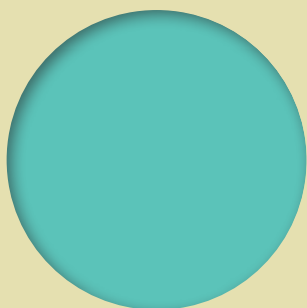


New Czech Books Spring 2018



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Books that gain popularity amongst readers contain a unique mixture of two worlds: the familiar and the unfamiliar. Reality, or how we perceive it, is reflected in the first. While the second is based on imagination and the joy it brings us. Every good piece of literature allows readers to transcend the boundary between these two worlds, thereby enriching and structuring their perception of reality. This is one reason why literature isn't 'fake news' but 'news which stays news' about ourselves.

In 2018, the Czechs will look back at their one hundred years of sovereign existence. As was the case in the past, Czech books have an irreplaceable social function. Whenever borders begin to form (or reform) between people, literature offers a means to cross these boundaries into spaces where people can meet again – regardless of culture, education, age, gender, nationality and religion. In the Spring 2018 edition of New Czech Books, we present an overview of current titles that have the undeniable potential to overcome the confines of a small language and can act as a 'border crossing' even in other languages.

In the previous edition of New Czech Books, we wrote about the Czech Ministry of Culture's new grants for publishing Czech literature abroad (publishers can request up to 70% of the total costs). These grants were introduced in connection with the Czech Republic's role as the guest of honour at the 2019 Leipzig Book Fair. It is an opportunity to present Czech literature, not only to the German-speaking audience, but also in the context of Europe and the world. Additionally, the Czech Literary Centre provides travel grants for authors, which publishers, event organisers and the authors themselves can apply for. Furthermore, translators of Czech can apply twice a year for residencies in Prague and Brno. I believe this practical support package will help Czech books find publishers, translators and, above all, readers, abroad.

Ondřej Buddeus
CzechLit Head Coordinator

CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

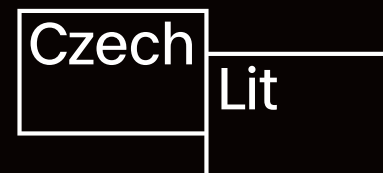
is a state-funded organisation supporting and promoting Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic. The centre is a section of the Moravian Library.

CzechLit:

- Promotes prose, literature for children and young adults, poetry, drama, comics, non-fiction and new forms of literature
- Acts as an information hub for foreign publishers, translators, Czech studies specialists, event organisers and others interested in Czech literature and book culture
- Provides grants for authors to attend cultural events abroad and in the Czech Republic
- Organises residencies for foreign translators, Czech studies specialists and authors
- Runs the bilingual website czechlit.cz with information about books, authors, grants, residencies and Czech literature news
- Cooperates with the network of Czech Centres, which promote Czech culture abroad, as well as with other governmental and non-governmental cultural and non-profit organisations and individuals
- Is involved in the presentation of Czech literature at book fairs abroad in cooperation with its parent institution
- Holds the annual Susanna Roth Award for young translators of Czech literature

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Prose

Jakuba Katalpa

THE DEN

After writing the extremely successful novel, *Němci* (The Germans), Jakuba Katalpa returns with a feminist-inflected multi-layered novel set in the present.

In her 70s, Květa is plagued by a sense of loneliness and uselessness after her husband's death. As a result, she makes a small den in her cellar and waits for a visitor, whom she might imprison and tell the story of her life to. A postman named Bohumil becomes the victim. Meanwhile in America, Akiko Ikeda is dying of cancer. Hoang Thi Anh leaves her homeland and sets out for the long trip from Vietnam to Prague.

She intends to help her daughter care for her household and small shop opposite Květa's house, but meanwhile is confronted with cultural, generational and familial alienation. The characters' stories, which intersect in Prague, are rooted in missed encounters, misunderstandings, and fate's shared loneliness. They are illustrated through the book's short chapters and matter-of-fact style.



Doupě
Host, 2017, 312 pp

“This novel becomes a small, planet-wide search for answers to the ordinary, but which still invokes extremely important questions throughout the course of our lives.”

—*Hospodářské noviny*

“[Katalpa] describes loneliness in its rawest and most genuine form. She has refrained from any pathos or emotional blackmail. The fates of her characters are true and that is what makes them powerful.”

—*Právo*



Photo: Jakuba Katalpa's archive

Jakuba Katalpa (b. 1979), a prose writer, made her debut in 2006 with her novel *Je hlína k snědku?* (Is Soil to be Eaten?), which earned her a nomination for the Magnesia Litera Award in the Discovery of the Year category. Her novel *Hořké moře* (The Bitter Sea, 2008) was nominated for the Jiří Orten Award for authors under thirty. Her next book, *Němci* (The Germans, 2012), received the Josef Škvorecký Award and Czech Book Award. It was shortlisted for the Magnesia Litera in the Prose category. The novel has already been translated and published in four languages, including German. Translation into a fifth language is now underway.

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English and German sample
translations available

Lucie Faulerová

DUST CATCHERS

With an atmosphere reminiscent of David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*, this novel explores the ancient theme of crime and punishment within the family.

This debut novel, by Lucie Faulerová, is a harsh and jarring story about a young woman's attitude to motherhood, family and children, as well as her role in society. The themes of family violence and domestic tyranny also surface in the book and a child becomes a means of manipulating others. In *Dust Catchers*, relationships are impaired and complicated in, both, the protagonists extended and new family. Gradually, she abandons intimacy, work, and her standard role as

a woman. She seeks to reveal the hidden truth about her mother, family and herself. Masochistic torment, however, is not enough to overcome the darkness of the past. Will violence suffice?

Faulerová brilliantly expresses the ambiguity of the line between guilt and enacting justice. The main character addresses the narrator, taking the floor and unsettling his role. The tension from this stylistic approach, the impressive pace and thrilling plot make *Dust Catchers* an exceptional read.

"The author is able to make the powerful and weighty subject matter more than a moralising story of domestic violence and life crises. [...] An exceptional combination of talent and craft."

—*Hospodářské noviny*

"*Dust Catchers* is inward-looking, crystal clear literature."

—*Právo*



Lapači prachu
Torst, 2017, 224 pp



Photo: David Svoboda

Lucie Faulerová (b. 1989) graduated in Czech studies from Palacký University in Olomouc, where she is currently a literary theory postgraduate student. She works as a dramaturge of cultural events and cooperates with the conceptual artist, Kateřina Šedá. Faulerová is an editor of the literary magazine, *Aluze*, and also works as a freelance editor and proofreader. She co-authored the book *BRNOX. Průvodce brněnským Bronxem* (BRNOX. A guide to Brno's Bronx, 2016) about a socially disadvantaged area of Brno, which won the 2016 Magnesia Litera Award for Journalism. *Lapači prachu* (Dust Catchers, 2017) is her debut novel.

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Petra Soukupová

BEST FOR EVERYBODY

In her latest novel, one of the most successful young Czech authors asks how can we know what is best for others when we ourselves do not know how to be happy?

Ten-year-old Viktor is a spoiled troublemaker who lives with his mother, thirty-year-old theatre actress Hana. One day, Hana receives an offer to act in a TV series filmed on the other side of the country. She sees this as an opportunity to send her son to stay with her mother, who lives in the countryside and has her own strict ideas about how to educate the boy. For each of the characters, Viktor's move is intended to 'solve' the root of their current troubles: what can you do with the remainder of your life when you are ten, thirty or sixty? WHAT really is best for everybody? In telling the story, the three characters alternate as first-person narrators, gradually introducing the reader to each of their perspectives, opinions,

personalities, and relationships. Who is really trying to help and who has betrayed the others? Petra Soukupová is a master of portraying family relationships and the loneliness inside of them. She has an exceptional understanding of, both, child characters, as well as those who are nearing the end of their lives.

