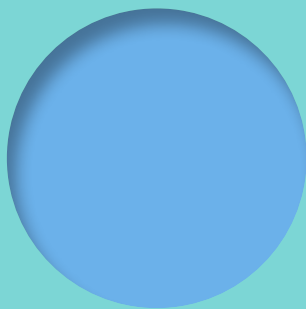


New Czech Books Autumn 2018



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Introduction

The latest edition of *New Czech Books* presents the most interesting current Czech prose, poetry, genre fiction, and books for children and young adults. It is no surprise that the books contain topics which have had an important presence in global social debates. A notable trend in this selection are novels by female authors with strong women characters or even a utopian movement methodically trying to transform the view of the female body and of women in society. Where does this explicitly and implicitly socially engaged current originate? Does it not represent a reaction against populism in contemporary politics, which evokes historical social structures with a strong male leader? These are questions we can ask ourselves when browsing through the current selection of Czech literature. In connection with this, it is worth highlighting Marcela Straková and Naďa Linková's, *Bytová revolúcia* (Revolution Begins at Home), a collection of interviews with important women of the pre-Velvet Revolution underground movement, which captures their crucial, yet historically overlooked role, in the political and social changes before the fall of Communism in 1989.

I would also like to draw attention to two books, which, using different forms, deal with one of the most complicated real-life cases of child abuse and false identity in modern Czech history. The novel, *Slabikář* (Primer), by Adéla Knapová and the comics, *Svatá Barbora* (Saint Barbara), by Marek Šindelka, Vojtěch Mašek and Marek Pokorný lead readers along the fine line between reality and fiction to a noir-like story, which still hasn't been definitively solved. It's worth adding, that the current selection of Czech comics is notable because of its variety, both in terms of content and style: the aforementioned adaptation of a criminal investigation is accompanied by a steampunk-inflected version of Voltaire's *Candide* by Karel Jerie and the horror detective story, *Sestry Dietlovny* (The Dietl Sisters), by Vojtěch Mašek.

There is only space to mention a few books in this introduction. However, the landscape of contemporary Czech literature is much more diverse and the introduction itself is meant to only serve as an invitation. I believe the chosen books communicate in a language shared by readers not only in the Czech Republic but also beyond its borders.

Ondřej Buddeus
CzechLit Head Coordinator

CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

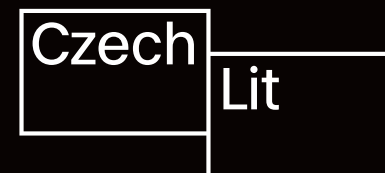
is a state-funded organisation supporting and promoting Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic. The centre is a section of the Moravian Library.

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
- 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

Josef Pánek

LOVE IN THE TIME OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Love in the Time of Global Climate Change is set in Bangalore, India, where the main character, Tomáš, arrives for an international science conference. There he not only has to contend with culture shock, the xenophobic attitudes of his international colleagues and feelings of rootlessness, but also his own helplessness and bittersweet memories. He searches for the roots of stereotypes in his own thinking, but due to the consistent use of the second-person plural, it is ultimately the reader he is addressing. The narrator juxtaposes the reality of India with Tomáš's experiences from the sharply contrasting country of Iceland, where a first-person narrative appears. These are the sections about Tomáš's love story with an emancipated

Indian woman. The protagonist is preoccupied with the problems of the contemporary world: the lack of academic rigour, the nation's past, xenophobia, racism, migration, cultural stereotypes and the differences between East and West. At the same time, he is a modern-day outcast, a person without a home or anchor.

Pánek's distinctive style, giving the impression of a hurried and spoken form of language, flows naturally, maintaining the tension and heightening the absurdity of a chaotic world. The readability and believability are bolstered by the author's experiences as an émigré, thanks to which the novel reads almost like a travelogue.

"Love in the Time of Global Climate Change is a revelation. It is a contemporary work of literature with a distinctive flow of speech that attempts to formulate the rootlessness of modern man while examining the parochialism of racism and xenophobia from the perspective of a citizen of the world."

—A2

"The author convincingly depicts accelerated learning and communication – the voice of a lost nomad. Pánek's fascinating style makes his work unique among Czech and international prose dealing with expatriot themes."

—*Respekt*



Láska v době globálních klimatických změn
Argo, 2017, 160 pp



Photo: Miloš Urban

Josef Pánek (b. 1966) is a writer, mountaineer, musician and molecular geneticist. He was awarded his doctorate at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University and now works as a molecular geneticist at the Institute of Microbiology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Pánek lived abroad for an extensive period. He is the author of a collection of short stories, *Kopáč opálů* (The Opal Digger, 2013), and the novella, *Láska v době globálních klimatických změn* (Love in the Time of Global Climate Change, 2017), which was awarded the Magnesia Litera for prose.

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2018 Magnesia Litera Award – Prose

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Petra Hůlová

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT

In the near future, society is close to embracing The Movement's reforms. What happens to those who cannot reform?

The Movement's founding ideology emphasises that women should be valued for their inner qualities, spirit and character, and not solely for their physical attributes. Men have been forbidden to be attracted to women on the basis of their bodies. Some continue with unreformed attitudes but submit to interment and re-education. However, The Movement also struggles with women and their 'old attitudes'.

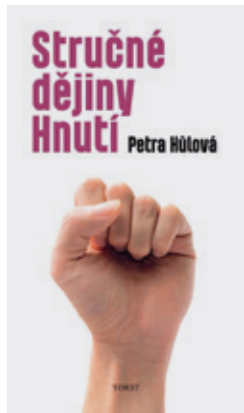
The Movement's historian is an unapologetic guard at one of these re-education institutions. She describes how The Movement started, her own journey, the challenges faced and what happens when programmes fail. She believes The Movement is near to its final victory – everybody accepts the new programme.

Unapologetic, ambiguous, terrifying. Petra Hůlová, at her best!

Photo: Martin Rýz



Petra Hůlová (b. 1979) is an author of novels, plays, and screenplays which have won numerous awards and she is a regular commentator on current events for the Czech press. She studied language, culture, and anthropology at universities in Prague, Ulan Bator, and New York, and was a Fulbright scholar in the USA. Her nine novels and two plays have been translated into more than ten languages including English, German and French.



"Petra Hůlová has managed to write a book which is committed in the best sense of the word: it unsettles, provokes, angers. It forces you to think while it also maintains a high literary standard."

—*MF Dnes*

"By setting her story in a dystopian world, Petra Hůlová has created room for a narrative which goes far beyond today's discussions in society about equal rights and protection for women."

—*Aktuálně.cz*

Stručné dějiny Hnutí
Torst, 2018, 184 pp

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Jiří Kratochvíl

BAKSHISH

This farce with an imp as narrator is an original take on the eternal story of man and woman.

Jiří Kratochvíl is one of the leading postmodern Czech writers. In this story, set at the end of the Second World War, he plays with the narrator, the reader and the characters. He often shatters the illusory authenticity of the narration or, conversely, uses it as a source of tension. He plays around with form, intervenes in the action and uses alienating plot devices.

