative, and darkly ironic manifesto for anyone disillusioned with the contemporary world of science



Portrait of a Scientist in a Postindustrial Society is not a conventional novel but a furious, sprawling, and often abrasive monologue – a howl from the edge of reason. Through the protagonist's self-lacerating voice, Pánek creates a searing portrait of the modern intellectual: alienated, brilliant, paranoid, sometimes hypocritical, yet still clinging to the belief in science as a force for truth in a corrupted world. He exposes how research today is driven by money and media attention, while genuine insight is left to wither.

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Romania (Editura Casa Cartii de Stiinta), Netherlands (Uitgeverij Nobelman), Greece (Eurasia), Hungary (Metropolis Media)

Portrét vědce v systému postindustriální společnosti / *Portrait of a Scientist in the Post-Industrial Society* | April 2025 | 192 pages | sample EN



foto © Jan Kríkava

**SHORTLISTED FOR THE TOP
CZECH LITERARY AWARD (2023)**

Magdaléna Platzová

is the author of several books, including three novels published in English: *Aaron's Leap*, a finalist for the Lidové Noviny Book of the Year Award; *The Attempt*, longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award and a finalist for the Czech Book Award; and *Life After Kafka*, a finalist for the Magnesia Litera. Her fiction has appeared

in *A Public Space* and *Words Without Borders*. Born in the Czech Republic, she studied in Washington, DC, and England, earned her MA in Philosophy at Charles University in Prague, and has taught at New York University's Gallatin School. She is now based in Lyon, France.

Život po Kafkovi | June 2022 | 240 pages | samples EN/DE/FR/SP | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Bellevue Literary Press (USA), France (Agullo), Italy (Voland), Serbia (Treći Trg), Denmark (Forlaget

**A novel inspired by the
fate of Kafka's fiancée
Felice Bauer**

Praise

"Franz Kafka is a universe that resists any attempt at interpretation. Magdaléna Platzová's novel offers a new key to Kafka's world: we look at it through the tender and sorrowful gaze of the people whose fate had been marked by him personally. An utterly touching book!"

— Agnieszka Holland



Life after Kafka

Known to Kafka scholars primarily through his *Letters to Felice* merely as a woman with a raucous laugh and a taste for bourgeois comforts, Felice Bauer finally takes center stage in *Life After Kafka*.

The novel opens in 1935, as Felice flees Hitler's Berlin with her children, following her family and members of Kafka's circle – including Grete Bloch, Max Brod, and Salman Schocken – as they try to escape the coming horrors of the Holocaust. Years later, in Manhattan, a man claiming to be Kafka's son approaches Felice's son, igniting the drama surrounding Kafka's letters to her.

While exploring the long shadow of literary fame, *Life after Kafka* captures the magic and poison of memory and what we cling to when all else is lost, illuminating the courage it takes to move through the ruins of one world to rebuild life in another.

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Silkefyret), Germany (Balaena), Croatia (Disput), Egypt (Scheherezade Cultural Initiative), Ukraine (Anetta Antonenko)



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Praise

"A devilishly creepy work of folk horror... A hair-raising tale of a culture clash."

— Publishers Weekly

SHORTLISTED FOR THE TOP CZECH LITERARY AWARD (2022)

Zuzana Říhová

(b. 1981) studied Czech Language and Literature and Comparative Literature at Charles University in Prague. She has worked at the Institute of Czech Literature since 2007 and served as Head of Czech Studies at the University of Oxford from 2014 to 2017. A lifelong devotee of Czech avant-garde literature, she has

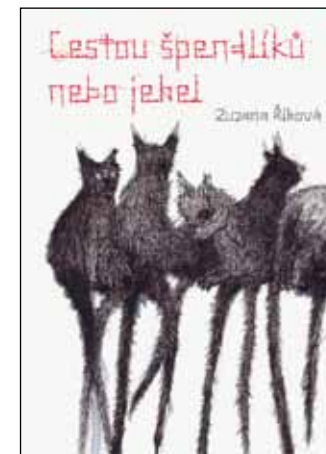
published the poetry collection *I'll Let You in My House* (2016) and the novella *Little Eve*, named one of the Books of the Year in 2018 by a leading Czech literary web magazine. Her novel *Playing Wolf* (2021) has brought her widespread acclaim, and she is now preparing for her first American tour.

Playing Wolf

A modern ballad of human destiny and the animal in us all

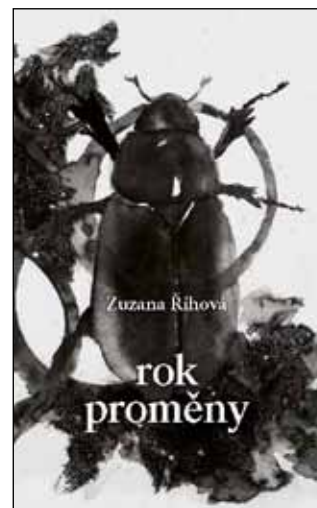
Husband and wife Bohumil and Bohumila, along with their son, leave Prague for a remote village, hoping to salvage their marriage. In the searing summer heat, they try to blend in, but are met with hostile stares and evasive answers. Each night, they hear what they believe to be a large animal prowling around their cottage – an impression that eerily matches mysterious flyers posted at the local watering hole about a “wolfen” fairytale. As strange coincidences pile up, it becomes clear that something sinister is at play.

After a drunken night out, Bohumil and Bohumila return to find their son missing. Three days later, they discover the villagers in festive costumes gathered outside their cottage. Is it all part of some bizarre game – or a dark, folkloric ritual?



Year of Transformation

A fresh take on Kafka's *Metamorphosis*



This series captures Franz Kafka's life in Prague in 1912, in the months leading up to the writing of *The Metamorphosis*, introducing us to his family and inner world. His mother is pleased with his weight gain after a stay at a sanatorium; his father insists he attend inspections at the asbestos factory in which he holds shares. Franz quietly submits to these expectations, though his thoughts are consumed by his writing – which he finds himself unable to engage with, feeling he is failing at it. A letter from Max Brod to Kafka's father eventually frees him from factory duties, and a visit from his cousin Felice, arriving from Berlin, offers only a brief distraction.