Best for Everybody shares certain plot points with Soukupová's latest book for children, *Kdo zabil Snížka* (Who Killed Snowy?, p. 42 in this catalogue). The two books, which have both become bestsellers, complement each other, creating a unique reading experience for parents and children. *Best for Everybody* sold more than 7,000 copies in the first three months since it was published.

"The skilled storytelling, authentic language and credible characters will immerse the reader into the believable microcosm."

—*Právo*

"Intelligent and dark."

—*Host*



Nejlepší pro všechny
Host, 2017, 368 pp

Photo: Richard Klíčník



Petra Soukupová (b. 1982) is a prose writer, screenwriter and dramaturge. So far, she has published five books for adults and two for children. She also writes short stories. Soukupová's bestselling books have received a number of awards and have been translated into seven languages. Preparations are underway for a film based on her short story, *Na krátko* (Cut Short), with a planned release date in 2018. As a screenwriter, Soukupová worked on the successful sitcom, *Comeback* (2008–2010), and the satirical series, *Kosmo* (2016). In autumn 2017, she released two books with interconnected places, times and settings, characters and plot points, *Kdo zabil Snížka?* (Who Killed Snowy?), a detective story for children, and *Nejlepší pro všechny* (Best for Everybody), a novel for adults. Soukupová's books have sold close to 90,000 copies.

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English sample translation available

Petr Borkovec

LIDO DI DANTE

Nudists, dune experts, male prostitutes, Dante, water birds and Ducati motorcycles all intertwine in this collection of poetic short stories.

Petr Borkovec is best known for his poetry. His nine collections have been published in almost every European language, including English, German and Italian. This time, Borkovec has written a collection of short stories. The prose in *Lido di Dante* excels, with the author's specific sense of humour, mysterious and dramatic atmosphere,

poetic imagery and condensed phrasing. The twelve short stories take place in a resort near Ravenna, Italy. An unusual guide to this place of sunshine and darkness, *Lido di Dante*, sometimes brings to mind the *Divine Comedy*, the infernal scene of which Dante started to write in the eerie local pine forest.



Lido di Dante
Fra, 2017, 120 pp

“[The stories] exude physicality, authentic characters, and [...] an ease and naturalness that is hidden somewhere in the rhythm of the sentences and in a fortuitous connection between the author and the place.”

—*Hospodářské noviny*

“Although there is actually not much going on in these stories, and the author is mostly engaged in slow, patient observation, instead of developing the plot, reading them is an adventure.”

—*iLiteratura*



Photo: Ondřej Lipár

Petr Borkovec (b. 1970) is a translator and poet, and recipient of many awards for his poetry, including South Tyrol's Norbert C Kaser Award and Germany's Hubert Burda Award. His poems have been published in most European languages, including English and German. At the start of the 1990s he began working for the literary review *Souvislosti*, and has also worked as a newspaper proofreader, the editor of newspaper's literary and cultural sections and, later, as a publishing editor and translator from Russian. He has also versified several ancient and Korean texts. Borkovec is currently an editor at the Fra publishing house and an organiser of the well-known author reading nights at Prague's Café Fra.

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Alena Mornštajnová

HANA

Based on real events, this bestselling novel has the pace and drama of a gripping film.

This novel contains two storylines that take place on two different spatial-temporal planes. In a small Czech village, nine-year-old Mira's family succumbs to an outbreak of typhus in the 1950s. She ends up in the hands of her strange aunt Hana, with whom Mira spends the whole of her childhood and adolescence. Later on, she discovers hidden facts about Hana's past and the tragic story of Mira's own family, which is revealed to be Jewish. The second storyline of the novel is from World War II and shares Hana's story. It takes

place in Auschwitz and Terezín, and explores the guilt motif that Hana felt over the death of her parents. A page-turner, *Hana* is narrated in a traditional manner, with skilled realism, a flair for dramatic rhythm and composition, and with a deep knowledge about the time and circumstances of the story. As the novel comes to an end, there is a spark of hope, tinged by the belief that you cannot rid yourself of your family's past and, indeed, of your fate. *Hana* has sold more than 20,000 copies.



Hana
Host, 2017, 306 pp

"Mornštajnová has a refined sense for the weight of every single word, a sense for the rhythm of sentences and paragraphs, and is able to depict the fine nuances of situations."

—*Lidové noviny*

"Mornštajnová's writing is extremely sensitive, without being sentimental, without a hint of self-pity towards the characters. *Hana* is a powerful novel."

—*Právo*



Photo: Alena Mornštajnová's archive

Alena Mornštajnová (b. 1963), a fiction writer, studied English and Czech at the University of Ostrava Faculty of Arts. Currently, she works as an English lecturer and translator. She made her debut in 2013 with the novel *Slepá mapa* (Blind Map), which was shortlisted for the 2014 Czech Book Award. Her second novel, *Hotýlek* (The Little Hotel), came out in 2015, and her latest novel, *Hana* (2017), is a hit with both readers and reviewers. Mornštajnová's novels have sold more than 30,000 copies.

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German sample translation available

Václav Kahuda

BEING

In this literary science fiction novel set in the near future, an ageing narrator, with painful memories of past catastrophes, struggles to adjust to life in a new idealistic world.

This cautionary utopian novel, with an almost fairy tale structure, takes place in the late 21st century after an atomic and social apocalypse. In this future, the aim of mankind is to colonise the planets in the solar system. Humanity has found itself living in perfect harmony, unsettled only by disturbing

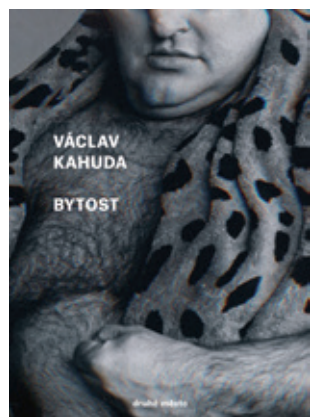
memories from the eldest survivors. The hero of the story is an old man who seeks to help the young, but is consumed by fateful memories that prevent him from believing in the modern dream of universal wealth, cooperation and compassion. The fairy tale is nothing but an illusion.

“The magic of this book lies in the fact that it never stops surprising. Behind the genre backdrops, we see Kahuda maintain ownership of his craft – the characteristic poetic descriptions of the natural world that alternate between obscure events. From pubs on the outskirts of town or quotes from medical records, they are bizarre and grotesque stories, cruel in their morbidity, while also highly poetic.”

—A2

“Kahuda’s text is surprisingly readable, especially for fans of Vonnegut, Lem, Bradbury and other similar classic authors of the genre.”

—*Vaše literatura*



Bytost
Druhé město, 2017, 248 pp



Photo: Druhé město publishers archive

Václav Kahuda (b. 1965) is an author of novels, novellas and short stories. At the end of the 1990s, he released a series of books in a relatively short amount of time, each of which became a major literary event. Kahuda has worked as a night watchman, an engineer at a sewage works, a heating operator and a gravedigger. Since 2017, he has been the chairman of the Czech Writers Association.

David Zábranský NORTHERN RENAISSANCE. ABOUT A GERMAN WHO MOVED WITH THE TIMES

This daring novel explores the Central European consciousness and the question of why contemporary Europeans, with all their achievements, feel so hopeless.

Northern Renaissance follows the fates of two generations of a family living in Germany and the Czech Republic. Zábranský uses this topic as a backdrop against which to examine the sociocultural relationship between the two countries and, more broadly, the current prevailing attitude towards life in Central Europe. This is a novel about Europe today, the migrant crisis and cultures growing disparate: younger and older. It is a novel about a further,

often forgotten, division of Europe, the continents' physical split into the north and the south by the Alps. *Northern Renaissance* examines barriers in many forms, in an attempt to answer the question of how far unified Europe has come and what will happen next. What is the European vision? What is behind Brexit and the rising populism in many European countries? As a continent, are we on our way to the summit, on the summit, or already beyond?



