



Argo Highlights

Foreign Rights

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 9 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, Laszlo Krasznahorkai, Mircea Cartarescu, Lucas Rijneveld, Daniel Kehlmann, Katja Kettu, Maria Turtshchaninoff, Jean-Michel Guenassia, Sally Rooney, Helen Oyeyemi, Yang Shuang-zi** 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, Milo Manara, 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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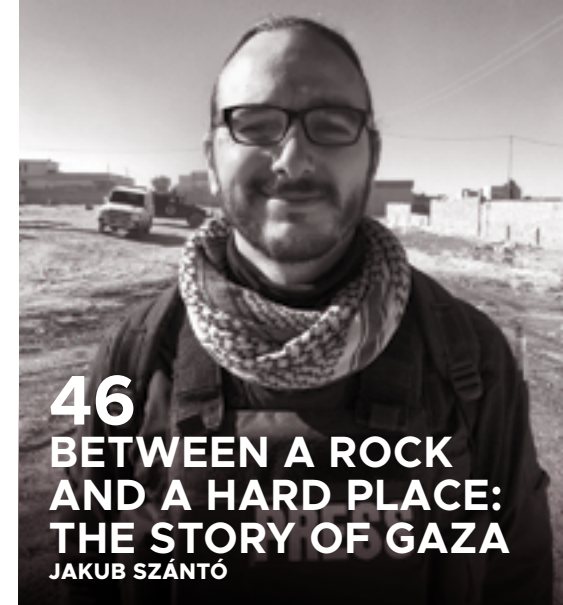




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Alice Horáčková

(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 *7x 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

"This great novel reads like a footnote to Thoreau's famous pronouncement that most people lead lives of quiet despair. Women who choose the wrong men, men trapped in delusions and self-deception. Don't be fooled by Alice Horáčková's nostalgia-laden provincial charm; her powerful chronicle of the Giant Mountains is a painting of existential horror."

— Thomas Brussig



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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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.

WINNER OF THE TOP CZECH
LITERARY AWARD (2019)

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 | 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), Greece (Eurasia)

Okno na západ | March 2025 | 256 pages | sample EN | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Italy (Bonferraro)



LOONGLISTED FOR THE TOP
CZECH LITERARY AWARD (2024)

Petra Hůlová

(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, *The Long Version* (2023), explores the culture wars embedded in everyday life. She lives in Prague.

The Long Version

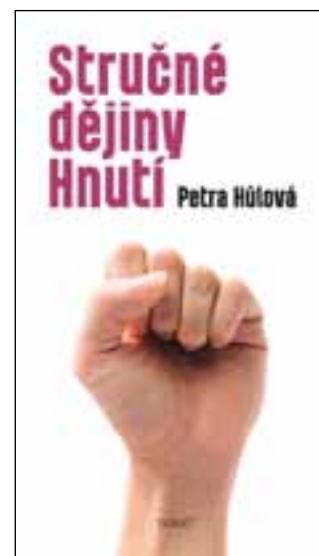
Can a woman wake up one day and say #MeToo twenty years later?

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.

Nejvyšší karta | March 2023 | 188 pages | samples EN/DE |

RIGHTS SOLD TO: Poland (Afera), USA (World Editions) | **Stručné dějiny Hnutí** / The Movement

| April 2018 | 184 pages | samples EN/DE/FR | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** Worldeditions (USA), Afera

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(Poland), Slovenia (Cankarjeva založba), Romania (Curtea Veche), Italy (Atmosphere libri), Hungary (Metropolis Media), Spain (Editorial Funambulista), Denmark (Jensen & Dalgaard), Serbia (Clio), Norway (Solum Bokvennen)



foto © Richard Klíčník

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

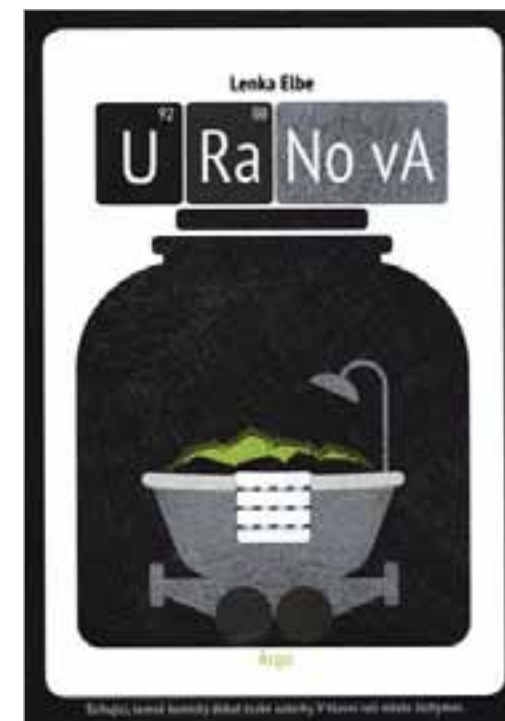
with fantasy in her writing, drawing inspiration from authors such as Franz Kafka, Umberto Eco, and Haruki Murakami. In addition to writing, she is active in graphic design and photography. Her novel *Uranova* was selected for the seventh Susanna Roth Award for beginner translators of Czech literature.

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

Praise

"In this perfectly crafted debut, Lenka Elbe uses the conventions of horror literature to explore the past of her country and brings to mind some of her contemporaries, such as Mariana Enríquez and Rivers Solomon."

— LES INROCKUPTIBLES
magazine, France



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)



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* etc.

So Far So Good

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

The true story of the Mašín brothers, whose daring anti-Communist resistance and dramatic 1953 escape to West Berlin sparked one of the largest manhunts in Eastern Bloc history. To this day, the question of whether they were heroes or murderers continues to divide Czech society. Blending family history, political drama, and the pace of a western, Jan Novák brings to life the Mašín family and their circle of friends and accomplices. *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.