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Cestou špendlíků nebo jehel / *Playing Wolf* | May 2021 | 248 pages | samples EN/DE/FR |
RIGHTS SOLD TO: France (Éditions du Seuil), Poland (Afera), USA (Catapult)

Rok proměny / *Year of Transformation* | October 2024 | 112 pages | samples EN/DE |
RIGHTS SOLD TO: Germany (Wortpalast)



foto © Jan Kríkava

LOGLISTED FOR THE TOP
CZECH LITERARY AWARD (2024)

Alexey Sevruk

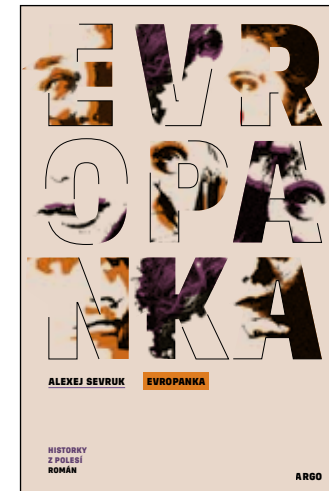
(b. 1983) is a poet, novelist, journalist, and translator. Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, he has lived in the Czech Republic since the age of twelve, when his family moved there under a government program to repatriate Volhynian Czechs and their relatives. He studied Ukrainian and Slavonic Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University. Sevruk has translated the

works of Yuriy Andrukhovych and Serhiy Zhadan into Czech, as well as Patrik Oufedník's experimental prose *Europeana* into Ukrainian. A former editor-in-chief of a literary monthly, he has contributed to numerous Czech and international journals, magazines, and anthologies. He currently works as an archivist at the Museum of Czech Literature.

A European Woman

Great Ukrainian history intertwines with the fate of one man

Maria, the narrator, is the daughter of a Ukrainian peasant mother and a Czech prisoner of war. Her chronicle – woven from vivid images and fragmentary tales – traces the fate of her family alongside a host of other characters who form a colorful mosaic of life in the Zhytomyr Oblast from the 1920s to the present. The narrative fabric is frayed, scorched, and incomplete, splintering into intimate, personal stories that are repeatedly and brutally interrupted by the sweeping dramas of Eastern European history.



Culmination of Summer

Deeply reflective prose with existential and socially critical overtones



Eleven stories. Eleven moments when time either holds its breath – or shatters. In prose that is both contemplative and sharp-edged, the protagonists confront exhaustion, silence, and their own shadows: in a garden center, on a running track, through the frozen stillness of a Mikulov winter, or beneath the looming silhouette of a nuclear power plant. The culmination of summer signals an apex – but also a shift, a fall, a reconciliation. This collection threads raw realism with inner lyricism, absurdity with a touch of the grotesque. Each story offers a crystal-clear cross-section of a place, a mood, or a relationship – spare of pathos, yet rich in understanding.

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foto © Ondřej Šanc

**LOGLISTED FOR THE TOP CZECH
LITERARY AWARD – THE BEST
DEBUT NOVEL (2025)**

Ondřej Šanc

(b. 1979) was born and raised in Ústí nad Labem, surrounded by decaying historic districts, factory walls, and constant smoke. Weekends found him exploring nearby wilderness alone or with friends, fueled by a lifelong love of reading and history. Though he studied to become an English and history teacher, he left aca-

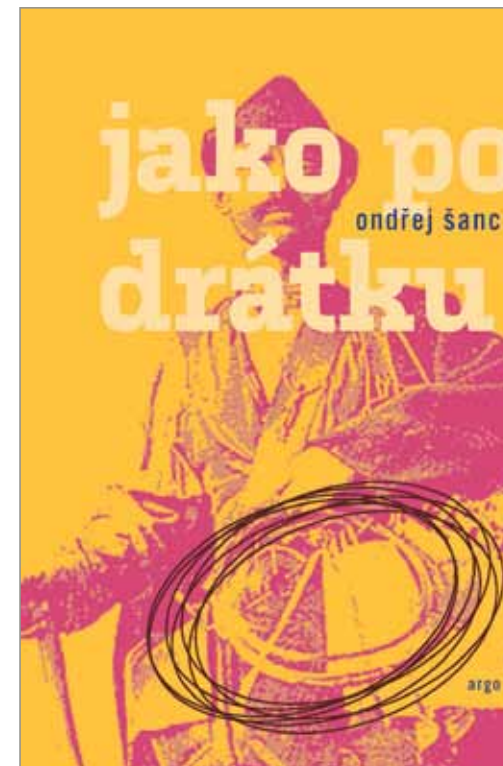
demia to follow his passion for travel. Deeply interested in Native American culture and history, he has explored many paths before settling as a social worker. Today, he lives on a restored cultural monument farm in the Central Bohemian Highlands with his wife, where they run a family organic farm.

**A gripping generational
saga spanning two
centuries and two
continents**

Praise

“A mesmerizing generational saga of a Hungarian family. I was utterly enthralled – I devoured it in one sitting, only to feel a bittersweet sadness when it finally came to an end!”

— reader's review



Walking the Wire

This vividly told narrative begins in a remote corner of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the mid-19th century and traces a journey across two centuries and continents into the recent past. A poor tinworker's family in the wild Kysuce mountains is supported by the widow Mária, who – heeding the advice of a worldly uncle – sets out in search of a better life. Accompanied by her two children, the barely eight-year-old Zoltán and his younger sister, she travels to Aussig (now Ústí nad Labem), where a new era dawns. The emerging railway breaks old boundaries between cities and countries, shortening distances and bringing together people from all corners of the world. Thus the novel begins, following Zoltán's decades-long pursuit of happiness and freedom.