This simple story of a complicated and ultimately fruitless search begins with a malevolent narrator, the Imp, to whom the adolescent Jakoubek and the beautiful Daniela (referred to as “the whore”) fall victim. The Imp, who lives in the hollow of an oak tree after having evicted an owl, wilfully manipulates the fates of the characters and takes a capricious pleasure in his narrative. During the war, Daniela had been a prominent German mistress, and after the defeat of

Germany she is only saved from being lynched by the timely intervention of the Imp. For Jakoubek, a mere week spent living with Daniela then transforms into a pubescent dream; Daniela keeps searching for her Jakoubek until she finally dies homeless on a bench by Špilberk Castle in Moravia.

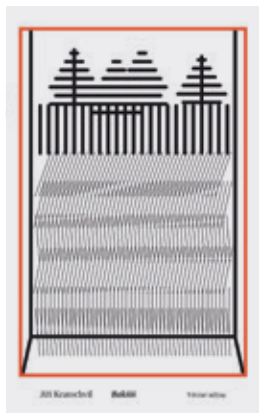
Kratochvíl returns to the trinity of beauty–lust–chastity and turns them upside down. In a closing note he explains how he deconstructed his earlier novel, *Siamský příběh* (Siamese Story, 1996), the story of a twelve-year-old boy’s love for an older woman, and used it to construct *Bakshish*. The reader thus finds himself ‘led astray’ by the author once again. “My greatest desire is to set in motion some kind of capricious story and then tell it with gusto right to the end,” said the author, who has maintained the “lust zum fabulieren” in his latest work.

“*Bakshish* is another of Kratochvíl’s open, pleasingly blurred novels, offering wide scope for reading that engages both emotion and reason. This is a book you could read a hundred times, but it would not matter: each time is like the first.”

—UNI

“The narrative puns, the greedy accumulation of synonymous expressions, the wit, the exaggerated lightness on the one hand and concentration of meaning on the other – this is Kratochvíl at his best.”

—*Czech Radio*



Bakšiš
Větrné mlýny, 2018, 132 pp

Photo: Jef Kratochvíl



Jiří Kratochvíl (b. 1940) is a novelist, scriptwriter and journalist. He studied Czech and Russian at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University in Brno. His work is labelled as postmodern and among his recurring themes are personal identity and memory. He has been awarded numerous literary prizes since 1989 including the Tom Stoppard Prize, the Czech Booksellers’ Prize, the Egon Hostovský Prize, the Karel Čapek Prize and the Jaroslav Seifert Prize. Kratochvíl’s books have been published in 15 languages including German, French and Spanish. He is featured in the 2012 *Best European Fiction* anthology, published by Dalkey Archive Press (USA).

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Dita Táborská

MALINKA and BĚSA

Malinka and *Běsa* are two highly-successful loosely connected novels about the struggles of childhood and parenthood.

Malinka is a pacy story that shows a crisis of human identity with uncompromising urgency; it reflects on the essence of this crisis and considers its justification.

Although born on a maternity ward, officially Malinka is a foundling. She is adopted by Ina and Jaromír, who also have two biological sons; the phrase ‘not known’ appears several times in her birth certificate. Ina understands how Malinka’s complicated background is a cause of suffering to her. She wants to stand by her daughter, but often this simply doesn’t work out.

Malinka is twenty-two when something unexpected happens that forces her to fill some blanks in her life and address the question of what makes a mother. Forty-year-old Alice has no need to reflect on this – clearly, she knows the answer intuitively – yet the complexities of motherhood present her with an unexpected challenge. The father of the child that links these two women is Alice’s husband Roman, who longs for a child.

Běsa is a many-layered existential drama that is a loose continuation of *Malinka*.

Běla and Sabina are identical twins. Their extraordinarily powerful childhood bond unravels because of a battle with drugs from which only one of the sisters will emerge victorious. Once that battle is over, their mother will be overwhelmed by self-pity as she expends most of her thoughts and love on the lost child. The other child loses her mother as well as her twin.

Vitalij was born in a Czech village in Ukraine, in the year of the girls’ birth. Now an adult, he decides to visit the home of his forebears, a land he longs to see. Once in Prague, however, he becomes involved with Luboš, a pimp and dealer in foreign workers who deprives him of all his illusions.

Then a child is born who connects the fates of all the protagonists, forcing them to reappraise their understanding of all it means to be a sister, a mother and a father, too.

“[Táborská] builds an existential novel charged with emotion that addresses the issue of adoption. In so doing, she records a deep crisis of identity and raises basic human questions.”

—*Respekt*

“Great, urgent and current”

—*MF Dnes*



Malinka
Host, 2017, 439 pp

Běsa
Host, 2018, 360 pp



Photo: Agmons Foto

Dita Táborská (b. 1981) graduated from the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague. She has worked with Czech Television and Czech Radio and in the political and press department of the Israeli embassy; she joined the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2009. Since summer 2018, Táborská has been living and working in Taiwan with her family.

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Ludvík Němec

A WOMAN IN PARENTHESIS

Playfulness, variety and blasphemy in a sweeping novel with two central storylines.

This novel is built on an irregularly alternating first-person narrative. The two speakers are the persecuted writer Barbora Farná, a pathological liar, and her son, the photographer Marek. They are joined by a lawyer, Vanda, whose relationship with Marek quickly transforms from a professional one into a romantic one, and her husband Alfréd, a wealthy computer-game developer and admirer of the works of Barbora Farná. Upon this narrow stage, Ludvík Němec begins a meta-narrative

game of truth, reality and fiction. The fictional worlds created by a compulsion to lie, writerly skill and a gamer's passion are interspersed with a number of references to real writers and their lives and with a passion for the possibilities of linguistic games. And yet *A Woman in Parenthesis* is also one of the few high-quality and at the same time thrilling 'romance' novels where there is a distinctive, decisive role for the narrator.



"Ludvík Němec has created a colourful mosaic of literary statements, stylistic acrobatics and narrative ruses."

—iLiteratura

"Over the past five years, only Jáchym Topol has produced such a bewitching novel. [...] Němec's novel is exceptional in its old-world craftsmanship, the careful choice of original novelistic ingredients and the thoughtful way these are put to use."

—Aktuálně.cz

Žena v závorce
Druhé město, 2018, 310 pp

Photo: David Konečný (Moravian Library – Czech Literary Centre) (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)



Ludvík Němec (b. 1957) is a novelist, poet, script editor for Czech Radio and a literary editor. After high-school graduation (1975), he worked for a short period on the editorial board of the *Rovnost* newspaper and then from 1976–1981 as a tourist guide around the casemates of Brno's Špilberk Castle. From 1981 he was on the literature and drama editorial board of Czech Radio's Brno studio, from 1992–1995 and 1998–2013 he was its director. He has written several radio plays and since the mid-1980s also sci-fi plays for children. He made his debut aged 19 (*Nejhlasitější srdce ve městě* [The Loudest Heart in Town]), and since then has published a number of acclaimed novels and short story collections including the Magnesia Litera-nominated *Láska na cizím hrobě* (Love on a Stranger's Grave, 2013).

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Magdalena Platzová

THE OTHER SIDE OF SILENCE

A novel which looks at different forms of home and homelessness, married life and parenthood abroad. About how easy it is to lose your own identity without a home.