Velvet and Steam

Three days in Prague at the dawn of freedom

After twenty years in American exile, Jan Novák returns to Prague in December 1989, just as the country is emerging from decades of communist rule. *Velvet and Steam* records three intense days steeped in historic events, cigarette smoke, chance encounters, heated conversations, and an eager anticipation of what is to come. With wit, sharp observation, and a personal sense of distance, Novák captures a city suspended between the old world and the new. A vivid, intimate, and ironic portrait of Prague in the first days of freedom.



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foto © Richard Klíčník

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.

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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Láska v době globálních klimatických změn | 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), Romania (Editura Casa Cartii de Stiinta), Netherlands (Uitgeverij Nobelman), Greece (Eurasia), Hungary (Metropolopolis Media)

Portrét vědce v systému postindustriální společnosti | April 2025 | 192 pages | sample EN



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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 Prague.

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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Život po Kafkovi | June 2022 | 240 pages | samples EN/DE/FR/SP | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** USA (Bellevue Literary Press), France (Agullo), Italy (Volland), Serbia (Treći Trg), Denmark (Forlaget Silkefyret), Germany (Balaena), Croatia (Disput), Egypt (Scheherezade Cultural Initiative),

Ukraine (Anetta Antonenko), Greece (Eurasia), Bulgaria (Ergo), Israel (Persimmon Books), Armenia (Newmag), Lithuania (Slinktys)



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Praise

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

— Publishers Weekly

„An elegant horror novel for fans of *Midsommar* and *The Witch*.“

— Locus

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

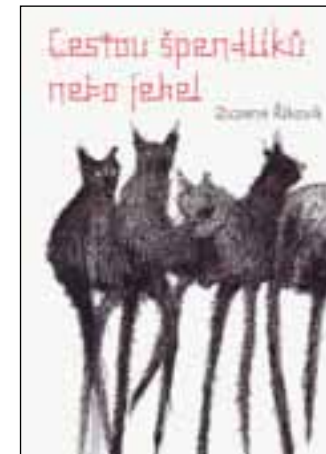
published the poetry collection *I'll Let You in My House* (2016) and the novella *Little Eve*, named one of the Books of the Year in 2018 by a leading Czech literary web magazine. Her novel *Playing Wolf* (2021) has brought her widespread acclaim, and she has already successfully completed her first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

Playing Wolf

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

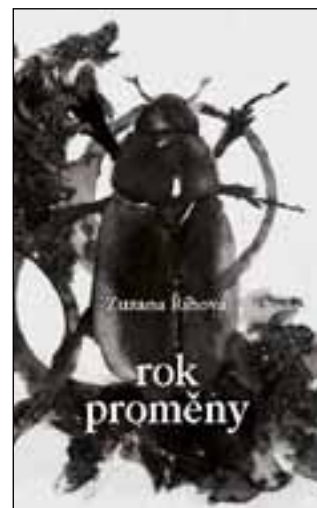
Husband and wife Bohumil and Bohumila, along with their son, leave Prague for a remote village, hoping to salvage their marriage. In the searing summer heat, they try to blend in, but are met with hostile stares and evasive answers. Each night, they hear what they believe to be a large animal prowling 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 | May 2021 | 248 pages | samples EN/DE/FR | **RIGHTS SOLD TO:** France (Éditions du Seuil), Poland (Afera), USA (Catapult)

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



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LOGLISTED FOR THE TOP
CZECH LITERARY AWARD (2024)

Alexey Sevruk

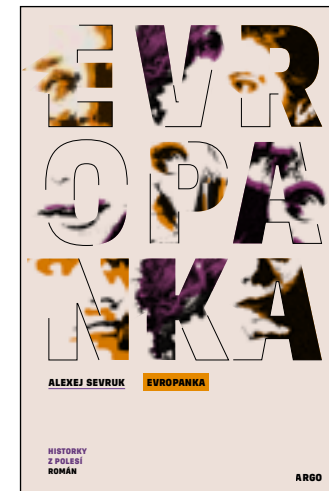
(b. 1983) is a poet, novelist, journalist, and translator. Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, he has lived in the Czech Republic since the age of twelve, when his family moved there under a government program to repatriate Volhynian Czechs and their relatives. He studied Ukrainian and Slavonic Studies at the Faculty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

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

Ondřej Štindl

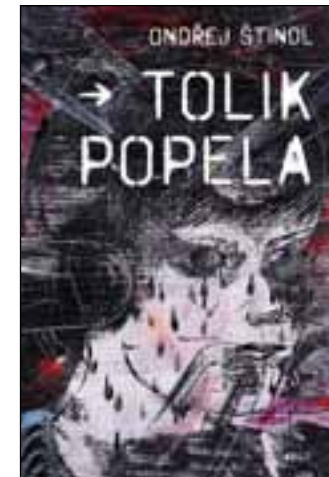
(b. 1966) is a film and music critic, writer, screenwriter, journalist, and DJ. His script for *Pouta* (*Walking Too Fast*) was brought to the screen in 2010. In 2020, he received the Ferdinand Peroutka Prize for his journalism. He is the author of the

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?