Za Alpami. O jednom Němci, který šel s dobou
Větrné mlýny, 2017, 372 pp

“An exceptional feat in the journalistic novel category. Zábranský knows how to write a story like fly-paper sticks – his writing is simply catchy.”

—*Literární noviny*

“In his new book, David Zábranský doesn't shrink from opening a great many locked doors.”

—*iLiteratura*

Photo: David Konečný



David Zábranský (b. 1977) is a prose writer, playwright and columnist, who is known for his, often, controversial and provocative opinions. He graduated in media studies and law and has worked in non-profit and non-governmental organizations. Zábranský has written several successful novels, which have been published in Spanish and Hungarian. His debut, *Slabost pro každou jinou pláž* (A Weakness for Every Other Beach, 2006), won the Magnesia Litera Award for Discovery of the Year and *Martin Juhás čili Československo* (Martin Juhás or Czechoslovakia, 2015) was shortlisted for the Magnesia Litera Award in the Book of the Year category. The play, *Herec a truhlář Majer mluví o stavu své domoviny* (Actor and Carpenter Majer Talks about the State of His Homeland, 2016), about the Czech national identity sparked a media debate and will be published in German in 2018 by the Berlin-based Neofelis in their anthology of modern Czech drama. In 2017, Zábranský started writing columns for Czech *Vice*.

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German sample translation available

Karel Veselý

BOMB★FUNK

In this absurd, satirical reimagining of the final years of the Communist Era in Czechoslovakia, a fictional funk band is tasked with saving the Communist Revolution.

With the support of President Gustav Husák, twenty-three-year old cultural officer, Jiří, forms a funk band. The Funky Leninz is meant to reignite the country's revolutionary spirit through their catchy riffs and optimistic songs. To achieve this, Jiří gathers a ragtag group of musicians, including fictionalised versions of real athletes and political figures. Evolving from playing James Brown and Parliament covers to creating a groundbreaking conceptual double album, the Funky

Leninz must outwit devious politicians, uncover spies in their midst, and overcome, both, artistic and personal disagreements.

Author Karel Veselý, a popular music journalist, is known for his ability to present complex and technical cultural concepts through accessible writing. He proves this in *Bomb★Funk*, where even recording sessions and musical theory are described in a way that will appeal to all readers.



Bomba★Funk
BiggBoss, 2017, 318 pp

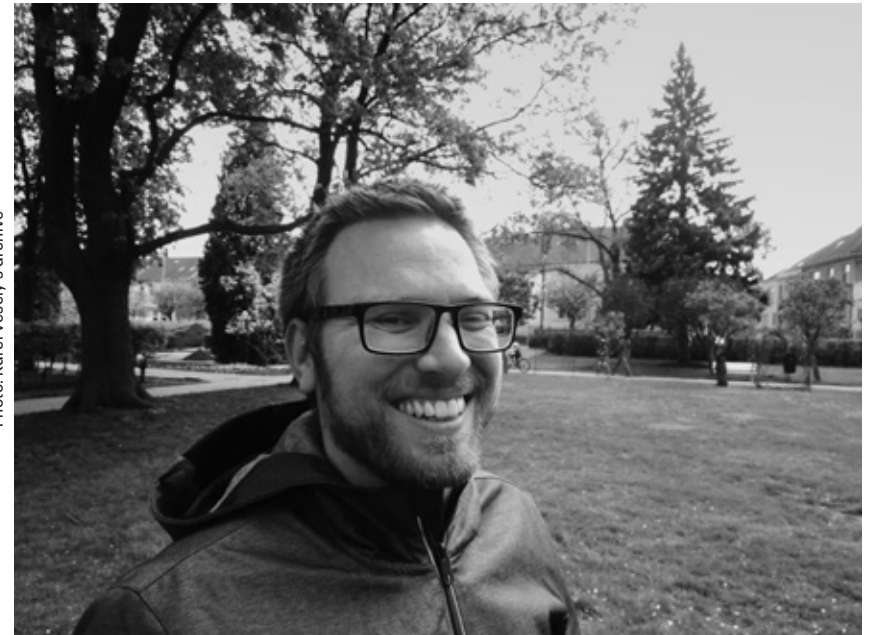
“Funny, light, [...] funky.”

—*Právo*

“The narrative has an unmistakable and thrilling rhythm, relying on the funk that pulses throughout the entire text.”

—*iLiteratura*

Photo: Karel Veselý's archive



Karel Veselý (b. 1976) is a music journalist, and promoter and theorist of hip-hop and modern electronic music. He is a regular contributor to the Czech Radio – Radio Wave station, the *Aktuálně.cz* online newspaper and the *A2* cultural magazine. His debut novel, *Bomba★Funk* (Bomb★Funk, 2017), was selected by the online literary magazine, *iLiteratura*, as one of the best books of 2017. Additionally, an excerpt from the text was chosen for the 2018 Susanna Roth Award for beginner translators of Czech.

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Eugen Liška Jnr

THE CREATION

This experimental novel can be seen as an allegory, a multi-genre parody, or a biblical parable as it shifts between facts, dreams and nightmares.

The novel's powerful central plot in an uncertain setting in both time and space, focuses on a ten-year-old child from a housing estate. It is a remarkable debut, built on its expressiveness, language and the reader's experience. The author keeps the audience guessing about what is happening in each of the characters' minds, what is an exit strategy, which acts are dreams and which really take place, where the children's sweet imaginations end and where the real horror begins. In the narrative of a boy, nicknamed Bumblebee, an unnamed dog, referred

to as Com'ere, and a housing estate community of strange beings emerges a horror story. In it, the novel tells a story about adolescence, a picture of emerging madness that shifts into cruelty, an unsettling allegory of human society, a warning against neglecting children and animals, and a social probe into a dysfunctional family that appears almost idyllic from the outside. *The Creation*, from the start, contains a layer of references, quotations, and allusions to literature, films and plays from across different continents and centuries.

"Liška plays with conventional perceptions of the child as a vessel of good, which is corrupted only after entering adult society. He also evokes the principal idea that producing edifying heroic stories and simple tips for a better life creates hazardous waste. This may become a weapon in wrong or unprepared hands. Eugen Liška was able to develop this idea in an atmospheric and linguistically brilliant way, forcing the reader to finish the book without stopping."

—*Hospodářské noviny*

"A literary experiment that has fun, boldly combining metaphysical horror with an initiation novel about adolescence."

—*iLiteratura*



Stvoření
Host, 2017, 224 pp



Photo: Eugen Liška Jnr's archive

Eugen Liška Jnr (b. 1981) studied comparative literature at Charles University, as well as scriptwriting and dramaturgy at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU), both in Prague. Three of his screenplays have been turned into TV movies. In addition to the first prize in Czech Television's scriptwriting competition in 2006, Liška also won the RWE and Barrandov Studios Film Foundation Prize for his screenplay *Půlnoční míle* (Midnight Mile, 2010). *Stvoření* (The Creation, 2017) is Liška's debut novel.

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English sample translation available

Hana Kolaříková

REAL LEOPARD-SKIN COAT

This novel about fateful love and death casts an unflattering light on men and becomes the stage for a one-woman show. The author's third novel has its own vocabulary and unique female vision.

This psychological novel builds on the strong story of a young woman and her memories about the older generations of her family, emphasizing the theme of truth. The book's wide scope covers the situation in Kenya today, the intricate relationships between the main character, Jana, with multiple men, and the fate of her grandmother Erna and great-grandmother Růt in Terezín and Auschwitz. This portrait of a modern woman, who is marked by the death of her newborn son, is comprised of the fragmented ideas of thirty-year-old Jana, her parents, her friend Tinka, and Jana's lovers Alek, Viktor and

many others. Each of the characters is dealing with their own demons. The careful, characterising choice of language and the suggestive imagery capture the complexity of interpersonal relationships and the need to deal with the roots of one's own lineage. Each chapter opens with a short poem, introducing the atmosphere of the following narrative. This worrying, multi-layered work culminating in a surprising denouement, is full of metaphorical and acerbic scenes. Kolaříková skilfully explores human fates and their historical, social, psychological, spiritual and physical backgrounds.