This novel not only looks at the home as a place that keeps us anchored, its various forms and the ways it can be lost (homelessness, migration, exile, moving house, temporary accommodation, expulsion) but also at a wide range of social problems: refugees, politics, religion and history, and our prospects for the future. However, it also encompasses the variety of personal relationships that are governed by the interests of multinational corporations, obtrusive family histories, the gulf between continents and the clash between “small and great history”. Memories of places and the experience of them release a flood of nostalgia for an earlier life and people, for the closeness that recedes when we leave a familiar place. The town of L., which bears a striking resemblance to Lyon, where the

author lives, is described from several perspectives: that of a nouveau-riche entrepreneur as well as a homeless Czech woman called Anděla.

The framework of the book is provided by the *Notes of a Free Young Man*, in which a man from L., who is supported by his wife and takes care of the family, decides to write a novel, which takes up about three-quarters of the book. The story he is writing is called *The Other Side of Silence*. The complex web of thematic threads and the ingenious metatextual game are held together by the detached view of the narrator (the young man).

“This is an honest, non-opportunistic and probing work of prose. In addition, it is written in a seemingly inconspicuous and unpretentious yet functional language.”

—*Respekt*

“Topography, geography, place. This is a novel about the impossibility of finding yourself without a fixed point and, conversely, about the impossibility of finding yourself without abandoning that fixed point. [...] about distant homes which we think we know so well without noticing how much they have changed in our absence.”

—*Veronika Tuckerová,*

Harvard University Preceptor in Slavic Languages and Literatures



Druhá strana ticha
Milan Hodek – Paper Jam, 2018, 258 pp

Photo: David Konečný (Moravian Library – Czech Literary Centre) (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)



Magdaléna Platzová (b. 1972) is a novelist, translator and journalist. She studied philosophy at Charles University's Faculty of Arts and has worked as an actress, journalist and freelance translator. She has written three plays, two of which – *Na útěku* (On the Run) and *Sayang* – reached the finals of the Alfréd Radok Award for best original Czech and Slovak play. The year 2003 saw the publication of her debut collection of short stories, *Sůl, ovce a kamení* (Salt, Sheep and Stones), thematically linked to Dalmatia in Croatia, which has been translated into several languages. She is the author of several novels including *Aaronův skok* (Aaron's Leap, 2006) and *Anarchista (poznámky k románu)* (The Attempt, 2013) both of which have been published in English. From 2009 to 2012 she lived in New York, where she taught a course on Franz Kafka at New York University. At present she lives with her husband and three children in Lyon, where her latest novel, *Druhá strana ticha* (The Other Side of Silence, 2018), is partly set.

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Adéla Knapová

PRIMER

Novelistic truth about blind faith.

The so-called Kuřim Case, one of the most complicated criminal cases in modern Czech history, was uncovered by chance in May 2007 after footage of the abuse of a young boy was caught by a neighbour trying to set up a video baby monitor. There are still many unanswered questions concerning those convicted and the guilty parties in this

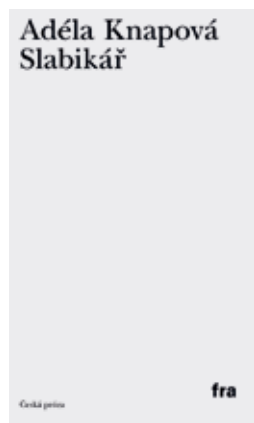
case. However, Adéla Knapová does not approach it as a detective/researcher – instead she focuses on the moment *before* these events began, i.e. on the question of what led up to them, what triggered them and what scope there is in today's world for good, bad and the opposition between them.

“In the passages set in the present, Knapová makes use of elements of reportage, while her unravelling of the background to the case and the behaviour of the characters demonstrates a thorough knowledge and creative use of the methods of psychological prose and her descriptions of the mental state of those involved are skilfully linked to metaphorical passages which intensify them without coming across as tawdry or contrived.”

—*Host*

“The new novel by Adéla Knapová is committed and current.”

—*Reflex*



Slabikář
Fra, 2018, 516 pp

Photo: Radek Brousil



Adéla Knapová (b. 1976) is a writer and journalist. Graduate of Charles University in Prague. Since the age of eighteen she has worked as a journalist and since 2009 she has been one of the core writers for the *Reflex* magazine; she has won several prizes for her journalism. Her first novel *Nezvaní* (The Uninvited) was published in 2003. In 2016 the publishers Fra brought out her novella *Nemožnost nuly* (The Impossibility of Zero), which immediately after publication was listed by Czech Radio as one of the best Czech and international books of the year; in 2018, the same publisher brought out her novel *Slabikář* (Primer). She has also written short stories (e.g. for the magazine *Weles* and for Czech Radio Two). She lives alternately in South Moravia and North Greece.

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Viktorie Hanišová

THE MUSHROOM GATHERER

The story of an ill-fated attempt to escape trauma.

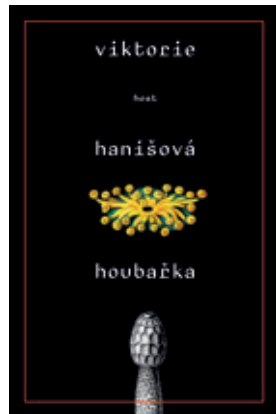
The tale of a young woman, a loner called Sára, who lives in an old cottage in the Šumava hills and makes a living by gathering and selling mushrooms. For seven years she has been following the same route through the foothills, thus maintaining a delicate balance in the dilapidated rural building where she has set up home. The hermit Sára seems unmoved by the news of her

mother's death, but the inheritance proceedings bring the family who rejected her back into her life. Sára's house is falling apart just as her life and business are. It is time to return to the past and deal with what remained unresolved in this uprooting. After her successful 2015 debut, *Anežka*, Viktorie Hanišová has produced another story of parental failure.

Photo: Viktorie Hanišová's archive



Viktorie Hanišová (b. 1980) is a translator and novelist. She is from Prague and studied English and German studies at Charles University. She translates and works as a teacher of foreign languages. Hanišová made her debut as a writer in 2015 with the very well-received novel, *Anežka*, about the dysfunctional relationship between a mother and her adopted daughter, hidden racism and stereotypes. Her second novel is *Houbařka* (The Mushroom Gatherer, 2018) and her third novel will be published in spring 2019.



“Viktorie Hanišová uses the mushroom (especially its spawn) as an overarching metaphor that binds an already well-constructed and briskly paced text even closer together.”

—*iLiteratura*

“*The Mushroom Gatherer*, which at a stretch could also serve as a guide to mushroom picking, is a very accomplished novel. It could also serve as a worthy representative of contemporary Czech literature abroad, and not only because of its theme.”

—*Právo*

Houbařka
Host, 2018, 312 pp

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Petra Dvořáková

THE VILLAGE

A vivid narrative describing the simple cycle of life in a village, which is dictated by the rhythm of work in the fields, changes in the weather and the regular commitment of looking after animals and young and old family members.

The Village is set in the modern-day rural area of Vysočina and is populated by family groups whose lives and work the story revolves around. It is a first-person narrative related by different members of three generations of both sexes: grandmothers, grandfathers, mothers and sons. What they all have in common is the environment they were born into, where most of them have remained as they are unable to do otherwise. The ties that bind them to the village are not only familial and regional, but also linguistic. *The Village* is narrated in the Horácko dialect, or what remains of it. Dvořáková not only differentiates between the various generations by their changing relationship

towards work, the land, domestic animals, the landscape, the fields and faith, or their attitude towards their parents and grandparents, but also by language – i.e. the extent to which their speech preserves elements of the dialect.