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

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

Jednou to tu bude tvoje | September 2025 | 248 pages | samples EN/DE

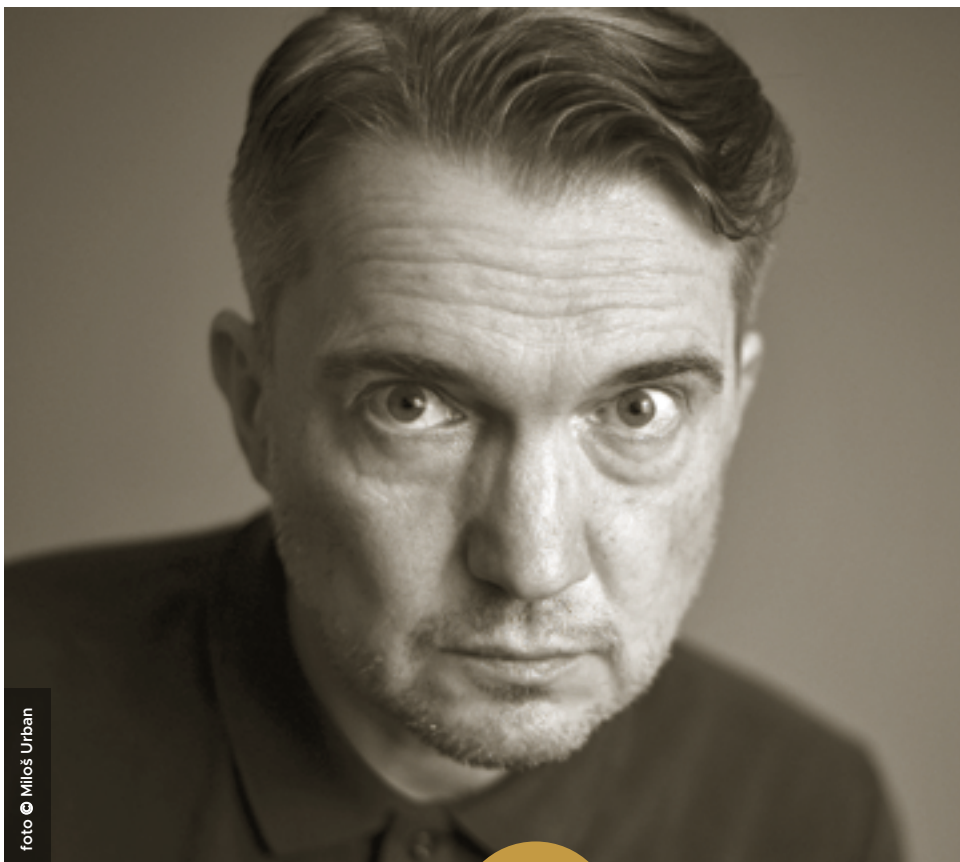


foto © Miloš Urban

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.

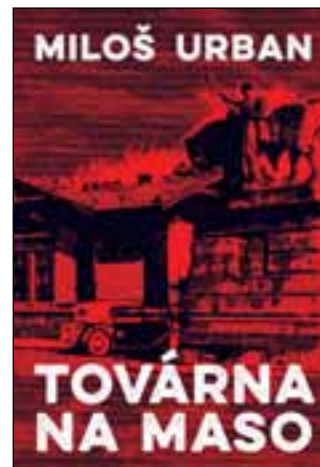
Dr. Alz

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.



Meat 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 © Author's archive

Jana Ndiaye Beránková

is a Czech writer and researcher at the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences. She studied at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris and Columbia University in New York. Her work brings

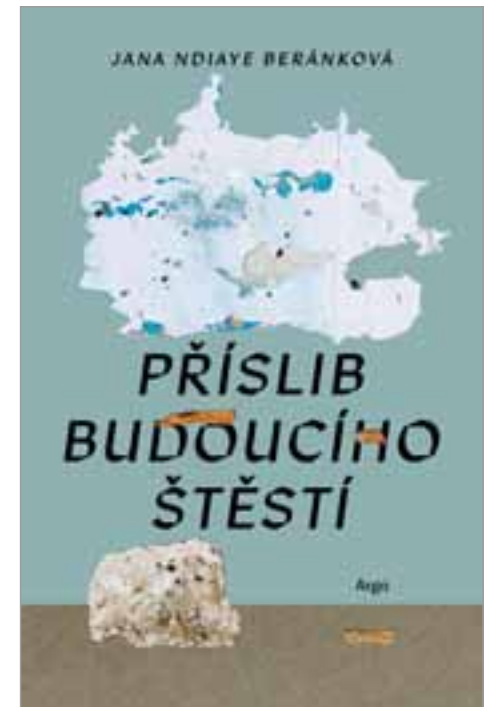
together literature, French philosophy, the history of left-wing movements, and architectural theory. Her essayistic prose offers a thoughtful exploration of memory, space, and contemporary society.

A deeply human novel about a fading world of books, memories, and grand ideals

Praise:

“An exquisitely crafted novel that reminds us a work of fiction can be both deeply personal and profoundly thoughtful.”

— Kosmas



The Promise of Future Happiness

In present-day Prague, a city poised between memory and forgetting, the narrator is searching for meaning after the collapse of both a relationship and the certainties that once sustained her. She turns to writing, love, and the world around her, but her life takes an unexpected turn when she meets Nino, an aging revolutionary living in inner exile. He embodies the lost ideals of another era and its dreams of a different future. As the two wander through the city, their walks give rise to conversations both intimate and intellectual, touching on the past, the workings of memory, and a world that seems to have lost faith in the possibility of change. Prague emerges as a city of contradictions, where high culture meets kitsch, history is overtaken by tourism, and grand ideas collide with the banalities of everyday life.

The Promise of Future Happiness is a tender, dreamlike novella about the encounter between two lonely people, the shifting boundary between reality and imagination, and whether it is still possible to believe in love, change, and the future in an age that seems to have moved beyond the end of history.

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foto © Jan Kríkava

Kristián Dlouhý

was born at the tail end of the millennial generation. His lifelong companions are literature, animals – dogs in particular – and fragments of philosophical thought. He always dreamed of making a living through writing and eventually succeeded, though unfortunately not by writing books. Depending on his mood, he gets

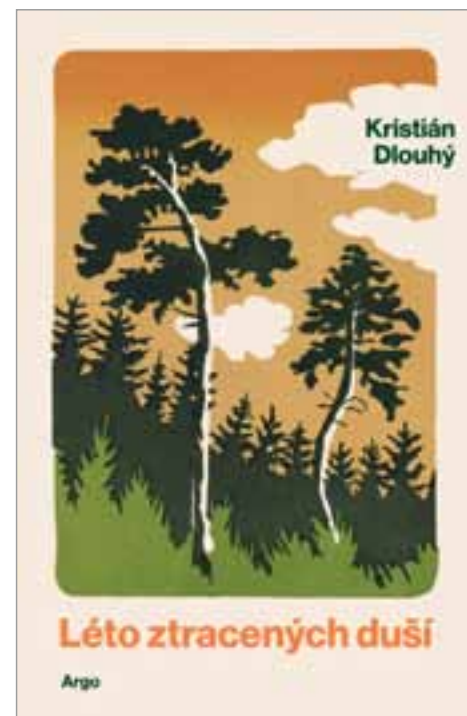
through difficult times with either self-pity or self-deprecating humor. He is terrified of rats, bottomless chasms, and his own vulnerability. Besides reading, writing, dogs, and philosophers, he loves the mountains. He is particularly fond of Mount Koppel and hopes to visit Transylvania one day.