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



foto © Jan Kříkava

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

Ondřej Štindl

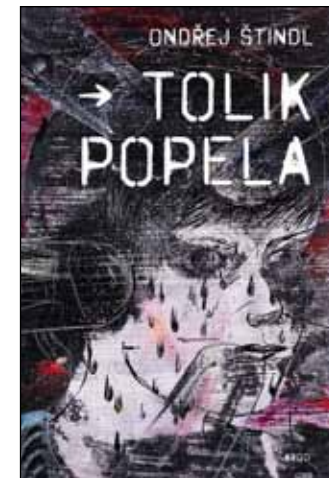
(b. 1966) is a film and music critic, writer, screenwriter, journalist, and DJ. His script for *Pouta* (*Walking Too Fast*) was brought to the screen in 2010. In 2020, he received the Ferdinand Peroutka Prize for his journalism. He is the author of the

novels *Mondschein* (2012), *To the Border* (2016), *Until Your Head Starts Spinning* (2020), and *So Much Ash* (2022). In 2023, he won the Czech round of the European Union Prize for Literature.

So Much Ash

Štindl's best novel to date unfolds in Prague during the pandemic and was nominated for the 2023 EU Prize for Literature

Kryštof, an aging writer and translator, finds himself at a crossroads when he meets Kristýna, a young left-wing intellectual, and shortly after, Kamil, a guru mysteriously connected to Kryštof's late sister. As the pandemic reshapes life and the threat of global collapse feels more imminent than ever, Kryštof faces what might be a "personal apocalypse," haunted by melancholy, grotesque visions, intrusive memories, and dark premonitions. He becomes a reluctant participant in a story that could amount to a profound revelation, a cruel cosmic joke—or a tale of love.



One Day This Will Be Yours



A cleverly crafted story of grotesque humor, sarcasm, sorrow, and longing

At first glance, the message seems straightforward—but what does it truly mean? Who is passing what to whom – and is it a gift or a burden? Luky, a young man from modern-day Prague, sets out on a journey for answers that takes him to life's most fundamental questions: Who am I, really? Where do my true roots lie? What have I lost, and what can I still gain? Can I break free from my family's legacy and the expectations of others?

This novel further explores where reality ends and the illusion of social media begins. Is it better to take control of your own life, or to let yourself be shaped by a role in a fabricated virtual story? And what happens when these two worlds – the real and the digital – collide?

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Tolik popela / *So Much Ash* | February 2022 | 312 pages | samples EN/DE | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Italy (Bonferraro), Macedonia (Antolog), Egypt (Tamnia)

Jednou to tu bude tvoje / *One Day This Will Be Yours* | September 2025 | 248 pages | samples EN/DE



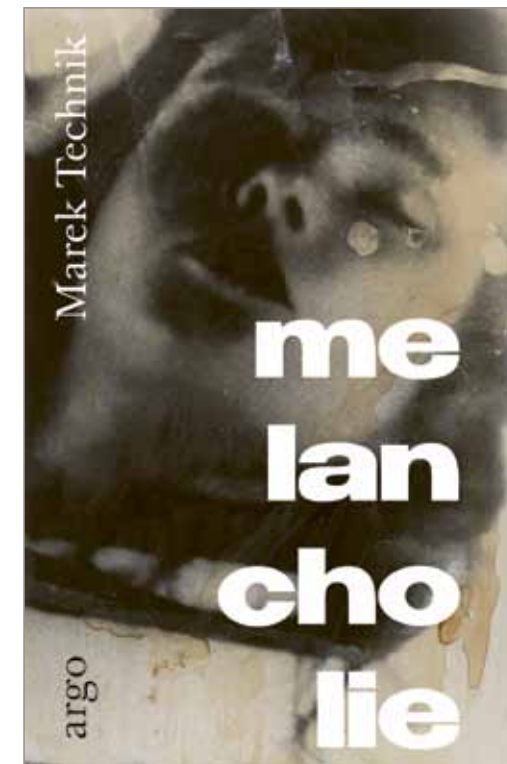
LONGLISTED FOR THE TOP CZECH
LITERARY AWARD (2023)

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 vege-

tarian. He has been a film and literature critic since 2010. *The Warning* (2022), his prose debut, was longlisted for the Czechia's highest literary honour. He lives in Prague.

Existential solitude can
be both healing and
dangerously isolating



Melancholy

Sisi once had a promising career as a model and a relationship with a successful photographer, but when her body betrayed her, everything began to unravel. Now alone in a rented apartment, surrounded by an indifferent world and tormented by memories of her mother, who mysteriously vanished, Sisi searches for herself – wandering along the Vltava River and attending a theater premiere where she can momentarily become someone else.

At the same time, a stranger watches her from afar. Locked inside his own mind amid dark memories, he struggles to find meaning in life. His journey brings him to the same place as Sisi, and perhaps their paths will cross.

The novel asks: Is it worth living by the rules of the world around us, or should we follow our own inner voice – when ultimately, we're all headed toward the same end?

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foto © Miloš Urban

WINNER OF THE TOP CZECH
LITERARY AWARD (2001)

Miloš Urban

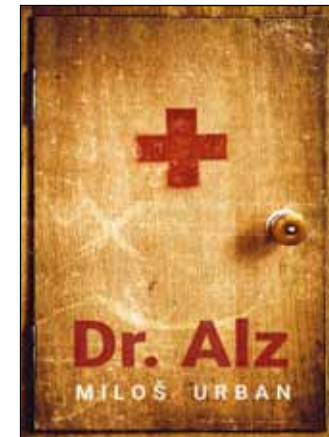
is a Czech writer, translator, and publishing editor. He made his debut in 1998 with *The Final Mark on the Manuscripts*, followed by *The Seven Churches* (1999) and *Hastrman* (2001), which won the Magnesia Litera Award for prose and was adapted into a film by Ondřej Havelka in 2018. His other works include horror nov-

els such as *Santini's Language*, *KAR*, and *Boletus Arcanus*, as well as the original architectural sci-fi *Urbo Kune*. In 2012, he published *Praga Piccola*, a First Republic novel set in the Praga car factory in Libeň. Ten years later, he returned to the First Republic era with *Meat Factory*, a novel set in Prague's slaughterhouses.