These people cannot see beyond the horizon of the neighbouring forest for their one pub and one shop. As the author says, they didn't just put on tracksuit bottoms, they were born into them. Even though they all know each other's business, they know little of each other's feelings. The countryside has rules which cannot be ignored if you want to live there. You have to leave the city behind.

"Dvořáková's characters are authentic, real, their lives are believable, and it is obvious that the author hasn't idealized the village setting or its inhabitants and presents them as they really are. It is commendable that the author's approach to the setting and characters does not involve judging them, ridiculing them or parodying them in any way."

—Právo

"Petra Dvořáková has written an entirely different kind of rural novel, a genre which has regained popularity in Czech writing."

—Tvar



Dědina
Host, 2018, 260 pp

Photo: Roman Franc



Petra Dvořáková (b. 1977) is a novelist and scriptwriter. Readers first became aware of her through her book of interviews, *Proměněné sny* (Transformed Dreams, 2006), for which she won a Magnesia Litera prize. She continued to attract attention with *Já jsem hlad* (I am Hunger, 2009) about anorexia and *Sítě – příběhy (ne)sebevědomí* (The Net – Stories of (a Lack of) Confidence, 2016) about low self-esteem. The children's book, *Julie mezi slovy* (Julie and Words, 2013), was awarded a Golden Ribbon (for a work of fiction for young readers) and the Teachers' Prize for her contribution to the development of children's reading. Other books for young readers include *Flouk a Líla* (Flouk and Líla, 2015) and *Každý má svou lajnu* (Everyone Has a Line to Hold, 2017). The author regularly works with Czech Television and Czech Radio. Her books have been published in Slovenia and Albania.

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Vladimíra Valová TO THE INTERIOR

A collection of sharp-edged short stories.

The world of these stories is not a cheerful one, but nor is it hopeless. One of thousands of moments when we step off the conveyor belt of life: switch off our phone (everyone can get stuffed), fail to turn up for work for no good reason, get drunk with a stranger for the hell of it, offer shelter to a down-and-out, kick red poppies to kingdom come. At these times, life opens wide to reveal a path, an abyss or a path to the bottom of an abyss. The characters in *To the Interior* know that only they can determine how much life

they grab for themselves. Their closest associate is solitude, though they know that its accompanying silence can be lethal. They must cry out in the hope that the answer they get will be more than a mere echo. Vladimíra Valová's debut is one of the most remarkable short story collections of recent years and was nominated for the prestigious Magnesia Litera Discovery of the Year award and the Czech Book Award. A selection of the stories will also be published in German.

"Vladimíra Valová has shown a remarkably developed sensitivity towards human misery. This collection entitled *Into the Interior* has been wonderfully written, albeit gruelling."

—*iLiteratura*

"Valová has distilled her material into stories that are powerful and deeply personal. She expresses herself with concision, leaving no padding on the frame of the stories; yet there is nothing dry about them. She makes her writing special with a fresh metaphor, a poetic turn of phrase and a vivid description of a scene."

—*Lidové noviny*



Do vnitrozemí
Host, 2017, 200 pp



Photo: Vladimíra Valová's archive

Vladimíra Valová (b. 1978) is a native of the town of Třebíč, where she still lives. For several years she worked as an editor and photographer for the local press. She now works in a bookshop. She began writing short stories eight years ago. Her work has appeared in *Host* monthly.

Martin Goffa

REDEMPTION

The climax of an eight-part series of hardboiled crime novels by a former detective who writes under a pseudonym to protect his identity.

Detective Miko Syrový leaves the bustle of the city to relax in his home village, where he plans to spend a few quiet days with his young daughter. However, as soon as he arrives he is faced with a suspicious death which the local police have been too quick to dismiss as a mere accident. Miko starts

to ask awkward questions, cracks begin to show in the rural idyll and evidence comes to light which casts more doubts and question marks upon the case. When the façade finally comes tumbling down, Miko realizes too late that this time his own life is on the line.



Vykoupení
Mladá fronta, 2018, 200 pp

“Within a short time the author has developed into an excellent writer and gripping narrator, which combined with his knowledge of police work gives his novels a vitality which makes them far removed from fantasy. Goffa is currently one of our best crime writers, which *Redemption* only serves to confirm.”

—E15

Photo: Tomáš Škoda



Martin Goffa (b. 1973) is a crime writer who joined the Czech Police in the mid-1990s. He started off as an officer on the beat and then spent most of his career as a detective in the crime squad. He left the police force after fifteen years and is now an entrepreneur and writer. He is the author of the successful eight-part series featuring the detective Miko Syrový, which includes *Vykoupení* (Redemption, 2018), the “torn novel” *Rémi* (2018) and the crime stories *Vánoční zpověď* (A Christmas Confession, 2015). He writes under a pseudonym.

RIGHTS:
Mladá fronta publishers
Tomáš Černý:
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Františka Vrbenská & Lucie Lukačovičová THE BURNING HORSE

This classic historical fantasy contains everything you could wish for – beautiful women and beautiful horses, battle scenes, brawls, blood, sweat, adventure, ancient cities and, of course, a dreadful, terrifying sorcerer.

The novel *The Burning Horse* successfully draws on the atmosphere of Arabic Spain of the 11th century when Islam and Christianity clashed with Iberian culture while Viking raiders sailed down from the north... The country has been carved up into small kingdoms whose rulers are constantly vying for territory, influence and wealth.

This gripping story follows the love affair between the initially naïve Basque archer Iranzu (who renounces his military career to save his mortally wounded horse and sets out on a risky path as a horse thief) and an orphaned squire's daughter, Brisca, an honourable servant who refuses to bend to the will of a demon to save the boy she loves from certain death... But there are

also many other complex, interweaving subplots. Both of the main characters unwittingly become involved in the high politics of kings and sorcerers and find themselves never far from death in this turbulent land. The fates of all the characters are wickedly manipulated by the unpredictable demon Spin de Mul.

Naturally, there is no shortage of action in *The Burning Horse*, but the central theme is the romantic suffering of the two main characters, set against the background of the constant scheming and warring of mighty lords. The story, with its surprising denouement, is rounded off by a dictionary since the text is peppered with words from different languages, including Arabic, Aragonese and Basque.

“A magical tale filled with love, reaching deep into the soul and the mind. It does not focus directly on the storyline, but on the characters’ feelings and the atmosphere. All of the imagination and details carefully embedded between the lines produce a simply wonderful effect.”

—Sarden

“The book is suffused with an intoxicating atmosphere and the almost tangible love of the two authors for the subject and the setting.”

—XB1



Hořící kůň
Epocha, 2017, 440 pp

Photo: Františka Vrbenská's archive



Photo: Lucie Lukačovičová's archive



Františka Vrbenská is a librarian and author of academic articles on history, cultural anthropology and literature and has won a number of prizes for her literary and teaching work. She publishes short stories in magazines and anthologies and has written several novellas. Her essays and literary studies complement her short-story collections and novels. As an editor she was involved in the unique project, *Lehké fantazijno* (A Light Fantasy), by the Czech studies scholar and writer Zuzana Hloušková – a four-volume anthology introducing female Czech and Slovak fantasy authors. She is a member of the Klub autorů literatury faktu (Club of Authors of Non-Fiction).