Three lives poised between reality and illusion, where the past may never truly end

Praise:

“Drawing inspiration from Kundera-esque themes, Dlouhý explores how minor coincidences can determine the course of human lives, offering readers a mosaic of guilt, memory, and the limits of human reason.”

— Aktuálně.cz



Summer of Lost Souls

A former teacher is drowning in despair and alcohol, haunted by the bleakness of his past. Then a chance encounter with a mysterious woman draws him completely under her spell. Can he discover where she came from and who, or what, she really is? Kiri, a young woman from India, begins seeing things she could not possibly be seeing. As the boundary between reality and illusion begins to blur, she finds herself questioning whether it was ever real in the first place. Can she still trust her own mind? Meanwhile, Tadeáš's parents are suddenly confronted with the unthinkable, a situation they could never have anticipated, let alone prepared for. Three lives, three ways of seeing a world that may not be what it seems. And what if someone walking among us has been here before...?

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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

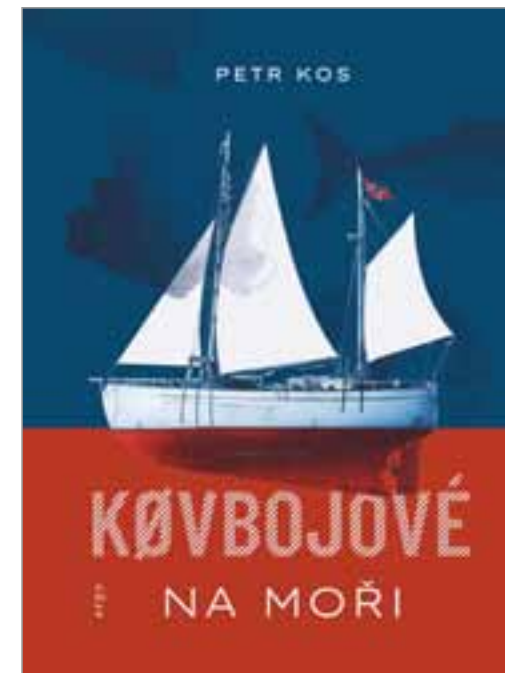
wooden ship *Anna* from Tromsø, sailing her along the Norwegian coast. In winter, he builds wooden houses and writes. His debut carries the scent of tar, the sea, and unvarnished adventure.

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

Praise:

"Kos proves that the Jack London-style adventurer archetype has not died out in the twenty-first century. These days, however, instead of roaming the Pacific, he races across the Arctic Ocean in an open boat."

—Kosmas



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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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.

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foto © Tom-de-Koning

Ema Šindelářová

was born in South Bohemia in 1966 and grew up in Blatná. She moved to the Netherlands in 1991, where she began working in homeopathy and writing. She publishes in both Dutch and Czech. Her debut novel, *Tranen van een feniks* (2021), appeared in Czech as *Jako tažní ptáci* (2023). Her second book, *Feniks op de finca* (2023), will be published

in Czech by Argo under the title *Kde hnízdí orli*. She is also the author of the humorous book *Dvojnožci jsou pitomí: Deník kocoura Mojo* and several collections of short stories. For the past five years, she has lived primarily in the Spanish mountains, where she tends a finca with olive and almond trees.

**Warm,
autobiographically
inspired novel about
starting over**

Praise:

“The book’s strength lies in its disarming honesty, capturing frustration, exhaustion, and the painful feeling of being misunderstood.”

—knizni zavislaci



Where Eagles Nest

When Ema, a Czech émigré living in the Netherlands, decides to buy an abandoned farmstead with her partner Bas in the Spanish mountains of Las Alpujarras, she believes she is embarking on a new, idyllic chapter of her life. But instead of a rose garden, their dramatic departure in the middle of the pandemic’s first wave and a strict lockdown leads her into a relentless struggle with damp, broken heating, and an overgrown jungle where a garden should be. She soon realizes, however, that the hardest obstacles are not the demands of the land, but Bas’s emotional wall against the world and her own fear of abandonment. What began as the search for a home becomes a journey toward inner freedom.

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foto © Lenora Lesegier

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-

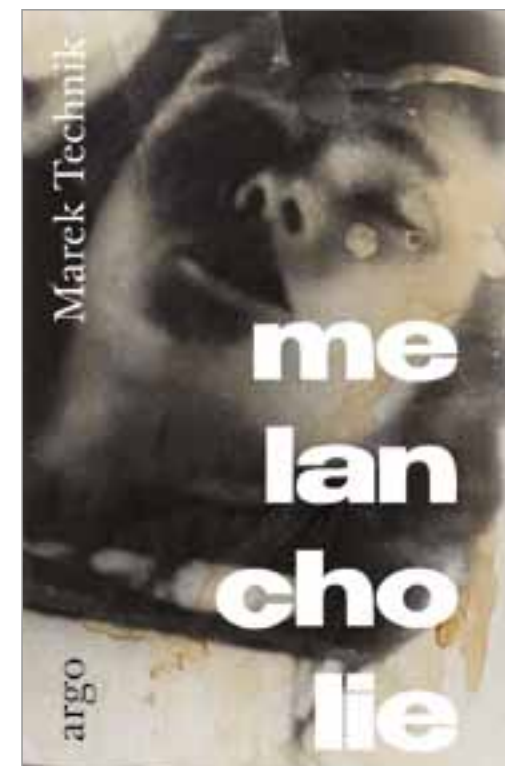
tarian. He has been a film and literature critic since 2010. *The Warning* (2022), his prose debut, was longlisted for the Czechia's highest literary honour. He lives in Prague.