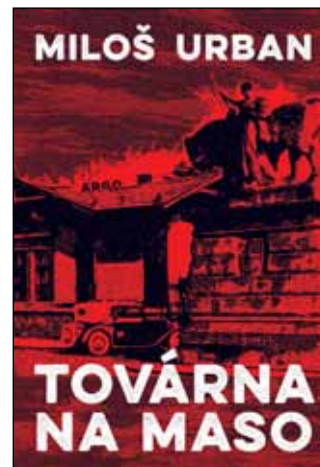
Dr. Alz

Extraordinary notes from an old man who may or may not have Alzheimer's disease

Gustav Molitor, a former publishing editor, is told by his doctor that he is beginning to suffer from progressive dementia. Alzheimer's is a possibility, but despite knowing he's "starting to lose it", Gustav begins keeping detailed notes about his symptoms, convinced his diagnosis might turn out differently. In an effort to exercise his mind and delay the inevitable, he decides to write down everything he can still remember. To his surprise, he uncovers a surprising amount of humor hidden in his awkward and sorrowful memories.



Meet Factory



A historical novel set in interwar Prague

Set in the First Republic era, *Meat Factory* follows Leonard Silkysbooth, an eccentric engineer tasked with improving the public image of a large slaughterhouse complex in Holešovice. But when human bones start turning up nearby, his PR mission takes a dark turn into investigation. Beneath the glowing neon façade lies something far more sinister – and Leonard is determined to uncover the truth.

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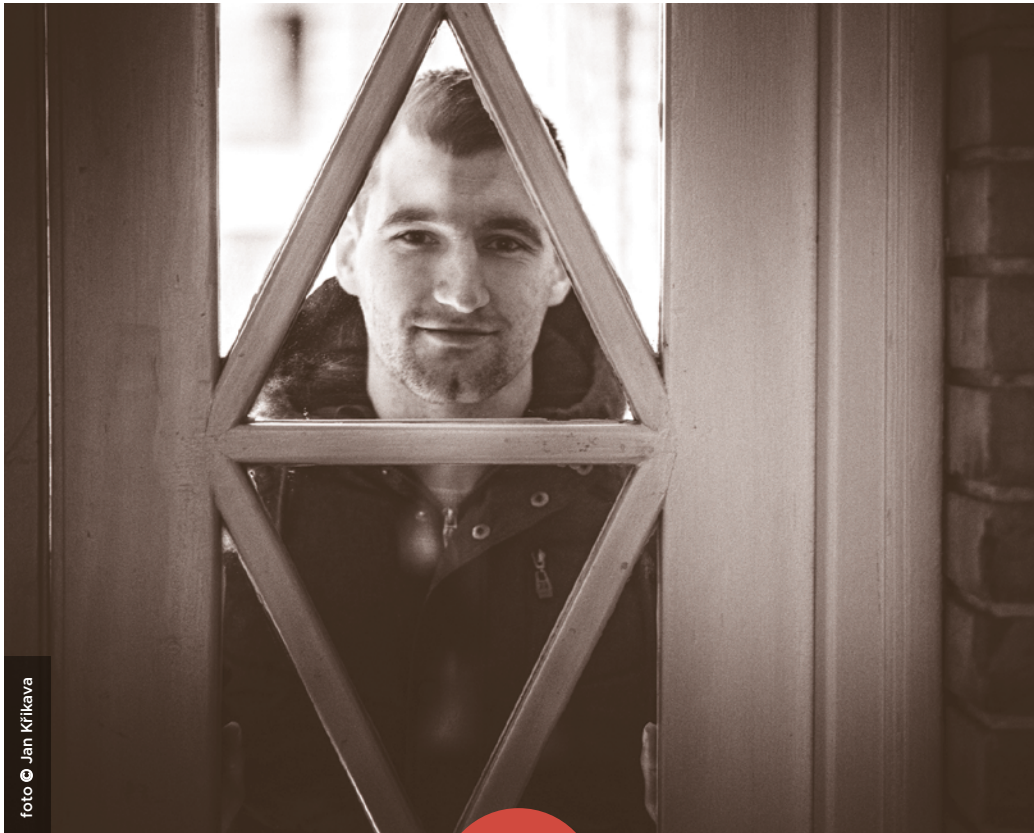


foto © Jan Kríkava

**WINNER OF THE TOP CZECH LITERARY
AWARD – CRIME STORY (2023)**

František Šmehlík

(b. 1995) is a writer from Ostrava with a background in competitive judo – he is a three-time national champion. He studied Czech Language and Literature in Olomouc and draws literary inspiration from Milan Kundera, Bohumil Hrabal, and Ladislav Fuks. His debut *Hear the Stags*

Singing (2021) was praised for its strong plotting and deep psychological insight into life in a close-knit rural community. *The Beast* (2022) launched a three-part crime series featuring chief investigator Laura Ara.

The Beast

Political corruption, media scandal, and murder collide

When a journalist exposes the Interior Minister's shady underworld connections, a televised confrontation ignites national outrage. Days later, the journalist and his girlfriend are found dead—executed with chilling precision. As investigator Laura Ara and her team delve deeper, they uncover links to an older, unsolved case and a tangled web of political cover-ups, mafia ties, and foreign interference. Is this merely an attempt to silence a journalist – or part of something far darker?



Hear the Stags Singing



A murder in the mountains, a village full of secrets

In a remote village in the Beskydy Mountains, a young girl's mutilated body is discovered. The brutality points to a deranged predator, but as the investigation unfolds, something even more disturbing emerges. Ostrava homicide chief Miroslav Lada and his team explore the village's hidden undercurrents: drugs, resentment, and long-buried trauma. Suspects include a failed musician, a reclusive goatherd, and a man whose son may have witnessed more than he understands. Driven by their own personal demons as much as by duty, the investigators must stop the killer before they strike again.

Praise

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

—Kosmas

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Slyšet jeleny zpívat / Hear the Stags Singing | May 2021 | 328 pages | sample EN |
RIGHTS SOLD TO: Poland (Afera)

Šelma / The Beast | October 2022 | 520 pages | sample EN | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Poland
(Afera)



foto © Jan Kříkava

LAUREATE OF THE FERDINAND PEROUTKA
JOURNALISM AWARD (2002)

Luboš Palata

(b. 1967) is a Czech journalist, poet, and occasional visual artist. He began writing fiction and poetry in the 1980s and transitioned to journalism after the Velvet Revolution. He has worked for major Czech newspapers and contributes regularly to the BBC, Radio Free Europe, Deutsche Welle, and Gazeta Wyborcza.