Lucie Lukačovičová (b. 1980) is an award-winning Czech author of historical fantasy, urban fantasy, steampunk and science fiction. She studied cultural anthropology and librarianship at Charles University in Prague and enjoys travelling and collecting myths, legends, tales and ghost stories. Lukačovičová is the author of more than one hundred short stories in anthologies and magazines, and four novels. She has published works in English: the steampunk fantasy novella, *Spark of Thought* (2016), and the loose sequel, *Spark of Eternity* (2017). Her short stories have also been published in Romanian, German and Chinese.

AWARDS:
2017 Aeronautilus Award for best sci-fi or fantasy book of the year

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Poetry

Ivan Wernisch

PERNAMBUCO

This poetry collection by the idiosyncratic doyen of Czech poetry is anything but old-fashioned.

Pernambuco is one of the federal states of Brazil. Ivan Wernisch, a Czech poetry legend, is still on the scene 57 years on from his debut and is still convincing readers with the same vigour that there is life left in his poetic universe. The twelve-part poetry collection, *Pernambuco*, deploys the means of expression which have been part of the author's poetic world from the beginning: Wernisch's cosmos spans farce

and melancholy, comedy and tragedy, gravity and parody, dream and reality, together with movement in time, space and language.

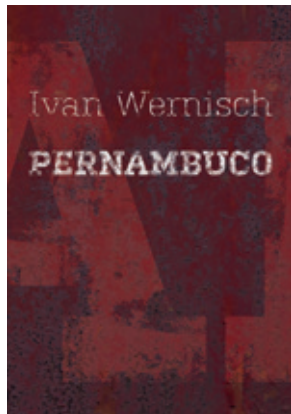
This poetry collection, with Wernisch's characteristic imagery, fantasy and blending of the real with the fictitious, the tragic with the farcical, also contains prosaic fragments and miniatures.

"Ivan Wernisch shows us a constant truth in his work: there is only one type of poetry – that which arises from necessity, tension, compulsion. From the need to write a parallel universe when this earthly one is unsatisfactory. From the need to 'survive life' with dignity, at least behind closed eyes."

—*Lidové noviny*

"Ivan Wernisch's new poetry collection takes us back to where we feel at home: to the archaic, illusive world of our own wistful nostalgia, within which poetic and often absurdly affecting fragments have substantially more meaning than the world around us."

—*A2*



Pernambuco
Druhé město, 2017, 162 pp



Photo: Libor Stavjanik

Ivan Wernisch (b. 1942) is a poet, writer, journalist, translator and hoaxer. He studied at the Ceramics Industry College in Karlovy Vary. He began publishing his poems in magazines while he was a student. Due to his involvement in the events of the Prague Spring in 1968, he was banned as an author during the harsh Normalisation period which followed and his works only came out in samizdat or in exile. His texts were set to music by the legendary underground band The Plastic People of the Universe. He has written more than 30 poetry collections. As an editor he has compiled several important anthologies of "forgotten, neglected and despised" poets. Ivan Wernisch has been awarded the Jaroslav Seifert Prize (1992), the State Prize for Literature (2012), the Magnesia Litera (2013) and the Franz Kafka Award (2018). His work has been translated into many languages including English, French and Polish. He himself translates from German, French, Italian, Flemish, Russian and Latin.

RIGHTS:
Druhé město publishers
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www.druhemesto.cz

Sylva Fischerová

THE WORLD CLOCK

The world clock showed the poet the diversity of the faces that move around it: places, historical experiences events and people.

In her new poetry collection, Sylva Fischerová summarises her experience of life and poetry and connects them to the various corners of the globe, to the past and present of these places and the historical events that shaped their form, appearance and future. A personal topography intersects with the

suprapersonal, with a history of civilization that is much older. These poetic slices of historical events, together with the spaces where they took place, create a remarkable framework for a collection of poems, but also for memories linked to family, emigration and war...

“There is something of the tragedy of the ancients in the way humanity has always been tormented by the awareness that a possible non-existing essence will escape it. Fischerová writes supremely well about the eternal world-weariness of cognizant beings. She uses a wide range of references, paraphrases and foreign-language quotes, the connections and contexts of which are not easy for the uninitiated reader to grasp.”

—A2

“Instead of the titular astronomical clock, Fischerová’s poems remind me more of an hourglass where the poet turns her life and family history upside down, up and down, up and down.”

—*Literární noviny*



Světový orloj
Druhé město, 2018, 90 pp

Photo: Božena Správcová



Sylva Fischerová (b. 1963) is one of the most formidable Czech writers of her generation. She is the author of ten collections of poems, two volumes of short stories, two novels and two children’s books. Her prose book, *Evropa je jako židle Thonet, Amerika je pravý úhel* (Europe Is Like a Thonet Chair America Is Right Angle, 2013), inspired by the author’s travels in America was nominated for the prestigious Magnesia Litera Award. Fischerová was born in Prague, but lived in Olomouc until the age of eighteen. She initially studied philosophy and physics at Charles University but eventually switched over to classical philology. She currently holds a position in the Department of Greek and Latin Studies at Charles University, Faculty of Arts. She specializes in Greek literature, philosophy, and religion. Sylva Fischerová’s work has been translated into many languages – three collections of poems have been published in Great Britain and the USA.

RIGHTS SOLD:
Germany (KLAK Verlag)

RIGHTS:
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www.praglit.de

Petr Borkovec

A HERBARIUM FOR SOMETHING WORSE

These days a herbarium is seen as a catalogued collection of pressed dried plants with labels. Petr Borkovec's Herbarium records poetic forms and linguistic formulations.

Petr Borkovec's inventive, imaginative and totally unique poetry catalogue connects the poetic language of the 19th century, echoes of folk poetry and a wide variety of quotations, loanwords and allusions with the style of expression used by members of modern-day obscure interest groups such as metal-detecting enthusiasts, pet owners, fish fanciers, plant-growers and entomologists, lovers of the outdoors, guns and porn, hunters, dragonfly collectors, criminologists, members of housing associations and poets. Their unique voices form rare exhibits in Borkovec's

collection. Borkovec combines old Czech, the genre of small ads, descriptions of crimes and criminals, pop-song lyrics, old natural-history books and Czech textbooks, fables in the manner of Aesop, bad translations requiring editing, the gutter press in its printed, electronic and televisual forms, and popular advertising journalism. *A Herbarium for Something Worse* is thus made up of ingenious variations, parodies and cultivated offshoots as well as genetic mutations of well-researched forms of expression.

"Here we find a meta-collection with the most refined feeling for language, the sound of words and the melody of verse, with a sense of humour and playfulness, the deadly combinatorics of the old-fashioned with its elegant patina and the modern and slightly distasteful."

—*Tvar*

"Petr Borkovec's new collection provides an original perspective on a world in which everyone wants to write and speak but no one wants to listen and understand. In *A Herbarium for Something Worse*, classic verse meets the names of insects and porn stars, and the poet as a creator of poetics shows us how our own language continually betrays us."

—*A2*



Herbář k čemusi horšímu
Fra, 2018, 120 pp

Photo: Ondřej Lipár



Petr Borkovec (b. 1970) is a translator, 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*, he has also worked as a newspaper proofreader, the editor of newspaper literary and cultural sections and later as a publishing editor and translator from Russian. He has also translated several ancient and Korean texts into verse. Borkovec is currently an editor at the Fra publishing house and an organiser of well-known author reading nights at Prague's Café Fra.