Existential solitude can
be both healing and
dangerously isolating

Praise:

"Marek Technik has written a hysterical book—or, more precisely, a rare and audacious example of rigorous hysterical realism in contemporary Czech literature. In a style that is characteristically precise yet deeply empathetic and subtly ironic, he explores and captures the fascinating paradoxes of our digital, information-saturated age..."

Ivana Myšková



Melancholia

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 © Author's Archive

Zdeněk Viktora

is a Czech screenwriter, director, and author. Born in Prague in 1976, he first studied journalism at Charles University before going on to study screenwriting and dramaturgy at FAMU. During his studies, he completed an internship in Paris and attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts as a Fulbright scholar.

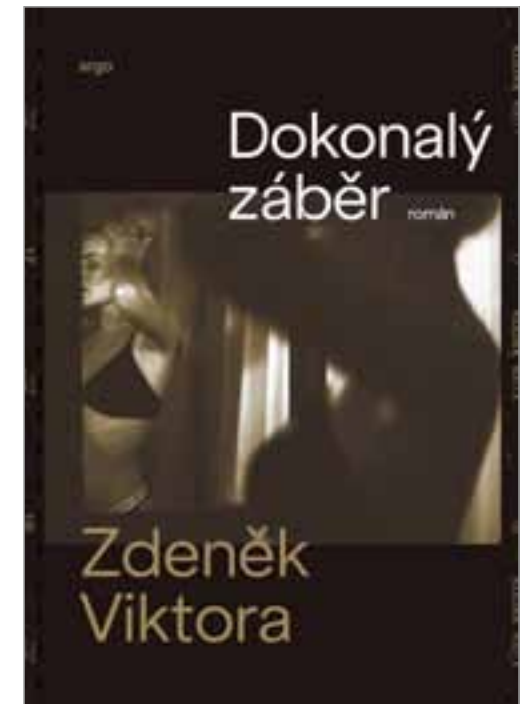
He has written numerous screenplays for film and television, working on both original projects and commercial series such as *Ordinace v růžové zahradě*, *Modrý kód*, *Cesty domů*, *1. MISE*, and *Polda*. He has also directed the feature films *Raluca* and *Miss Hanoi*.

Four people search for love, only to fall for the images they have created of one another

Praise:

"A disturbingly precise novel about love turning into obsession and a struggle for power."

— Kosmas



The Perfect Shot

Tomáš is a screenwriter who has spent his life believing in the romantic myth of one true love. Alice dreams of building a family in which everyone can feel safe. Leoš searches for the perfect image of a woman, one he can capture like a photograph. Nina wants something simpler: to finally be seen for who she truly is.

Each has their own idea of what love should be. But they gradually discover that they may be in love not with one another, but with the images they have created.

The title links the novel's photography and film motifs to its characters' attempts to capture an idealized image of love and hold on to fleeting moments.

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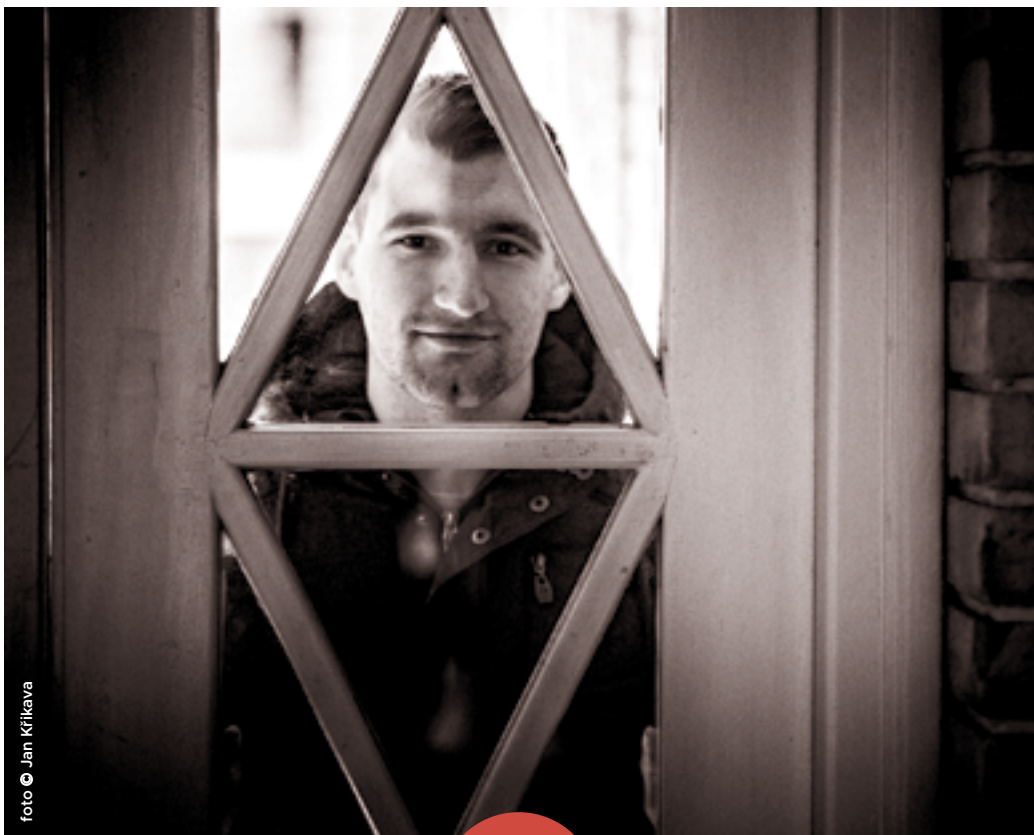


foto © Jan Kríkava

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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foto © Jan Kříkava

LAUREATE OF THE FERDINAND PEROUTKA
JOURNALISM AWARD (2002)

WINNER OF THE EGON ERWIN KISCH
INTERNATIONAL PRIZE (2025)

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.