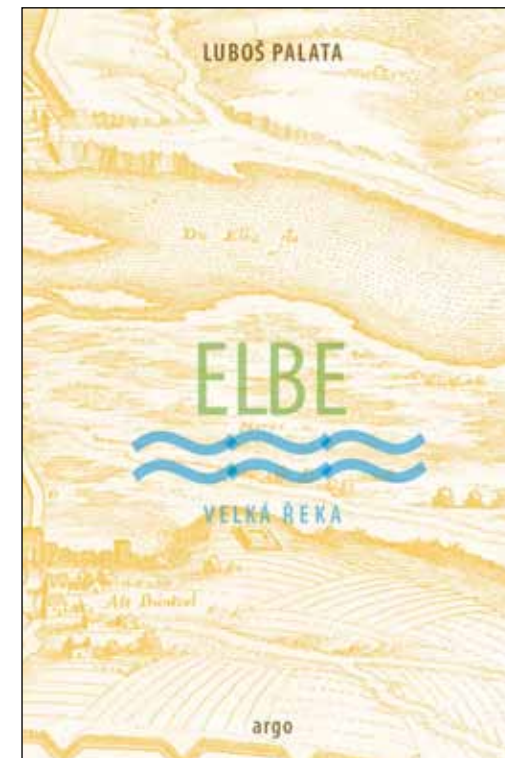
Palata has received numerous Czech and international journalism awards, including the Ferdinand Peroutka Prize. His debut novel, *Elbe*, is the culmination of a literary journey along the Elbe River and over thirty years of experience covering Central Europe and Czech-German relations.

A grand journey anyone
can embark on

Praise

"A page-turner. Luboš Palata is a skilled writer, and his gently poetically transcendental narrative in the spirit of Hrabal and Čapek flows like water, like butter spreading, like reeds swaying in the wind along the river, the countryside, the nation."

Seznam



Elbe. The Great River

The Elbe is more than just a river – it's a journey spanning over a thousand kilometers, from the heart of Bohemia all the way to the sea and beyond. It's a river of intertwined histories: Czechs and Germans, Slavs and Westerners, flowing through the Bohemian basin – Bohemia, Böhmen, Čechy – breaking through mountains to connect with the wider world. The Elbe is a living story, told through the people who have lived along its banks for more than a thousand years. These are stories of greatness and humility, bloodshed and nobility, tragedy and sanctity, beauty and hope, despair and dreams. This book tells those stories – the stories of the Elbe.

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Elbe. Velká řeka | August 2024 | 216 pages | sample EN/DE | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Poland (Uniwersytet Wrocławski), Germany (Balaena)



foto © Jakub Szántó

Praise

"A powerful and timely book that tackles a sensitive topic and will not leave any discerning reader indifferent in today's turbulent times."

— Reflex

WINNER OF THE TOP CZECH LITERARY
AWARD – READERS' CHOICE (2019)

Jakub Szántó

(b. 1977) is a journalist and television reporter with a Doctorate in Modern History from Charles University in Prague. He has covered numerous international crises for television, focusing primarily on the Middle East and Africa. Szántó has received the **Open Society Fund Prague Journalism Award** (2014) and the **Ferdinand Peroutka Award** for journalism (2017). Drawing on over twenty years of reporting – including five years as a per-

manent Middle East correspondent – he has authored *Behind the Curtain of War* (winner of the **Magnesia Litera Readers' Choice Award**, 2019) and *From Is-ratine with Love*, offering an unorthodox perspective on Israeli and Palestinian peoples – their lifestyles, cultures, and histories. Together with Czech TV correspondents, he co-wrote *Putin's War*, a unique chronicle of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Story of Gaza

A powerful report on the country and its people, straight from the conflict zone



Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Story of Gaza

Gaza – a place where ancient empires and biblical legends meet the brutal realities of today's frontline tragedies. Always a crossroads of history, its name became a global symbol of suffering, resilience, and unresolved conflict after October 7, 2023. Award-winning journalist and historian Jakub Szántó brings together two decades of experience in the Middle East, blending deep historical research with gripping reportage and intimate human stories. Filled with maps, photographs, and firsthand testimonies, this book reveals the complex, layered reality of Gaza. Neutral yet compassionate, it cuts through noise and prejudice with clarity and empathy. A timely and unforgettable read for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Gaza.

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**WINNER OF THE TOP CZECH
LITERARY AWARD – FANTASY
(2023)**

Vilma Kadlečková

(b. 1971) has dedicated nearly two decades to the *Mycelium* saga, refining and expanding its complex narrative and richly layered world. The series, part of her broader *Legends of Argenite* cycle, straddles the boundary between science fiction and fantasy – often described as “science fantasy” or “psychotronic science fiction”. Themes of mysticism, psychotronics, science, and faith weave throughout the saga from its very first

volume, making it a remarkable literary achievement. Kadlečková has received multiple accolades, including the Book of the Year Award from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror, the Best Original Czech and Slovak Book of 2013, and the prestigious Magnesia Litera award in the fantasy category for the eighth volume of *Mycelium*.

**A landmark in Czech
fantasy, matching
the originality and
complexity of the best
international sagas**

Praise

“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



MYCELIUM SERIES

2013–2023, 8 books

Vilma Kadlečková’s eight-volume *Mycelium* saga stands as one of the most ambitious and daring projects in the history of Czech fiction. Beyond its impressive scale – over 3,700 pages – it captivates with a richly detailed and sophisticated fantasy universe. The story unfolds on Osse, a far-future planet dominated by a mycelial, technology-driven civilization, and a distant Earth struggling to resist the encroaching cultural and technological influence of the Osseans. Blending science fiction with political thriller elements, the series offers profound reflections on contemporary issues: the role of church and religion, the paradox of exceptionalism and its cost, and the eternal tension between power and responsibility. Kadlečková has crafted a saga that is as original and intricate as the finest foreign works in the genre, marking a milestone in Czech fiction that cannot be overlooked.