"In this brilliant book, Kolaříková says that the future, and also the present, belongs to women. It belongs to their courage, sensitivity and strength. This is certainly true, not only in the Czech Republic."

—*MF Dnes*

"A psychological page-turner about a woman who lost her child, acts as spiritual literature, as well as a story about the cruel heritage of the Holocaust. The new book, by Hana Kolaříková, is a compelling ballad in modern attire."

—*Instinkt*



Pravý leopardí kožich
Host, 2017, 224 pp



Photo: Hana Kolaříková's archive

Hana Kolaříková (b. 1971) is a native of the Moravian-Silesian city of Frýdek-Místek. After studying history and museology at the Silesian University in Opava, she worked in Prague for fifteen years in culture and tourism – from being a freelancer in the arts field and cooperating with artists to selling souvenirs and artistic items and even being a member of staff at the Archaeological Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences. After starting her maternity leave, she became active as a writer, making her debut with the historical novel, *Tma před úsvitem* (Dark before the Dawn), in 2011, and in 2015, she published the social novel *Mušle* (Shell).

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Michaela Klevisová

LOST IN THE FOG

A bestselling Nordic detective story from the Czech ace of crime fiction.

Ann-Solveig lives in a remote Norwegian village, far beyond the Arctic Circle, with a man she fears. Instead of leaving him, she jumps from a cliff into the sea. A year later, her psychoanalytic therapist, Katrine, starts receiving threatening messages and soon after, another one of her patients dies. Czech detective, Josef Bergman, wanted to have a peaceful fishing

vacation in Norway and contemplate his priorities in life, but instead becomes a key witness in this twisted case. He slowly realises that there is much more at play than just the private secrets of the residents in the seemingly idyllic village. *Lost in the Fog* is a hit with Czech readers and has already been reprinted twice.

“Klevisová proves she is one of the top Czech crime writers. Her ability to probe the depths of the human soul and her growing stylistic dexterity have now reached the levels of a psychological novel in which the search for the murderer is no longer the most important element.”

—*Právo*

“*Lost in the Fog* is an immensely readable crime novel in which the author pays tribute not only to Nordic crime fiction, but also to English detective stories.”

—*Severské detektivky*



Zmizela v mlze
MOTTO, 2017, 336 pp

Photo: Zuzana Panská



Michaela Klevisová (b. 1976) is an author, journalist, translator and scriptwriter. She studied journalism at Charles University and has worked in this field since 1997. Her debut novel, *Kroky vraha* (Steps of the Murderer, 2007), received the Jiří Marek Award for best crime novel of the year, making the then 32-year-old author the youngest winner of this prize. Klevisová won the award again for her third book, *Dům na samotě* (The Solitude House, 2011). In 2012, Michaela Klevisová released her first non-crime book – a collection of short stories called *Čekání na kocoura* (Waiting for the Cat). With two reprints published within six months, a continuation followed, entitled *Kocour z Montmartru* (Cat from Montmartre, 2013). Klevisová is featured in the *Prague Noir* collection of short crime stories, published in 2018 by the New York-based Akashic Books, as part of their well-known *Noir* series.

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Daniel Tučka

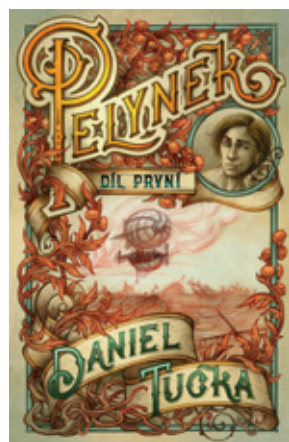
WORMWOOD I–III

An epic steampunk trilogy for all lovers of fantasy, adventure and the century of steam.

The era of airships, steam cars and books is ending. A reckless inheritor of a rare book, a pragmatic engineer and a noblewoman in distress undertake an adventurous journey into a country of mythical creatures and precious wood. Will our heroes uncover the secret of

lost electricity or will the shah, who controls the wormwood's mysterious power, win?

These steampunk novels invite the reader to a world where books are valuable, timber is a symbol of wealth and spells are just as real as steam.



Pelyněk I–III
Straky na vrbě, 2017–2018, 398, 512, TBA pp

“Everyone who enjoys steampunk and adventure will like this book, and anyone who is new to the genre [...] has an amazing opportunity to fall in love with it.”

—*MFantasy*

“The author's style is very impressive. He plays with words, rolling them around in the mouth and savouring their sound.”

—*Sarden*



Photo: Michal Rydlo

Daniel Tučka (b. 1976) is a native of Brno but lives and works in Prague. He focuses on sci-fi and fantasy, and since 2008, he has been a regular finalist in Czech fantasy literary competitions. His stories can be found in numerous collections, as well as the *Pevnost* magazine. Tučka's debut novel, the urban fantasy *Umrleí tanec* (The Dead Man's Dance), was published in 2012. This was followed by the epic *Pelyněk* trilogy (Wormwood, 2017–2018), combining steampunk, fantasy and adventure.

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Poetry

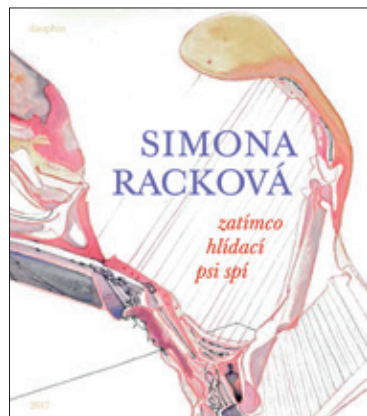
Simona Racková

WHILE WATCHDOGS SLEEP

This collection portrays a woman, amidst an immersive and painful drama about the exceptionality of poetry and life.

The fourth collection of poems by Simona Racková observes, through the author's eyes, the world in a way that is pleasantly civilian, yet far from trivial. She does not notice only light and happy days, she also looks into the depths and the dark "vacant lots" of relationships and life. Astonishment, passion and desire are the fundamental elements of, not only, this collection, but also Racková's work as a whole. Questions here are formulated timidly, but also screamed. "How will we recognise each other when we are born

the next time?" "How many children and lovers will come and pass?" "How long does it take to forgive?" "Don't fight, love!" urges the poet, who keeps both the quivering and fixed strokes of her images in balance. Women (and femininity) are thematised, perhaps in all of their forms and roles – as mother, daughter, wife, lover, sister, and friend – each participating in the poems' compact dramas. This, thoughtfully composed collection is accompanied with watercolours by painter Karel Demel.



"In the poems, you hear 'undercurrents' dragging you into the depths from which it is, however, desirable to emerge from time to time and take a nice deep breath above the surface. Memories follow each other, rhythmically whirling like on a treadmill, photos are spread over an old oak table, bright glimpses of the autumn sun pushing through the shutters."

—*Tvar*

Zatímco hlídají psi spí
Dauphin, 2017, 88 pp

Photo: Ladislav Zedník



Simona Racková (b. 1976) is a poet, editor and literary reviewer. She studied Czech language and literature at Charles University in Prague. Racková has edited a number of poetry anthologies and four collections of her poems have been published. She won the international Dresden Lyrics Prize in 2016 and the Czech-Slovak Básne / Básně competition in 2017. Her poems have been translated into nine languages. Racková has danced her whole life, and currently focuses on flamenco.

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Elsa Aids

THE BOOK OF LIMITATIONS

The third book of poetry by Elsa Aids is a raw and disheartening commentary on today's world, focusing on the intimacy of the home and partnerships.