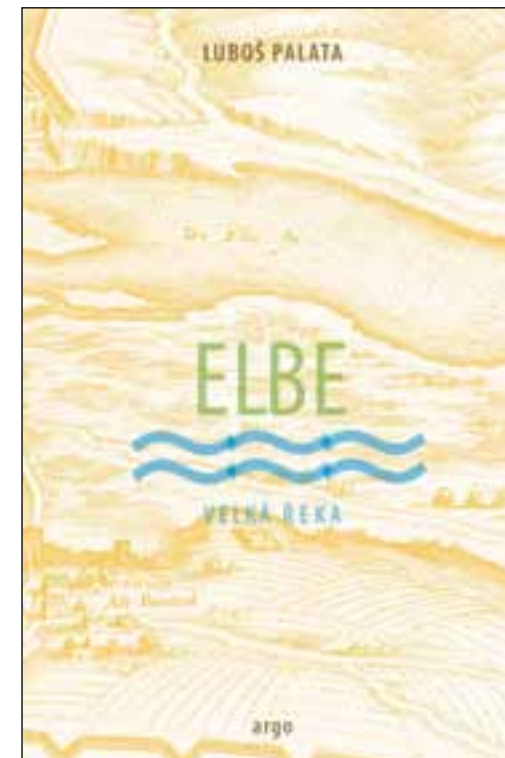
Palata has received numerous Czech and international journalism awards, including the Ferdinand Peroutka Prize. His debut novel, *Elbe*, is the culmination of a literary journey along the Elbe River and over thirty years of experience covering Central Europe and Czech-German relations.

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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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 © Kateřina Čupová

CZECHIA GOLDEN RIBBON AWARD 2021
CZECHIA MURIEL AWARD 2022

Kateřina 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.

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), Egypt (Al-turjman), Albania (Czech Embassy in Tirana), Egypt (Al turjman), Albania (Czech Embassy in Tirana), Netherlands (Uitgeverij Boycott), Ukraine (Vydavnystvo)

The Magic Pot

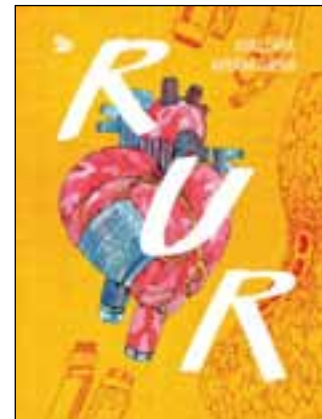
A superhero story like no other – armed with a pot of magical compote and a boundless imagination

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 Kateřina 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.

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

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



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)

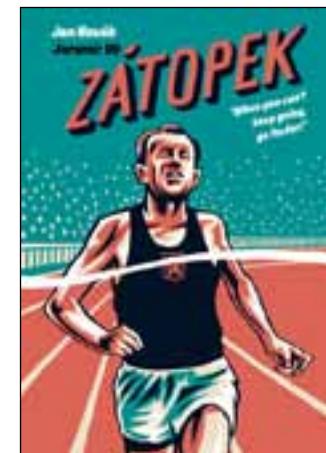
(Jaromír Švejdlík, b. 1963) is a Czech comics artist, illustrator, and musician. He is best known for *Alois Nebel*, adapted into a European Film Award-winning animated feature, and for his Eisner-nominated graphic novel *The Castle*, based on Kafka's classic. His signature black-and-white style fuses 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.



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), Italy (Miraggi Edizioni), Greece (Kastaniotis Editions), South Korea (Sunest)

Zatím dobrý | 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)

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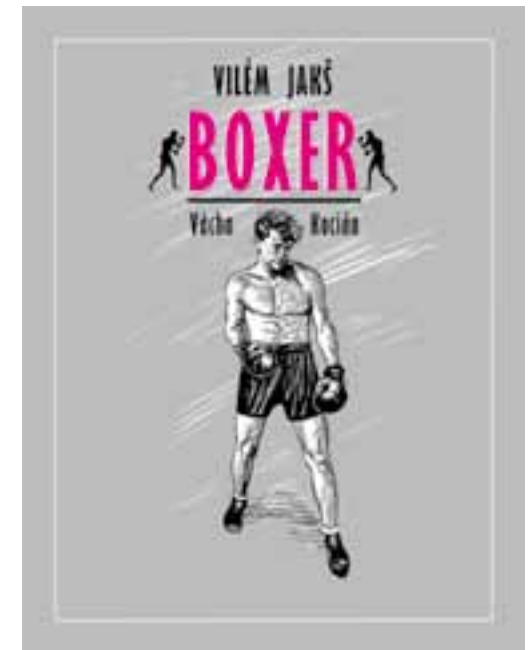
Dalibor Vácha (script)

(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.

Michael Kocián (art)

(b. 1960) has loved drawing since childhood and has always been particularly fascinated by comics. He admired the work of Kája Saudek and French comics artists. At first, he drew comics only for himself, but when the magazines *Kometa* and *Aréna* were launched, he began contributing to both. He has illustrated several books by Jaroslav Foglar and worked for *ABC* magazine, creating comics in collaboration with various writers. Since 2005, he has devoted himself full-time to creating comics for magazines and books, primarily on historical subjects, for several major publishers.

The true story of Vilda, who fought for freedom both with and without gloves



Vilda

Vilda Jakš, Czechoslovakia's interwar middleweight boxing champion, lived the dazzling life of a 1930s celebrity in Prague and beyond. And Vilda cuts a striking figure anywhere: in the boxing ring, in a tuxedo, and now on the pages of this comic!

This spectacular new graphic novel follows his journey from the neon lights of Paris, boxing's mecca on the Seine, to a Prague darkened by the Nazi occupation, and finally into the gun turret of a bomber fighting in the skies over Europe to liberate his occupied homeland.