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foto © Katerina Čupová

CZECHIA GOLDEN RIBBON AWARD 2021
CZECHIA MURIEL AWARD 2022

Katerina Čupová

(b. 1992) is a Czech animator and comic book artist, and a graduate of the renowned Department of Animation at Tomáš Bata University in Zlín. Her work has appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies. Her webcomic *The Author's Apprentice* was published in print after a successful Kickstarter campaign. In 2022, she won the Muriel Award for Best Children's Comic for her adaptation of the fairy tale *The Magic Pot*, and the Muriel Award for Best Short Comic for

another original work. Her graphic-novel adaptation of Karel Čapek's *R.U.R.* won the Golden Ribbon Award (*Zlatá stuha*) for Best Czech Comic Book of the Year in 2021. Her distinctive, cartoon-inspired style – rooted in decades of Czech animation tradition – combines visual elegance with philosophical depth, making her work both artistically striking and visually resonant.

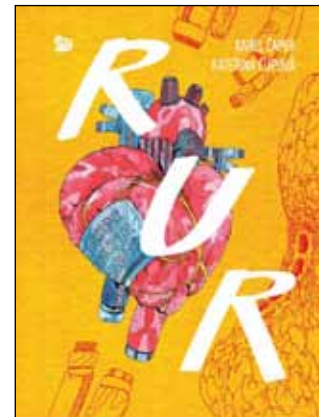
The Magic Pot

A superhero story like no other – armed with a pot of magical compote and a boundless imagination

When young Gaspard meets a mysterious old magician, he's given an unusual gift: a pot of magical compote. Inspired, he gathers his friends, fashions a homemade cape, and sets out to become a superhero. But life in their sleepy village offers little to fight – until the ground begins to tremble. What lies beneath the surface may prove more dangerous (and more absurd) than they ever imagined. A quirky, heartfelt adventure about friendship, courage, and one very powerful pot.



R.U.R.



A timeless reflection on humanity – and the future we may be building

On a remote island, the R.U.R. factory has perfected its greatest invention: robots – tireless, emotionless workers built to serve humanity. Society hails them as the future of labor and progress. But Helena, the factory director's daughter, begins to sense that something is wrong. A glitch in the system suggests that the robots may feel pain... or even hatred.

In this fresh graphic adaptation of Karel Čapek's visionary play, award-winning Czech artist Katerina Čupová reimagines the classic for a new generation. With elegant visual storytelling and deep respect for the original, she transforms *R.U.R.* into not only a warning about technology, but also a meditation on what it means to be human.

R. U. R. | November 2020 | 256 pages | samples EN/FR | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** France (Glénat), Turkey (Dergah), South Korea (Sunest), Italy (Miraggi Edizioni), Spain (La Cúpula), USA (Rosarium Publishing)

Hrnečku vař! / *The Magic Pot* | June 2022 | 208 pages | sample EN | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** France (Glénat), Egypt (Al-turjman), Spain (Malpaso)

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Praise

"With an absorbing and upbeat narrative, the book is an easy-to-read story of a remarkable athlete and inspiring individual."

—Morning Star

Jan Novák (script)

is a leading Czech writer and documentary filmmaker. He received the Carl Sandburg Literary Award and the Magnesia Litera Book of the Year (2005) for his novel *So Far So Good*. In 2020, he published the acclaimed and controversial literary biography *Kundera: His Czech Life and Times*. With Jaromír 99, he has co-created three graphic novels—*Zátopek* (2016), *So Far So Good* (2018), and *Čáslavská* (2023) – all blending sharp storytelling with bold, distinctive visuals, and all translated into multiple languages.

Jaromír 99 (art)

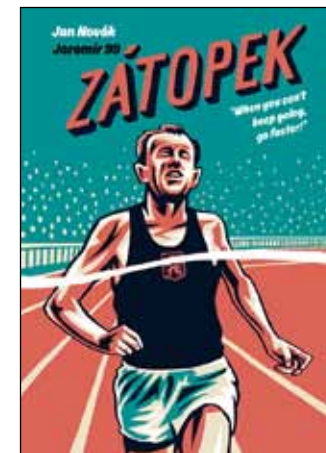
(Jaromír Švejdlík, b. 1963) is a Czech comics artist, illustrator, and musician. He is best known for *Alois Nebel*, adapted into a European Film Award-winning animated feature, and for his Eisner-nominated graphic novel *The Castle*, based on Kafka's classic. His signature black-and-white style fuses literary depth with a striking visual atmosphere. His work regularly appears in exhibitions and major public art projects.

Zátopek

A story of speed, courage, and the quiet rebellion of a national hero

An electrifying graphic portrait of legendary Czech runner Emil Zátopek – four-time Olympic gold medalist and one of the greatest runners in history. The book traces his path from humble beginnings to global fame, culminating in his unprecedented triple gold at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. But Zátopek was more than a phenomenal athlete – he stood up to the regime, defended his fellow competitors, and paid a steep personal price for his integrity.

With expressive linework, cinematic framing, and emotional precision, the creators capture the rhythm, grit, and force of one of Zátopek's legendary races.



So Far So Good

A true story drawn in shadows: rebellion, escape, and the price of freedom

The Mašín brothers' real-life story – two young men who took up arms against Czechoslovakia's communist regime in the 1950s – is one of the most explosive chapters in modern Czech history. Branded either as heroes or criminals, they carried out sabotage missions before attempting a daring escape to the West, pursued across East Germany by tens of thousands of Volkspolizei. Their journey, still fiercely debated today, is a tale of moral conviction, brutal choices, and survival against the odds. A visually striking, morally charged graphic novel about rebellion, loyalty, and what it means to fight for freedom – by any means necessary.