Few contemporary Czech poets are able to give such unforgiving depictions of one's body and relationships between partners as Elsa Aids. Aids' texts are, among other things, a painful analysis of a romantic relationship that turns into partnership with a household and children, and the creeping routine of coexistence. They are detailed accounts of trivial matters, day and night, descriptions of fingers that no longer

possess the sense of touch, and cruel records of the gradual eclipse of a once loving closeness. The author observes everything that represents him in relation to the other person, what is a facade and what he so cheerily creates, moulds and arranges himself. Despite all this, in places, the poetry also contains fragile and cautious moments of the remaining genuine unity. They are just sorrowfully glinting.



Kniha omezení
Rubato, 2017, 72 pp

"The Book of Limitations is a frightening and exhausting book. The author delves into the dirt of human existence, unfulfilling relationships and temporary satisfaction."

—A2

Elsa Aids is the author of three poetry collections and his texts have appeared in the 2012, 2015, and 2017 *Nejlepší české básně* (Best Czech Poems) anthologies. He lives in Prague.

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rubato.cz

Jan Nemček

VACANT LOTS

This promising young author subtly incorporates a call for social change into his poems to create a truly engaged contemporary work of the highest poetic quality.

Vacant lots – or the connective theme of emptiness – remain after something is no longer there and is sorely missed. They symbolise the current role of humanity in a ruthlessly marketed and estranged world. Ostrava's industrial setting is the backdrop and the focus of the poetic space in which the speaker sensitively perceives and consistently

names what really affects the world: economic and political interests, hyper-consumerism and poverty, and threats to language. This poetic debut is clear evidence of the young author's exceptional talent and his indisputable sense regarding the relevance of poetic expression.

Photo: Jana Plavec



Poet Jan Nemček (b. 1986) studied Czech language and literature. His poetry collection, *Proluka* (Vacant Lots, 2016), was nominated for the Jiří Orten Award for authors under thirty. Nemček lives in Ostrava where he organises author readings.



“The combination of sincere faith in the potential for change, courage to gently prod the present, and a belief in the possibilities of poetry, underpinned by astonishing artistic skill in creating impressive associations, makes Jan Nemček's work exceptional.”

—*Jiří Orten Award jury*

“A significant and sensitive talent.”

—*Tvar*

Proluka
Perplex, 2016, 64 pp

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Children's and
Young Adult

Petra Soukupová & Tereza Ščerbová

WHO KILLED SNOWY?

A bestselling adventure book for children with a detective twist.

The narrator, schoolgirl Martina, wants a canine friend more than anything else. When she finally gets one, it is a problematic white dog that is deaf and quite wild. Called Snowy, this troublemaker is disliked by most of the people in Martina's village. So, it is no wonder that, one day, she finds him dead in a roadside ditch. Could Snowy's death have been intentional? Martina and her friends Franta, Kája and Viktor become detectives, searching for the

culprit. What they discover during their investigation may have nothing to do with the white dog...

Who Killed Snowy shares certain plot points with Soukupová's latest novel for adults, *Nejlepší pro všechny* (Best for Everybody, p. 12 in this catalogue). The two books, which have both become bestsellers, complement each other, creating a unique reading experience for parents and children.

Age: 9+



Kdo zabil Snížka?
Host, 2017, 152 pp

“As with her novels for adults, Soukupová uses concise language. With a minimum number of words, she is able to capture the situation and communicate its atmosphere. At the same time, she presents a credible view into how children think.”

—*Právo*

“Known for her pessimistic probes into the ordinary lives of suffering characters, this author does not present a rose-tinted view of the world, even in her work for children. [...] This smart story, set in a village where only five children travel together to school by bus, will enchant young readers.”

—*Hospodářské noviny*

Photo: Richard Klíčník



Petra Soukupová (b. 1982) is a prose writer, screenwriter and dramaturge. So far, she has published five books for adults and two for children. She also writes short stories. Soukupová's bestselling books have received a number of awards and have been translated into seven languages. Preparations are underway for a film based on her short story, *Na krátko* (Cut Short), with a planned release date in 2018. As a screenwriter, Soukupová worked on the successful sitcom, *Comeback* (2008–2010), and the satirical series, *Kosmo* (2016). In autumn 2017, she released two books with interconnected places, times and settings, characters and plot points, *Kdo zabil Snížka?* (Who Killed Snowy?), a detective story for children, and *Nejlepší pro všechny* (Best for Everybody), a novel for adults. Soukupová's books have sold close to 90,000 copies.

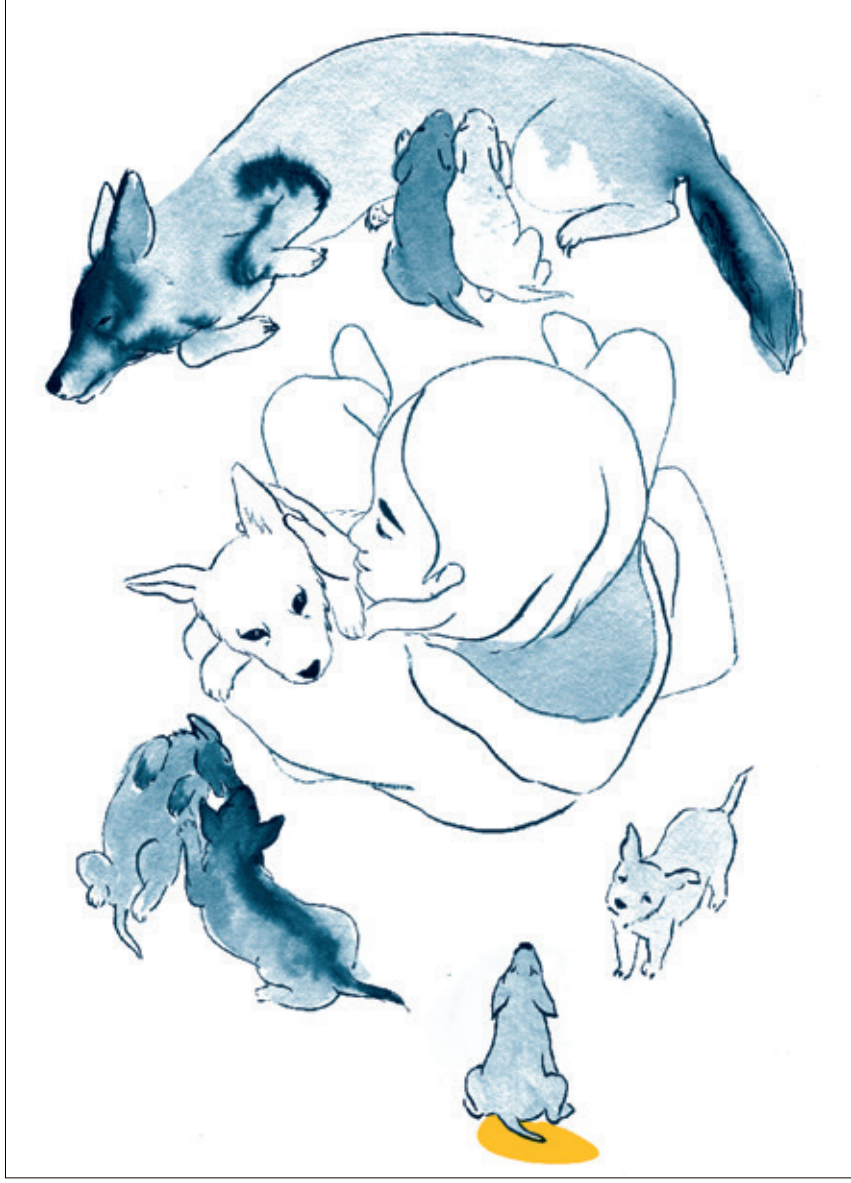
Tereza Ščerbová (b. 1982) studied illustration and graphics at the Academy of Art, Architecture and Design in Prague, and under Pierre Thomé in Lucerne, Switzerland. In 2015 she won a Golden Ribbon Award for her illustrations in the book *Škvíry* (Cracks, 2014) by Marka Míková and two years later for *Krtmík* (Kooki, 2016), a book she also wrote. Ščerbová works mainly as an illustrator and fine artist and on various creative projects.