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Children's and
Young Adult

Petr Stančík

H₂O AND THE SECRET WATER MISSION

An award-winning adventure story for clever children which plumbs the depths in a pocket submarine.

This children's story from the workshop of Petr Stančík, who has also been awarded prizes for his novels for adults, focuses on life-giving water. The adventure for clever children was illustrated by the popular Galina Miklínová, known for her famous *Lichožrouti* (Oddsocketers). Readers can depend on the author's acumen to bring a light touch to all of his lessons – this book has an educational subtext – which will also be appreciated by parents who have forgotten a thing or two. The educational framework of the book is

subtle and is nicely undermined by the illustrations. Water has the formula H₂O, which is also the initials of the main characters – Hugo, Hubert and Ophelia, who thanks to their miniaturisation go on various expeditions headed by the mad professor Hermengild Vulpes. The story contains lessons and explanations about water on the margins of the pages, together with explanatory illustrations. Among them, however, children can also find recipes for the characters' favourite dishes!

"It's not easy these days to get children to read or leaf through books due to stiff competition from computers, mobile phones and iPads. However, the book *H₂O and the Secret Water Mission* has been conceived in such a modern way that it might just succeed. Moreover, it has been brilliantly executed in terms of the graphic design and typography."

—*Reflex*

"This book is aimed at children aged 10 to 12. However, according to the illustrator Galina Miklínová, it would even appeal to four-year-olds if someone were to read it to them. And why a book about water? The author Petr Stančík has a positive relationship with water because, as he says, it is part of wine and beer as well as other things such as soup."

—*Blesk*

Age: 10+



H₂O a tajná vodní mise
Illustrated by Galina Miklínová
Abramis, 2018, 80 pp

Photo: David Konečný



Petr Stančík (b. 1968) is a poet, prose writer, author of children's books, playwright, copywriter and essayist also writing 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 commented hyperbolically on the myth of a superman from Prague during the Nazi occupation. The Czech capital also became a backdrop for his postmodern detective novel, *Mlýn na mumie* (Mummy Mill, 2014), which won the Magnesia Litera Award for the best prose. Stančík has written several books for children including the "vegetable thriller", *Mrkev ho vcucla pod zem* (A Carrot Sucked Him Underground, 2013), and a series of stories about Chrujda the Badger. *H₂O a tajná vodní mise* (H₂O and the Secret Water Mission, 2018) is his most recent prize-winning work. His books have been translated into Spanish, Polish and Hungarian.

AWARDS:
2018 Golden Ribbon Award – Literary Section:
Literature for children

RIGHTS:
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H₂O and the Secret Water Mission



H₂O and the Secret Water Mission

František Tichý

TRANSPORT TO ETERNITY

A gripping book about the Holocaust for children and young adults based on authentic documents.

Twelve-year-old Honza's war story begins in 1940 and ends in the autumn of 1943 and describes a childhood and adolescence cut short by history as well as heroism, friendship and solidarity regardless of age or risk. The story is set in the ghetto of Terezín, where the main character ends up in solidarity with his Jewish schoolmates.

The author links fiction with documents: for example, the diary of the prisoner Petr Ginz and the Terezín children's magazine *Vedem*. "The only thing which distinguishes us from them is that we were born into happier times," states the author, who has been studying the lives of children in the Terezín ghetto since 2009.

Age: 10+



Transport za věčnost
Illustrated by Stanislav Setinský
Baobab, 2017, 244 pp

"A painstakingly and concisely elaborated narrative about something which is always beyond our grasp."

—A2

"A gripping narrative which includes adventure, but more importantly, cognitive, moral and ethical dimensions."

—*Magnesia Litera Award jury*

Photo: Matofilm (CC BY-SA 4.0)



František Tichý (b. 1969) is the founder of, and a teacher at, the alternative secondary school Přírodní škola (Nature School) and a writer. He also deals with young people in his writing: the samizdat, *Život Dominikův* (The Life of Dominik), combines the fantasy and reality of young people of school age, the novella, *Transport za věčnost* (Transport to Eternity, 2017), describes the life of children in Prague during the Protectorate and in the Terezín ghetto. As part of the Terezín Relay school project, Tichý is involved in studying and bringing to life the legacy of the boys and girls imprisoned in Terezín during the war as well as those responsible for their education. He edited a collection of poems by the fourteen-year-old Hanuš Hachenburg, *Hned vedle bílá barva mráčků* (The White Colour of the Clouds Right Alongside – the second, English–Czech edition won first prize at the Most Beautiful Book of 2013 competition). He wrote a biography of the real-life character Petr Ginz, *Princ se žlutou hvězdou* (A Prince with a Yellow Star, 2014).

AWARDS:
2018 Magnesia Litera Award – For children and youth

RIGHTS:
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Transport to Eternity



Prašina

Vojtěch Matocha

PRAŠINA

Adventure, mystery and nostalgia in a gripping story about the power of human knowledge.

Prašina is a mysterious, frightening neighbourhood in the middle of modern day Prague, the only place where electricity doesn't work and no one knows why. One day it starts to expand and slowly swallows up other parts of Prague, shrouding them in darkness. There, Jirka and his friends discover a secret that can change the world. However, they are not alone. In the unlit winding lanes of Prašina they have to face dangerous opponents led by an unscrupulous businessman.

What started as an adventure quickly changes into a race to save Prague and possibly the whole world from impending darkness.

Matocha mixes thriller and sci-fi in order to emphasize the impact that all kinds of inventions have on humans. In his debut, books do not compete against cell phones, as both can expand human knowledge. A thrilling story for older middle-grade readers with illustrations by Karel Osoha, evoking a noir atmosphere.

Age: 9+



Prašina
Illustrated by Karel Osoha
Paseka, 2018, 264 pp

"The gender balance of the two main characters gives a simple answer to the question of whether this is a book for boys or girls. At the same time, the characters break down stereotypes about girls being unscientific or boys being insensitive."

—*Respekt*

"Thrilling, mysterious and adventurous with a dash of romance – this is *Prašina*, the debut children's novel by mathematician and reviewer Vojtěch Matocha. [...] He has produced a thriller worthy of the name, but one with a pleasing style and beautiful language, complemented by the equally authentic illustrations by Karel Osoha."

—*MF Dnes*



Photo: Paseka publishers

Vojtěch Matocha (1989) is a prose writer. He graduated in mathematics and now develops mobile phone apps. As a secondary school student he successfully took part in a number of literary competitions for aspiring authors. He writes reviews for the *iLiteratura* website. *Prašina* (2018) is his literary debut.

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www.paseka.cz

Comics

Marek Šindelka, Vojtěch Mašek & Marek Pokorný SAINT BARBARA

An extraordinary look at human disposition towards obsession and manipulation in an innovative crime graphic novel based on real events.

Young journalist Andrea has been tasked with writing an article about an unsolved case from several years ago, which had gripped the entire nation. At the centre of the case was an adult woman who pretended to be an 11 year old girl and later in Denmark disguised herself as a boy of the same age. More and more mysteries piled up, conspiracy theories changed every day. Abuse, the influence of a powerful cult, threads leading to the highest levels of society. Andrea is consumed by the investigation, she forgets about her private life, her boyfriend Jakub, she turns the wall of her apartment into a board full of names, events and connections. With

each new fact a new possible scenario emerges only to be quickly disproved. Every answer she discovers leads to more questions. Andrea is lost in the never ending labyrinth but she cannot stop searching for the truth and when she finally thinks it's within her grasp, she has to ask herself how much she is willing to sacrifice.