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Zátopek | March 2016 | 208 pages | samples EN/DE/FR | **RIGHT SOLD TO:** Germany (Volland & Quist), France (Des ronds dans l'O), Spain (Aloha editorial), Bulgaria (Janet 45 Publishing), Great Britain (SelfMadeHero)

Zatím dobrý / *So Far So Good* | November 2018 | 256 pages | samples EN/DE/FR | **RIGHT SOLD TO:** Germany (Volland & Quist), France (Presque Lune), Great Britain (Centrala), Poland (Centrala), Ukraine (Centrala), Spain (Nordica Libros)



CZECHIA MURIEL AWARD 2024
BEST COMIC BOOK OF THE YEAR
BEST SCRIPT
BEST ARTWORK

Tereza Verecká (script)

(b. 1985, Prague) is an author, dramaturge, and playwright. She studied songwriting and scriptwriting at the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory and theatrical dramaturgy at DAMU in Prague. Her work spans radio plays, prose, and fairy tales for both children and adults. She has published *Stropopodní žuchbuchy* and *Piš, nebo střelím!* with Argo. Her horror podcast *Lyžák* is the most-listened-to radio project in the Czech Republic.

Mikuláš Podprocký (art)

(b. 1978, Slovakia) is an illustrator and comic artist based in Prague. He studied Free Creativity 3D at the Technical University of Košice under Professor Juraj Bartusz. Since 2002, he has worked as an illustrator for computer games, serving as Art Director for the internationally acclaimed *Kingdom Come: Deliverance* by Warhorse Studios. He has published two volumes of his own comic series and illustrated books including *The Earthsea Trilogy* and *Conan*.

The untold story behind the rescue of 669 Jewish children – and the people who made it possible

Praise

“Inventive and innovative graphic novel.”

—Paul Gravett



Not Only Winton

A fresh, emotionally resonant graphic novel retelling the legendary story of the “Winton children” – and the many overlooked heroes behind their rescue.

Prague, 1938: as war approaches and hope fades, a group of unlikely figures – including Nicholas Winton, Doreen Warriner, and others – risk everything to save hundreds of Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia.

Drawing on memoirs and historical accounts, *Not Only Winton* brings to light those who have long remained in the shadows. Mikuláš Podprocký’s dynamic, metaphor-rich art balances gravity with irony, visual poetry with human warmth. The result is a story of quiet heroism, moral courage, and the power of the conviction that something must be done – simply because it can be.

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Winton nebyl sám / Not Only Winton | December 2024 | 224 pages | sample EN |
RIGHT SOLD TO: Poland (Timof), Philippines (Komiket), UK/US (SelfMadeHero), Italy (Renoir),

Spain (Cartem), Ukraine (UA Comix)



SHORTLISTED FOR THE TOP CZECH
LITERARY AWARD – THE BEST DEBUT
NOVEL (2025)

Martin Čepa (text)

(b. 1990, Jindřichův Hradec) studied Biomedical Instrumentation and Methods at the Czech Technical University in Prague. He works as a research scientist at a biotechnology company and lives in Letohrad. *The Bell* is his debut novel. His second book, *Tajemství zámku Budka*, is forthcoming from the Grada publishing house.

Richard Fischer (illustrations)

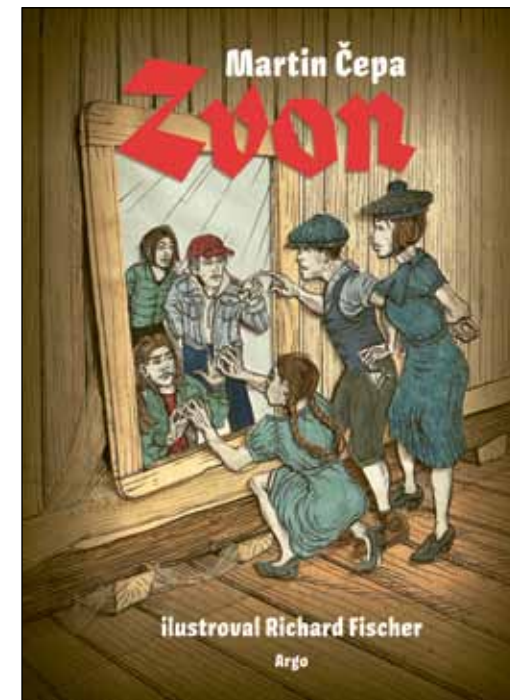
(b. 1968, Tábor) is a freelance artist whose work spans illustration, comics, applied painting, interior design, and textile prints for his family project Domáci dílna. He has illustrated numerous books and magazines, and his first comic book, *Rváčův* (script by Džian Baban), was published in 2020. Fischer often draws inspiration from the gloomy, forgotten, or vanished corners of old Prague.

An adventure that leaps across time – from present-day Prague to its final days under Nazi rule

Praise

“A thrilling and adventurous story with time travel at its core. The author uses a fresh approach by incorporating physics rather than traditional fantasy elements, and the ending is masterfully crafted, seamlessly intertwining events from both the past and the present.”

— La Cultura



The Bell

In a quiet apartment building in Prague's Vinohrady district, a group of friends hears a strange whistling from somewhere above. Their search leads them to the attic, where they find the notes of a certain Dr. Schneider – and the source of the sound: a massive, black, bell-shaped stone with a crack large enough to crawl inside. Three of the children do, leaving the fearful Eda behind. Inside, they are pulled into a bizarre physical phenomenon: the bell has transported them to April 1945. To return home, they must find Dr. Schneider – but the war is still raging, and a ruthless Gestapo officer known as The Butcher is hot on their trail.

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foto © Marie Doležalová

Marie Doležalová (text)

is a woman of many talents – an actress known from films such as *Pusinky* (*Dolls*) and the sitcom *Comeback*, as well as other TV series; a dancer and winner of the seventh season of *StarDance*; a member of the unconventional music group *Olats otesoc*; and a writer and blogger. Her blog *Kafe a cigárko* (*Coffee and a Cigarette*) won the 2015 Magnesia Litera for Blog of the Year and later appeared in both book and audiobook form. In 2018, she published a memoir of her childhood, *Jeden kopeček šmoulový* (*One Smurf-Scoop*).