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Who Killed Snowy?



Who Killed Snowy?

Petr Stančík & Lucie Dvořáková CHRUJDA THE BADGER CONQUERS SPACE

In his fourth adventure, Chrujda the Badger travels to outer space in his own spaceship!

In previous books, Chrujda the Badger has made a film, built an accelerator and decelerator, and fallen in love. But perhaps, this is his greatest adventure yet! This time around he is assisted by Stáňa, the owl genius, who bears a resemblance to physicist Stephen Hawking. In the Habřinec forest, Chrujda constructs his own spaceship

to travel as far as the small moon of Pidiluna. Chrujda experiences adventures with three-legged aliens and even meets his archenemy – Smradolf the Polecat. Will Chrujda safely return to the arms of his love, Anička the Weasel? Author Petr Stančík captivates children with his sense of humour, original comic language and exaggeration.

Age: 5+



Jezevec Chrujda dobývá vesmír
Meander, 2017, 24 pp

“Stančík’s text breathes fantasy, wacky ideas and playfulness.”

—*MF Dnes*

“Stančík moves swiftly between allusions and humour. He touches on something more serious and continues straight on. Children will appreciate the fast pace and exaggeration.”

—*Hospodářské noviny*

Photo: David Konečný



Petr Stančík (b. 1968) is a poet, prose writer, author of children's books, playwright, copywriter and essayist. He has also written under the name Petr Odillo Stradický ze Strdic, a pseudonym which he used up until 2006. Stančík studied directing at the Academy of Performing Arts (DAMU) in Prague and subsequently worked as a TV director. In his novel *Pěrák* (The Spring Man, 2008), he gave a hyperbolic commentary on the myth of a superman from Prague during the Nazi occupation. The Czech capital also became the backdrop for his postmodern detective novel, *Mlýn na mumie* (Mummy Mill, 2014), which won a Magnesia Litera Award. Stančík has written several books for children, including the “vegetable thriller” *Mrkev ho vcuclela pod zem* (A Carrot Sucked Him Underground, 2013) and a series of stories about Chrujda the Badger. His books have been translated into Spanish, Polish and Hungarian.

Lucie Dvořáková (b. 1959) graduated from the Film and Television Graphics Studio at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. A two-time winner of the Golden Ribbon Award, her dreamy illustrations have accompanied works by some of the biggest names in Czech children's books. She is also active in the field of animation and sets stages for children's television programmes on Czech Television's :D channel.

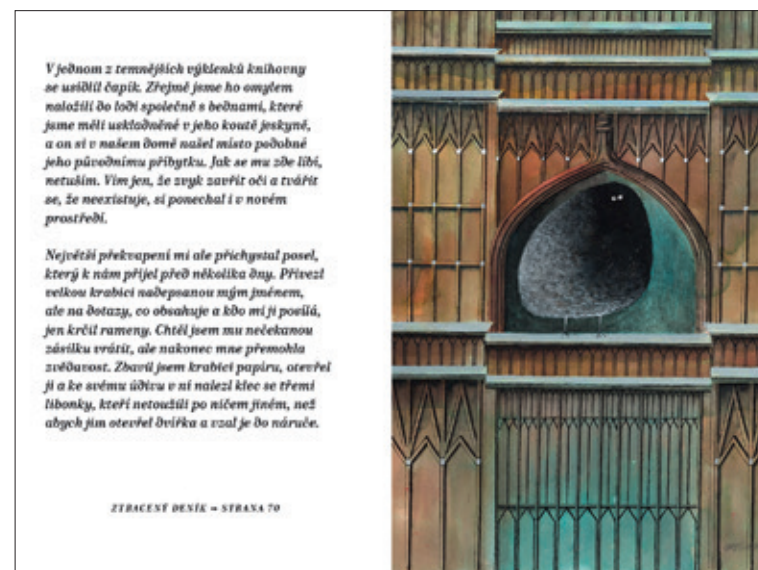
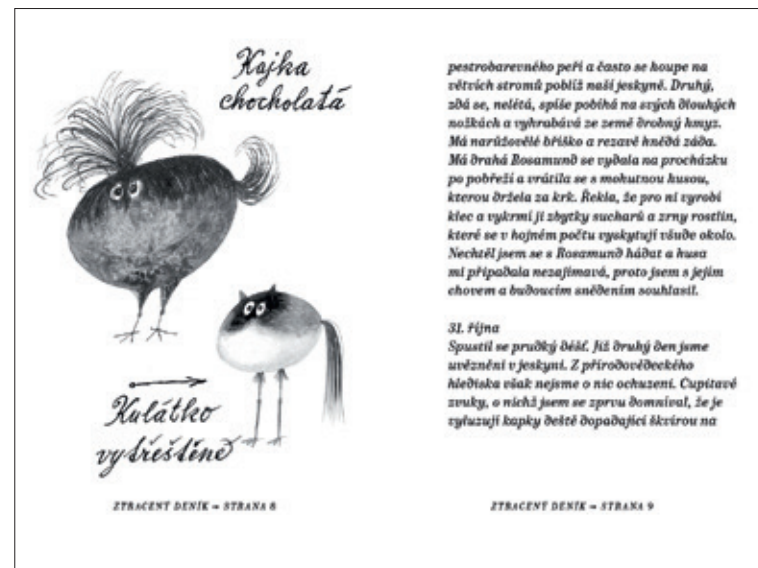
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Chrujda the Badger Conquers Space



The Professor from Essex's Lost Diary or Extraordinary Fauna



Olga Černá & Miroslav Šašek

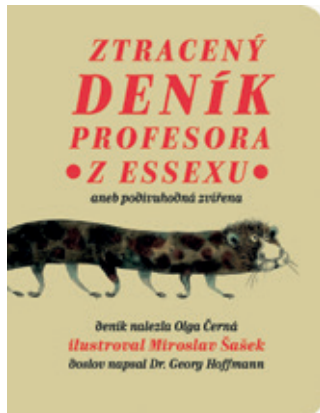
THE PROFESSOR FROM ESSEX'S LOST DIARY: CURIOUS FAUNA

A beautifully produced diary, discovered more than one hundred years after it was written, describing peculiar animals on a remote island.

This fantastical bestiary, from the studio of famed Czech artist Miroslav Šašek, is a beautiful demonstration of his unchained creativity accompanied by the narration of his great-niece, Olga Černá. The storyteller is an enlightened naturalist, searching for clues about a missing inhabitant of a remote island.

The narrator explores the remarkable local fauna, writing down anything noteworthy – in the form of diary entries – in his old-fashioned notebook. The book is designed to resemble a lost diary and 'scientific' study, and even contains an 'expert's afterword'.

Age: 10+



Ztracený deník profesora z Essexu: aneb podivuhodná zvířena
Baobab, 2017, 80 pp

"The appearance of the old notebook, its diary form, hint of absent-mindedness and the afterword by an expert, all help to create the illusion of a 'found' scientific work, so convincingly, that the result is destined to remain in the minds of lovers of humorous Robinsonades for a long time to come."

—Petr Matoušek, literary critic

Photo: Baobab publishers archive



Olga Černá (b. 1964) has worked as a bookseller, teacher, and librarian. She has written for children's magazines and was a blogger for the *Respekt* weekly magazine. Černá is the great-niece of the famous illustrator Miroslav Šašek, and a co-founder in the Miroslav Šašek Foundation. She is also the editor of his biography, *To je M. Sasek* (This is M. Sasek, 2014), which was also published in English. She has written several successful children's books, including the award-winning *Kouzelná baterka* (The Magic Torch, 2004) and *To je Praha* (This is Prague, 2015), which was published in English and received a special mention at the 2016 Bologna Children's Book Fair.