Saint Barbara is based on real events surrounding one of the most complicated criminal cases in modern Czech history, which was uncovered by chance after footage of the abuse of a young child was caught by a neighbour trying to set up a video baby monitor.

"An exceptional book – not only in terms of the story but in particular its artistic work. The reader falls into a kind of graphic-novel Scandinavian crime story with all of its darkness and paranoia."

—*Respekt*

"*Saint Barbara* is a widely applicable study of human obsession with elements of modern crime fiction, which skilfully reveals the dynamics of manipulation, methods of control and the creation of a personality cult. The result is a remarkable album."

—*Host*



Svatá Barbra
Lipnik, 2018, 208 pp

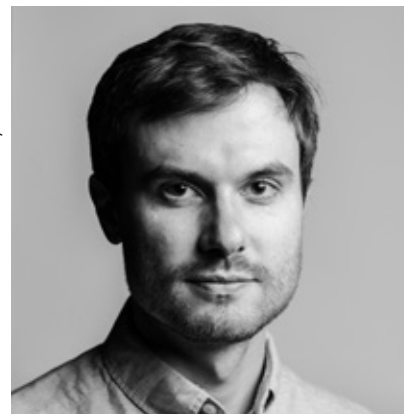


Photo: David Konečný

Marek Šindelka (b. 1984) studied Cultural Studies at Charles University in Prague and screenwriting at the Prague film academy, FAMU. His debut poetry collection, *Strychnin a jiné básně* (Strychnine and Other Poems, 2005), won the Jiří Orten Prize for authors under thirty. He has published two novels and two short story collections since, which have been published in six languages including English and Dutch and have won two Magnesia Litera Awards.



Photo: Čeněk Folk

Vojtěch Mašek (b. 1977) is a comics writer and artist, author of film screenplays and theatre plays. His comics have received eight Muriel Awards and two have been published abroad. The film *Křižáček* (Little Crusader, 2017), which he co-wrote received the main award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Mašek is the author of the internet hit *Recykliteratura*, which builds on the avant-garde tradition of associative montages using photographs and texts found in books and magazines.



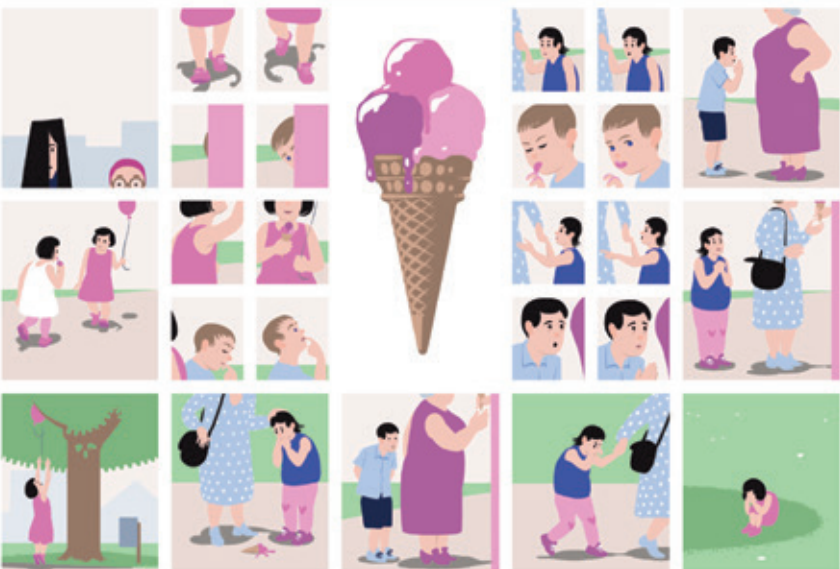
Photo: Jan Saska

Marek Pokorný (b. 1983) started creating comics more actively after discovering the internet community around the website Comx.cz, where he published a semi-autobiographical comic strip series. He took part in a figural drawing workshop lead by Boris Jirků and Radek Petříček and later studied classical animation at Film School Zlín. With the Ašta šmė group he authored the comics *Silnější než někdo* (Stronger Than Some) from the *Nejisté domovy* (Uncertain Homes) series about institutional and foster upbringing.

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Karolina Voňková:
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3. CHŮZE A DRŽENÍ TĚLA



Saint Barbara



Saint Barbara

Karel Jerie

CANDIDE 1–3

In the *Candide* series, Karel Jerie transforms Voltaire's famous 18th century satire into a baroque steampunk space opera.

What would the well known satirical novel *Candide* look like if Voltaire lived in the 21st century and drew comic books? Perhaps it would look like the comics trilogy of the same name by Karel Jerie. In this baroque steampunk space opera the reader will find everything they ever wanted from a comic book: dinosaur riders, flying castles, gigantic battles, mutants, doctors who can replace torn limbs with robotic implants while you wait, interplanetary travel in steam-powered spaceships, pernicious villains, stunning women, treacherous governors and cosmic

pirates! And, of course, the main hero, who with his characteristic naivety travels across half the globe and undergoes all sorts of challenges to save his beloved.

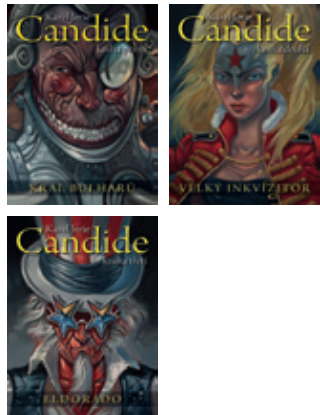
With a healthy dose of humour and philosophical musings, Karel Jerie takes the reader along the fine line between the serious and light-hearted, across mountains of corpses to the coveted garden. After finishing the trilogy, it is up to the reader whether they will take their life into their own hands and grow their own 'garden' as best they can.

"Jerie is an artist who is imaginative, playful – and mature. Many of his grinning monsters – human or otherwise – will remain in the reader's mind for a long time."

—iLiteratura

"An unusually impressive work. Jerie's drawings are detailed, fun, as well as emotive, grand and impressive."

—FantasyPlanet



Candide 1–3
BB art, 2013–2018, 64, 64 and 80 pp

Photo: Karel Jerie's archive



Karel Jerie (b. 1977) is a painter, illustrator and comics author. His drawings and comic strips are regularly featured in newspapers and magazines. Jerie won first prize in the professionals category at the 2008 International Festival of Comics and Games in Łódź and the first volume of his epic comics trilogy, *Candide*, won two Czech Muriel Awards in 2014. He is a founding member of the SEQUENCE civic association and the Czech Comics Academy, both of which aim to support comics in the Czech Republic.