Could Vilda Jakš have knocked out Adolf Hitler? We have no doubt: he could have done it with one hand behind his back!

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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

“A magnificent, artfully crafted graphic novel that retells these heroic deeds in dark yet expressive images, while conveying a message of hope.”

— Peter Zander,
Berliner Morgenpost



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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Michael Žantovský (script)

(b. 1949) studied psychology at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague and at McGill University in Montreal, later working as a clinical psychologist. He was a founding member of Civic Forum and served from 1990 to 1992 as Václav Havel's press secretary and advisor. He later held ambassadorships in the United States, Israel, and the United Kingdom. From 2015 to 2023 he was director of the Václav Havel Library, and he currently serves, among other roles, as a foreign policy advisor to President Petr Pavel. He is the author of the acclaimed biography *Havel: A Life* (2014) and other works.

Štěpánka Jislová (art)

(b. 1992) is a Czech illustrator and comics author. She studied at the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. Her work has appeared in numerous Czech anthologies (*AARGH!*, *Caves*, *BubbleGun*, *XEROX*) as well as international collections (*Bobla*, *Dirty Diamonds*, *CBA*). She co-founded the Czech branch of Laydeez Do Comics, an organization dedicated to showcasing women creators in the field. She received the Muriel Award for her graphic novel *Srdcovka*..

An extraordinary story proving that true greatness and heroism arise from personal crisis and the courage to embrace one's destiny

Praise:

"Its compelling power makes it unforgettable."

Seznam



Havel: Dancing with the Devil

A close friend of Václav Havel and an acclaimed comics artist present a graphic novel that fills a long-standing gap. The year 1977, when Charter 77 was published, marked one of the most dramatic periods in Havel's life. After several days of interrogations and house searches, the already renowned yet banned playwright was charged with subversion of the republic and damaging its interests abroad. He was placed in pre-trial detention and released only after four months. This episode provides the framework for a graphic microdrama in which the resolve of the future statesman is put to a severe test.

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

Martin Čepa

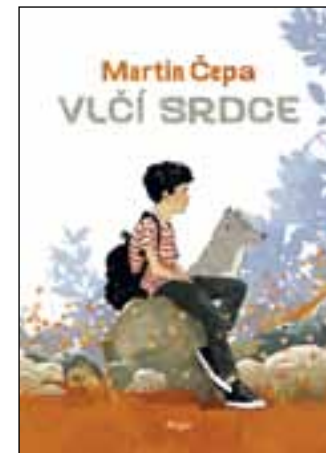
(b. 1990, Jindřichův Hradec) studied Biomedical Instrumentation and Methods at the Czech Technical University in Prague. He works as a research scientist at a biotechnology company and lives in Letohrad. *The Bell*, his debut novel, was very popular with children of all ages. His second book *WolfHeart* is forthcoming.

Wolfheart

A new home, a long-buried wartime secret – an adventure that will put the courage to the test

When eleven-year-old Kája moves with his parents from Prague to a village in the foothills, his whole world is turned upside down. He must adjust to a new school, unfamiliar classmates, and a completely different pace of life. To make matters worse, a group of local boys decides to teach the “city outsider” a lesson, with nearly tragic consequences. Lonely and restless, Kája begins exploring the sprawling farmstead that is now his home. There, he discovers belongings once owned by a local partisan who fought a one-man campaign against the German occupiers. Deep in the nearby woods, hidden among the rocks, Kája even finds the partisan’s former hideout.

Illustrations by Ján Kurinec



The Bell



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

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.

Illustrations by Richard Fischer

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foto © Author's archive

Marie Doležalová

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 Olaty 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. Her debut *You're not Getting any Carrots until You Eat those Candies* (2025) was very popular and sold extremely well.

Jáchym of the Castle and Vilomína the Fairy

A wildly inventive story sure to delight fans of Roald Dahl and David Walliams

What should you do when something is troubling you? Tell your parents, of course. Everyone knows that. But what if they are so caught up in their own worries that they have no time to listen? Then there is only one thing left to do: summon your guardian angel.

Jáchym's guardian angel, however, is anything but ordinary. She is Vilomína, a fashion-obsessed fairy who spends so much time primping that she nearly arrives too late to save him. And that is only the beginning of a wonderfully bonkers adventure, with an entire family and everyone living in a seventy-room castle in need of rescue.

Illustrations by Julie Šeblová



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

Ten fairy tales about children whose secret wishes all came true



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?

Illustrations by Matěj Růžička

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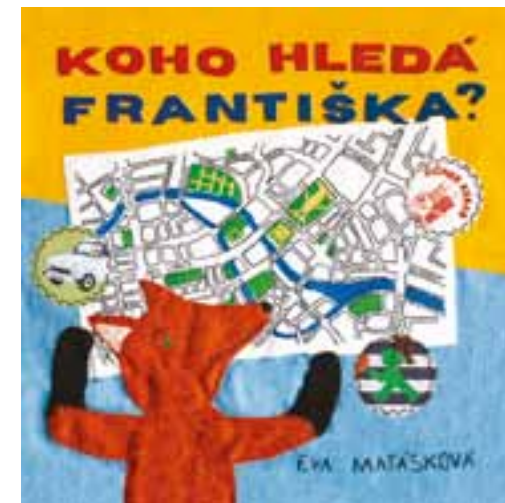


Eva Matásková

(b. 1987, Olomouc) worked for a time as a translator from German and English before moving into marketing and PR. She lived in Berlin for six years. She tends an orchard and several apiaries in the Central Bohemian Uplands, and her bees even inspired her to enroll in a distance-learning program at a beekeeping school. She and her husband, actor Da-

vid Matásek, share a passion for traveling on their Vespas. Always at work on a new project, she sews, knits, and embroiders; she even made an entire traditional Haná folk costume by hand, complete with its extraordinarily elaborate embroidery. She lives in Prague's Žižkov district with her hilariously funny son Toník, an avid reader.