Miroslav Šašek (1916–1980) studied architecture and drawing at the Czech Technical University in Prague and the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. After the February 1948 Czechoslovak Communist coup, he remained in exile, predominantly in Paris and Munich, where he worked for the Czech branch of Radio Free Europe. Abroad, he became famous for his series of illustrated guides to big cities around the world, entitled *This is...* (from 1959). The books in this series gained many awards, including an entry on the IBBY Honour List (1979). After 2000, his books were released as re-editions in the US, France, Germany and, finally, in the Czech Republic.

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Comics

Marta Morice

SECRET AGENT

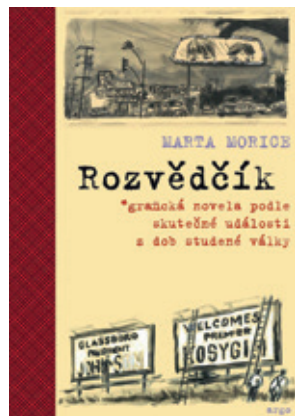
This biography of a Czech secret agent and diplomat looks at the overarching and personal histories of the Cold War through the lens of a graphic novel.

This informal comic book was written and illustrated by Marta Morice, an artist who has been living in France for many years. It is based on real events of the Cold War, focusing on the hidden backstage that was inaccessible to the public and has since been forgotten. Although after November 1989 the protagonist, socialist spy Miroslav Polreich, the author's uncle, joined the new, non-communist Czech(oslovak) diplomatic services, he also operated there in the background. Earlier, in the 1960s, he worked in the foreign department of the Czech secret service – and is one of only a few who has no reason to be ashamed of it.

A key event took place in June 1967, when an important Russian-USA

summit was held in Glassboro, USA, dealing with disarmament for the very first time. Polreich, an inconspicuous man at the Czech embassy in the US, with good contacts to, both, the CIA and Russian diplomats, had an important role during its preparation.

Morice follows her uncle from his childhood, to joining the Czechoslovak Communist Party in 1947, until his change of allegiance after the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968. She uses typewritten script and a yellow-hued background, evoking the days of the plot perfectly. Like *Alan's War* by Emmanuel Guibert, *Secret Agent* also shows how important a small, personal history can be in the scheme of an overarching historical event.



Rozvědčík
Argo, 2017, 120 pp

“Morice constructs her comics intelligently to increase the suspense.”

—iLiteratura



Photo: Richard Klíčník

Marta Morice (b. 1971) is a painter and photographer, who has lived in Brittany since the late 1990s. She studied in Brno at the Masaryk University Faculty of Education and then at the University of Technology Faculty of Fine Arts. Her paintings often stem from photographs and explore social themes. *Rozvědčík* (Secret Agent, 2017) is Marta Morice's first comics.

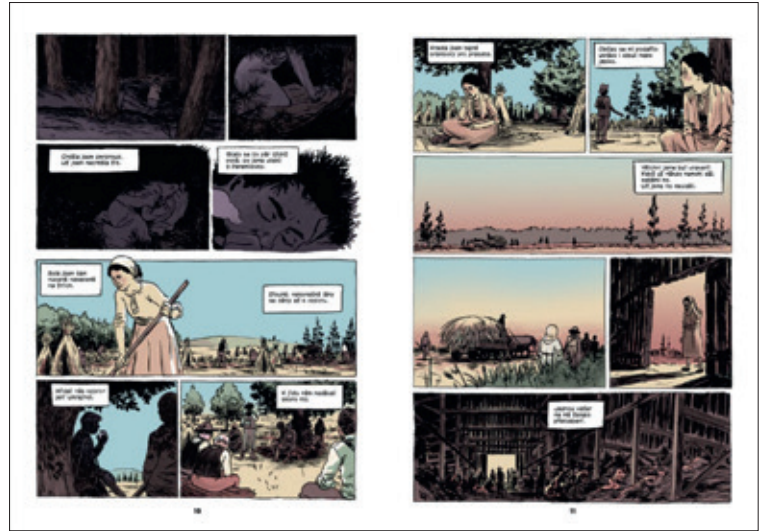
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Secret Agent

Total Deployment



Ondřej Nezbeda, Tomáš Hodan & Petra Soukupová TOTAL DEPLOYMENT

The true stories of three women, of different ages and nationalities, whose lives were affected by work camps during World War II.

‘Totální nasazení’ (total deployment) or ‘Totaleinsatz’ in German, was a term for forced labour during the World War II German occupation of Czechoslovakia. This comics, by three pairs of authors and illustrators, presents distinct stories about three women.

Helena, Jarmila and Franciska’s lives are connected by forced labour. Helena, who was born into a Czech Jewish family in Ukraine, escapes from a labour camp and is constantly on the run. Jarmila signs up to work for the Nazis voluntarily, as she was cooperating with the resistance movement. She hopes that she can hide there from the Gestapo. Franciska was born shortly before the end of the war to a Polish mother and Czech father, who fell in

love in a labour camp in Germany. After the war ends, she spends most of her childhood in communist orphanages.

The different styles of the three artists complement the stories. Karel Osoha’s illustrations shift abruptly between cold muted browns and purples when Helena is on the run, and brighter colours as she recalls her life before the war. Tomáš Kučerovský’s dynamic use of close-ups and text-less panels add a new dimension to Jarmila’s story, that readers can find familiar. Petra Josefina Stibitzová’s fragile, almost child-like pencil and crayon drawings reflect Franciska’s parentless childhood. This comics is produced in cooperation with Post Bellum, an organisation which aims to increase public knowledge of Czech 20th Century history.

“Full of powerful scenes, *Total Deployment* doesn’t just remind us of the suffering in the camps, each story also tries to show what the war took from people and how it influenced their future life.”

—*Instinkt*

“Although [*Total Deployment*] presents familiar motifs and situations, its strength as a historical record is substantial.”

—*iLiteratura*



Totální nasazení
Argo & Post Bellum, 2017, 120 pp
Illustrators: Karel Osoha, Tomáš Kučerovský &
Petra Josefina Stibitzová

Ondřej Nezbeda (b. 1979) is a journalist and author. From 2007–2014, he was an editor of the *Respekt* weekly magazine. Nezbeda has also worked as a meteorological observer, hospice carer and television dramaturge. In 2016, he published his first book, *Průvodce smrtelníka* (A Mortal’s Guide), about care for the dying, which won the Magnesia Litera Award for Discovery of the Year.

Tomáš Hodan (b. 1980) is a screenwriter and director. In 2002, he graduated from the Zlín Film School and since then has written and directed a number of award-winning short and feature-length films. As a documentary filmmaker, he has filmed in Angola, Afghanistan, Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Cyprus. Since 2014, he has been writing scripts for the popular satirical series, *Kancelář Blaník* (Blaník Office), loosely inspired by the British comedy series *The Thick of It*.

Petra Soukupová (b. 1982) is a prose writer, screenwriter and dramaturge. So far, she has published five books for adults and two for children. She also writes short stories. Soukupová’s bestselling books have received a number of awards and have been translated into seven languages. Preparations are underway for a film based on her short story, *Na krátko* (Cut Short), with a planned release date in 2018. As a screenwriter, Soukupová worked on the successful sitcom, *Comeback* (2008–2010), and the satirical series, *Kosmo* (2016). Her books have sold close to 90,000 copies.

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Non-fiction

Soňa Červená

PINING AVERTED

One of the most inspiring Czech female artists reveals the riveting story behind her world prestige.