Matěj Růžička (illustrations)



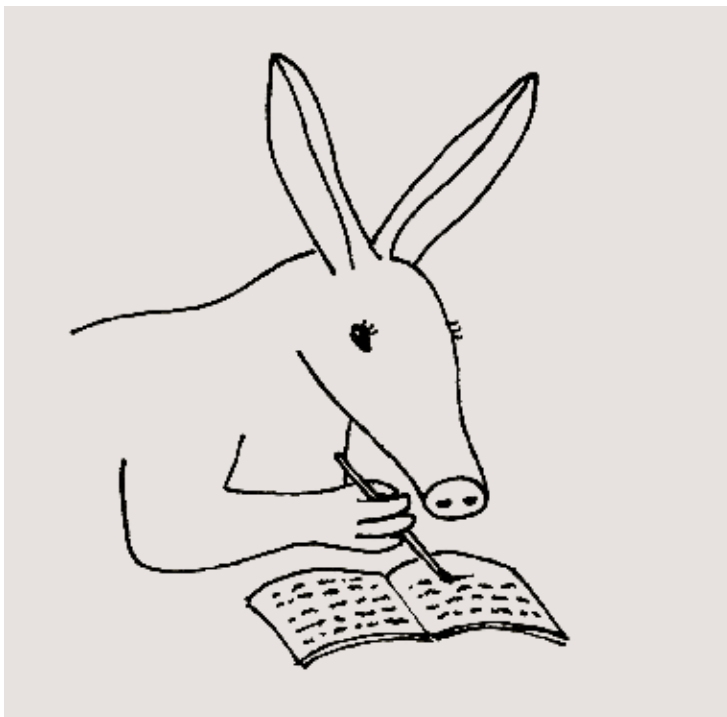
Ten fairy tales about children whose secret wishes all came true



You're Not Getting Any Carrots Until You Eat Those Candies

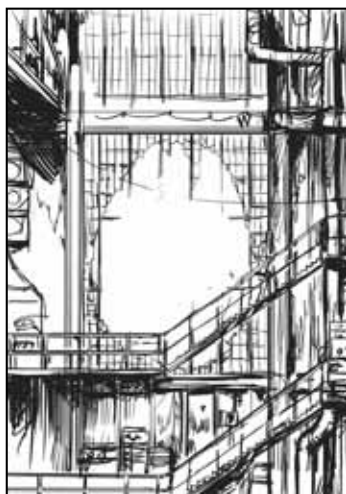
Is your younger sibling driving you crazy? What if pirates came and took him away? Finally some peace and quiet! Don't feel like brushing your teeth every day? Wish granted! Does your mom insist on feeding you fruit and vegetables, plain yogurt, and cheese? What if she suddenly changed her mind, and you could feast on ice cream, hot dogs, hamburgers, and other deliciously unhealthy treats? Tired of tidying up your toys? Imagine – your mom no longer insists on it. Sounds pretty sweet, right? Who wouldn't want all that?! Well...what if getting everything you wished for doesn't actually make you happy in the end?

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Sabina Hrabáčová

primarily writes for children and occasionally translates from English. *Ovum* marks her first novel for young adults. She is an enthusiastic admirer of aardvarks (*Orycteropus afer*), with whom she shares her surname.

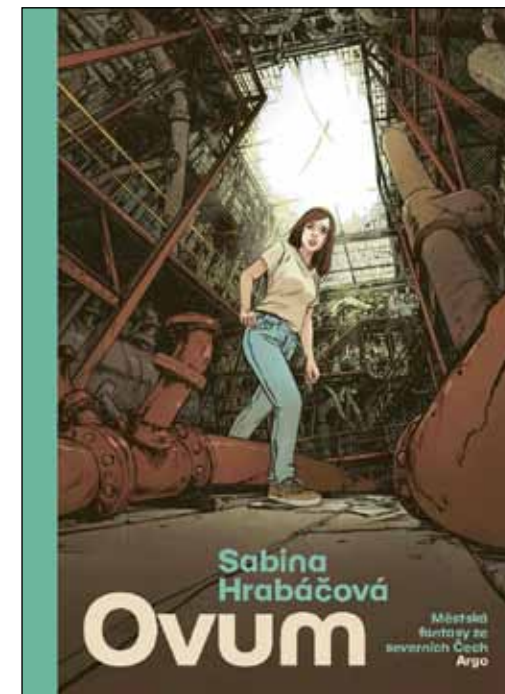


A gripping urban fantasy for young adults

Praise

"The atmosphere of the small North Bohemian town, full of crumbling houses and abandoned factories, will draw you in!"

— knizni novinky



Ovum

In a fading industrial town in northern Bohemia, the streets are lined with crumbling houses and abandoned factories. High school student Simona is drawn to their strange, decaying beauty. One day, while wandering the streets, she meets Larin – a fellow urban explorer with very different motives. Before Simona can learn more about these old buildings the, Larin is kidnapped, and Simona finds herself in the whirlwind of a dangerous adventure. At its heart lies the mysterious Ovum, a four-hundred-year-old egg-shaped clock last owned by a local factory magnate. To his descendants, he left only a trail of cryptic clues leading to its location. But why all the secrecy? And who exactly are Larin and his unconventional friend Alice?

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Tomáš Peřina (text)

(b. 1980, Prague) may have a surname that sounds suited to love poetry, but he has chosen the shadowy path of horror instead. Like the monsters he writes about, he appears only rarely, preferring a quiet life far from the spotlight.

František Skála (illustrations)

(b. 1956) is a Czech sculptor, painter, graphic artist, 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). Over his career, he has illustrated more than twenty books, many of them winners of prestigious awards.

Horror poetry for children and adults – in the spirit of Tim Burton and Jon Kenn Mortensen

Praise

“A brilliant collection of excellent poetry, accompanied by even more outstanding illustrations. Its dark humor will amuse you and have you laughing until you're out of breath. Absurdity and wit at its best!”

Kosmas



Something Hiding in There

At first glance, this book looks odd... and something is definitely lurking inside. While written for children, it's the kind of book the whole family might secretly claim for themselves. Tomáš Peřina's wild imagination collides with the unmistakable art of celebrated Czech artist František Skála – an electrifying pairing that's as surprising as it is delightful. The result? Darkly funny poems like you've never read before – and may never again – short horror tales packed with puns, unexpected twists, and deliciously creepy illustrations.

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