A playful journey through Berlin filled with adventure, discovery, and enchanting illustrations



Who's Františka Looking For?

You probably know that Berlin is Germany's capital. But have you ever visited? Come explore the city with Františka the Fox, whose adventures are brought to life in original illustrations, each carefully sewn and intricately embroidered by hand.

At a Prague train station, Františka says goodbye to her friend Terezka and prepares to board a train for Berlin. Just before it departs, Terezka calls after her: "Find Sesam!" But who is Sesam, and how is Františka supposed to find him in such a vast city? Her search takes her past Berlin's famous landmarks and lesser-known curiosities, with plenty of unexpected adventures along the way.

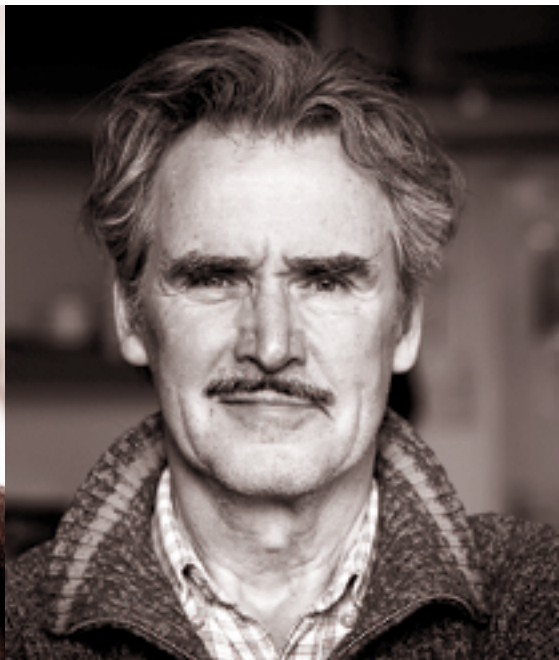
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foto © Richard Klíčník

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

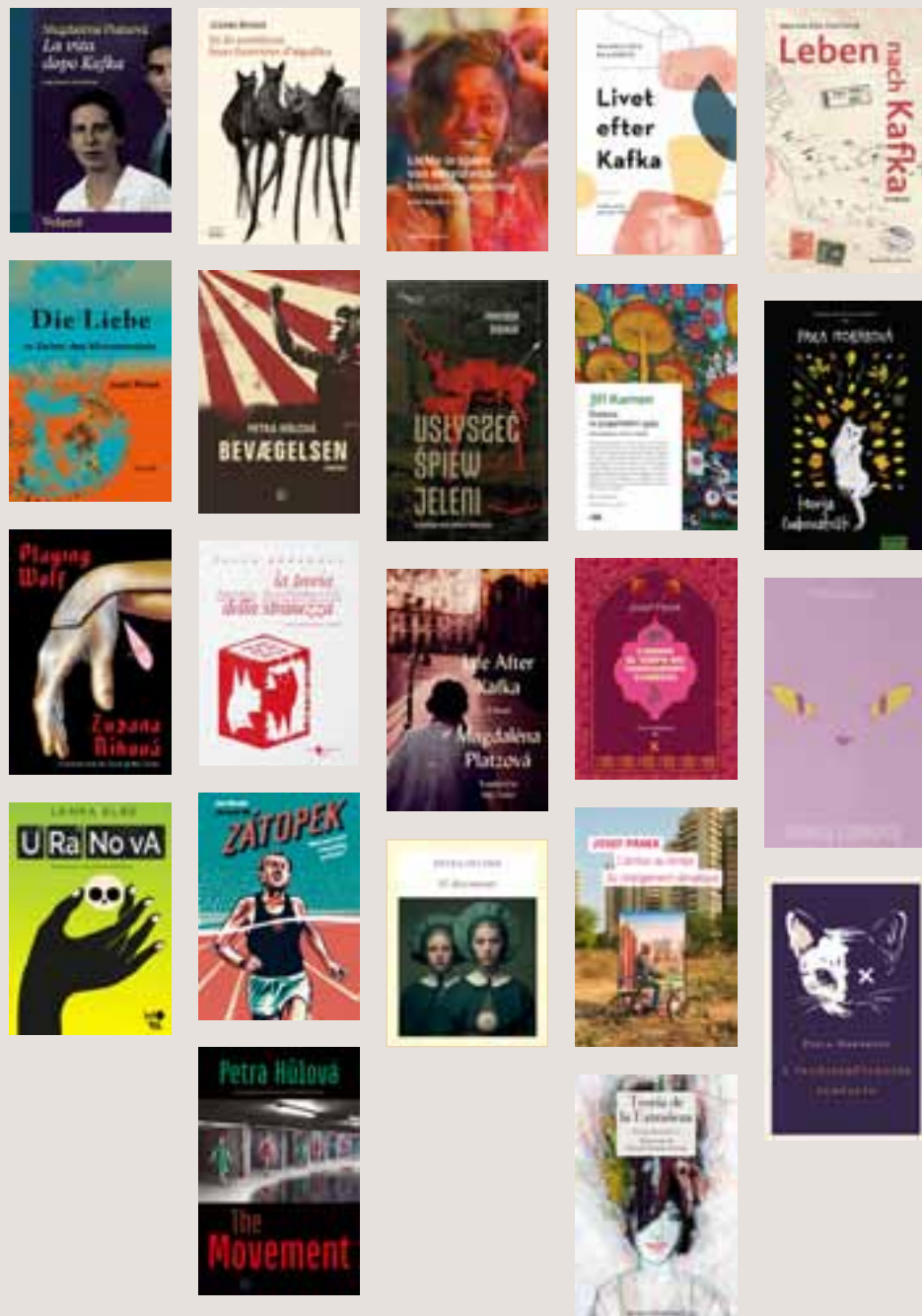


Something Hiding in There

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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Argo Publishers

Milicova 13
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Veronika Chaloupková
E-mail: veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz

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