Having celebrated her 90th birthday, this opera singer, actress and living legend, recounts the 25-year period in her life after returning to her homeland. Soňa Červená's private and professional life was marked by the dramatic events of the 20th century, which were tainted by Nazism and Communism. Her dazzling 40-year career includes one hundred opera roles, in four thousand shows on five continents. A singer with an unmistakable vocal timbre, she has performed with artists, such as Luciano Pavarotti and Plácido Domingo. She also collaborated with Lou Reed and

Tom Waits, and performed on stages in New York, Hong Kong and Sydney. At the age of 77, she launched her second career in her hometown, at the National Theatre in Prague. After 30 years of emigration, and having been erased from the rich history she'd been such an integral part of, Červená returned to theatre and opera. She also found herself on movie screens and began to write. *Pining Averted* builds on Červená's memoirs, *Stýskání zakázáno* (Pining Forbidden, 2014).



"Her narration, in beautiful Czech, is lively, full of insights and has a sense for detail."

—*Lidové noviny*

"The book, which is also a historical document full of information and useful references will appeal to lovers of opera, theatre and film. It will also touch readers who are less keen on music, but appreciate brilliant work and artistic talent."

—*iLiteratura*

Stýskání zažehnáno
Academia, 2017, 404 pp

Photo: Ben Skála



Soňa Červená (b. 1925) is an internationally recognised Czech mezzo-soprano singer, actress, writer and translator. She has performed in innumerable opera houses around the world, including La Scala or the Grand Opera. During her career as a singer, Červená performed in more than four thousand shows. After ending her opera-singing career, she performed in Hamburg's Thalia Theatre, under the direction of Robert Wilson. She has written several memoirs and translated all of Janáček's works into English, German and French. A feature documentary about her life, *Červená*, was released in 2017 to mark her 92nd birthday.

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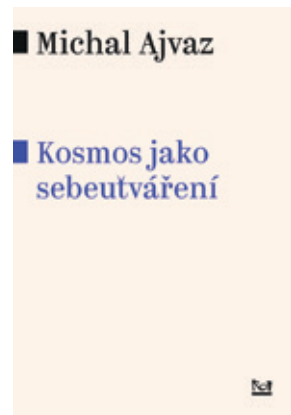
Michal Ajvaz

THE COSMOS AS SELF-CREATION

A snowflake falling on the author's hand leads to a number of captivating philosophical questions about being, existence and the cosmos.

At the beginning of this book, the author observes a snowflake drop onto his hand and asks himself about the nature of this minute event. Mostly everyone is familiar with a fallen snowflake, however, sometimes such straightforward occurrences seem mysterious and incomprehensible. Ajvaz presents the argument that even such a simple experience like this can exist only because of its meaning. Said meaning is established by being, and presumes the existence of a dynamic syntax. In his

detailed yet accessible writing, he considers why we cannot understand this syntax without seeing it in the entirety of its development. The development is itself part of the development of the cosmos. It is, therefore, necessary to think about the self-creation of the cosmos and to consider organic and inorganic nature, and the human world and its values. It is essential to view these areas of the cosmos in their context and to see their uniqueness.



Kosmos jako sebeutváření
Pavel Mervart, 2017, 536 pp

Photo: Rafa Komorowski



Michal Ajvaz (b. 1949) is a writer and a poet whose works might be described as playful literary fantasies filled with symbolism. Ajvaz has published eight works of fiction and an essay on Jacques Derrida, a book about Edmund Husserl's philosophy, as well as a book-length meditation on Jorge Luis Borges. He has won the French Utopiales prize for science fiction and the Magnesia Litera Award. He is featured in the 2011 *Best European Fiction* anthology, published by Dalkey Archive Press (USA). His books have been translated into seventeen languages including English, French, Japanese and Italian.

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Magnesia Litera Awards

Magnesia Litera is a set of annual Czech literary awards that recognizes many categories. The main award, The Book of the Year, includes a financial bonus of CZK 100,000. Since being established in 2002, the awards have gained notable media coverage.

Lucie Faulerová is a laureate (2017) – p. 10
Petra Soukupová is a laureate (2010) – p. 12, 42, 58
David Záborský is a laureate (2007) – p. 20
Petr Stančík is a laureate (2015) – p. 46
Ondřej Nezbeda is a laureate (2017) – p. 58
Michal Ajvaz is a laureate (2012) – p. 64

Dresden Lyrics Prize

This biennial Czech-German poetry competition for authors living in Europe and writing in German or Czech is held under the auspices of the city of Dresden. The winner receives a 5,000 euro prize.

Simona Racková is a laureate (2016) – p. 34

Jiří Orten Prize

An award for authors of prose and poetry under the age of 30. The Prize dates back to 1987, when it was founded autonomously from governmental institutions. At present, it is awarded jointly by the Union of Czech Librarians and Publishers and the Municipal Authority of the Capital of Prague. The Prize includes a financial bonus of CZK 50,000.

Petra Soukupová is a laureate (2008) – p. 12, 42, 58
Petr Borkovec is a laureate (1995) – p. 14

Jaroslav Seifert Prize

The Jaroslav Seifert Prize is an important Czech literary award, established in January 1986 by the Charter 77 Foundation in Stockholm. It is named after the only Czech winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. The Prize is awarded for outstanding fiction, published in the Czech Republic or abroad, within the previous three years. Since 2013, this award ceremony has taken place biennially.

Michal Ajvaz is a laureate (2005) – p. 64

Jiří Marek Award

Founded in 1996 by the Czech section of the International Association of Crime Writers, the Jiří Marek Award is an annual award for the best Czech crime novel.

Michaela Klevisová is a two-time laureate (2008, 2012) – p. 28

Czech Book Award

Established in 2012, the Czech Book Award aims to increase the number of translations of Czech literary fiction abroad. The winning title, chosen by an expert jury, is promoted abroad through partnerships with more than thirty publishers from ten countries. The winner also receives a CZK 35,000 prize.

Jakuba Katalpa is a laureate (2013) – p. 8

Básně/Básne Award

Originally a Slovak competition, the Básně/Básne Award began receiving Czech submissions in 2017. The Czech-Slovak literary competition for the best cycle of poems is organised by the Slovak Literárny klub organisation, the Czech Psí víno magazine and Fra publishing house.

Simona Racková is a laureate (2017) – p. 34

GRANTS FOR PUBLISHING CZECH LITERATURE ABROAD

Every year, the Czech Ministry of Culture awards grants to support the publication of Czech prose, poetry, drama, essays, comics and children's literature abroad.

Publishers can apply for funding for:

- translation costs
- graphic design, typesetting and printing costs
- copyright costs
- promotion costs

In total, the grant can cover up to 70% of the total cost of publishing.

Publishers, agents and translators can apply for funding for:

- the translation of an excerpt of between 10–25 standard pages (1800 characters with spaces)

Magazines can apply for funding for:

- translation costs of an issue where at least 50% of the total content is dedicated to original Czech literature

Deadlines

- 15th April for books and excerpts to be published in the same year as the application is submitted
- 15th November for books and excerpts to be published in the following year after the application is submitted

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For more information visit:
www.mkcr.cz/literature-and-libraries-1123.html?lang=en



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
CZECH REPUBLIC

The presentation of Czech book culture at book fairs abroad has a long tradition. The Moravian Library, one of the leading Czech heritage institutions, has been in charge of coordinating the Ministry of Culture's national expositions since 2014. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, authorities of Czech literary culture and Czech Centres abroad, the Moravian Library focuses not only on presenting major publishing houses but also on small publishers and printers. Significant Czech literary awards and their winners, along with a selection of current fiction and non-fiction are presented within the frame-work of a thematic national exposition. The accompanying cultural programme aims at bringing Czech authors together in the form of discussions and readings, especially at the Leipzig Book Fair (focused primarily on translations) or at the most important venue, the Frankfurt Book Fair. Czech book culture is presented in a similar scope also at the book fair in Bologna, which focuses on books for children, and at the London Book Fair. The Moravian Library is also the parent organisation of the Czech Literary Centre, which supports and promotes Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic.

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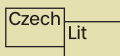
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