AWARDS:
2014 Muriel Award – Best lettering
2014 Muriel Award – Best original drawing

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AUTHOR WEBSITE:
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Candide



Candide

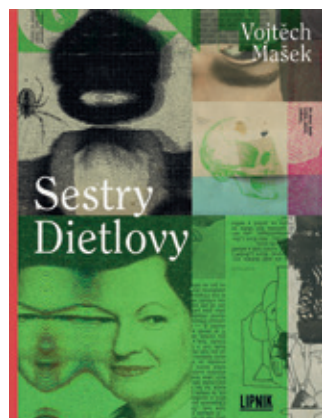
Vojtěch Mašek

THE DIETL SISTERS

A horror detective story about two sisters, whose world is created from the surreal visions of Vojtěch Mašek, one of the most acclaimed Czech comics authors.

After one of the Dietl sisters ends up in hospital following what appears to be a brutal attack, leaving her with a mutilated face and unable to move, Mašek leads the reader on a detective story exploring change of identity, doppelgängers, deformation, hallucination and altered states of mind in contrast with idyllic family life. This comics takes place in a fictional world woven from dreams, hazy and distorted memories of childhood fears, fear of the unknown and the desire for a safe hiding place. Reality constantly

disrupted by doubts, changing points of view, the neurotic need to find objective truth. All this is contained in the story about the Dietl sisters – many theories, many possibilities but seemingly with only one solution. Mašek employs a unique multilayered art style, combining backgrounds created from various texts, newspaper cuttings and patterns with the main plot taking place in the foreground. The connections and juxtapositions between these two levels brilliantly evoking the main themes of the book.



Sestry Dietlovy
Lipnik, 2018, 248 pp

“A multi-layered story uncovering a kind of mysterious evil hovering above two ageing sisters. Its mood is reminiscent of Charles Burns’s *Black Hole*, but more in a...Czech way.”

—*Reflex*

“Integrity, coherence, interdependence and a stylistic rigour not only place this graphic novel above the author’s previous work, but it makes it one of the best Czech graphic novels of the last decade.”

—*A2*



Photo: Čeněk Folk

Vojtěch Mašek (b. 1977) is a comics writer and artist, author of film screenplays and theatre plays. His comics have received eight Muriel Awards and two have been published abroad. The film *Křížáček* (Little Crusader, 2017), which he co-wrote received the main award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Mašek is the author of the internet hit *Recyklitura*, which builds on the avant-garde tradition of associative montages using photographs and texts found in books and magazines.

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The Diet Sisters



The Diet Sisters

Non-fiction

Marcela Linková & Nadě Straková (eds) REVOLUTION BEGINS AT HOME: THE WOMEN OF CZECH DISSENT

A collection of interviews portraying twenty-one women who weren't afraid to stand up to the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia during the 1970s and 1980s.

By engaging in the struggle against totalitarianism, they wanted to play their part in creating a better existence for themselves and their children. This book contributes to our understanding of the often overlooked ways in which women engaged in the different currents of the Charter 77 informal civic initiative (the intellectuals, the Christians, the reform Communists and the cultural underground), in large cities and in the countryside.

The interviewees include author and journalist Eda Kriseová, singer Marta Kubišová and mathematician Kamila Bendová. This book was made possible with the support of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Strategy AV21 Programme "Europe and the State: Between Barbarism and Civilisation" and was published on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Charter 77 Declaration.

"Revolution Begins at Home is not only accessible to the general public but could even be said to be as exciting 'as a novel'."

—Host

"The female respondents do not try to put on men's clothing, nor do the questions force them to defend or justify their actions. Instead, the women are allowed to take the lead in showing readers what signing the Charter (or their activities in the movement) meant to them. In their frank and intimate recollections we find a very mature and informed view of their own situation, the movement, and society during Normalization."

—A2



Bytová revolta: Jak ženy dělaly disent
Academia and Sociologický ústav AV ČR, 2017, 413 pp

Photo: Marcela Linková's archive



Photo: Nadě Straková's archive



Mgr. Marcela Linková Ph.D. (b. 1974) is a researcher at the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences where she directs the Centre for Gender and Science. Her research focuses on sociology of gendered organizations, research careers, governance of research and research assessment from a gender perspective. She is the chair of the ERAC Standing Working Group on Gender in Research and Innovation.

Nadě Straková (b. 1973) graduated from the Department of British and American Studies, Charles University in Prague. In the past she worked for the Czech Bureau of the BBC World Service, *Aktuálně.cz* and *Respekt* weekly magazine. At the Centre for Gender and Science she is responsible for communication with media.

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English sample translation available

Martin C. Putna

IMAGES FROM THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF CENTRAL EUROPE

The culmination of a three-part series of studies by the well-known literary historian in the form of cultural-history 'images'.

Following on from *Obrazy z kulturních dějin americké religiozity* (Images from the Cultural History of American Religion, 2010) and *Obrazy z kulturních dějin ruské religiozity* (Images from the Cultural History of Russian Religion, 2015) comes the final volume in the trilogy, which summarizes and complements Martin C. Putna's research experience and free literary wanderings. This time he heads for the territory of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, from Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, across Austria and Hungary, to Transylvania, Croatia, Dalmatia, Galicia, Bukovina and Bosnia. After America and Russia, Martin C. Putna has moved on to the cultural

history of Central Europe, which he portrays as an area of overlapping cultural and religious influences, where no one culture can be viewed in isolation.

The book is a gallery of images and lands, religious ideas, authors and their works, the objective of which is to provide a new explanation and sense of Central Europe through a shared religious history which begins with the Habsburgs' rule over Central Europe but has its roots in the 'moderate Austrian Enlightenment', when the modernisation process was transmitted from the West to the East.

"The way in which one chapter merges into another and a 'national' theme surfaces in a chapter devoted to an entirely different location honestly reflects the interdependence and complexity of Central European history. [Putna] does not simplify the issue for readers but challenges them to accept it as it is – and to discard nationalist clichés."

—*iLiteratura*

"Putna portrays Central Europe in the Austro-Hungarian period as an area with a cosmopolitan spirit whose richness derived from its general diversity and the meeting and blending of different languages and influences."

—*Lidové noviny*



Obrazy z kulturních dějin Střední Evropy
Vyšehrad, 2018, 336 pp

Photo: David Konečný (Moravian Library – Czech Literary Centre) (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)



Professor Martin C. Putna (b. 1968) is a literary historian and critic, comparatist, translator, writer and lecturer at Charles University in Prague. He has been lecturing at Charles University since 1991 and has been a professor of cultural anthropology since 2013. He has presented his own radio and television programmes and was the director of the Václav Havel Library from 2008 to 2011. His main academic focus is the relationship between culture and religion, while his other themes include the history of Catholicism and the period of Late Antiquity with an emphasis on cultural and religious developments and the legacy of the culture of Antiquity. He also takes an interest in Russian literature and translates from Latin, Greek, Russian, German and English. Putna is the recipient of the Tom Stoppard Prize given to Czech authors for an essay of special significance.

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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. The grants cover books, excerpts and magazines.

BOOKS

Publishers can apply for funding for:

- translation costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing)
- graphic design, typesetting and printing costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing)
- copyright costs (up to 15% of the total cost of publishing)
- promotion costs (up to 25% of the total cost of publishing)

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

EXCERPTS

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

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 (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing)

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- completed application form
- contract with the copyright holder
- contract with the translator (applies only to publishers and literary agents)
- CV and translator's qualifications (education, translated titles)
- the publishing plan for this year and next year (applies only to publishers)

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

- The grant is paid to the applicant after the book / magazine has been published or excerpt has been translated. Proof of this has to be sent to the Ministry of Culture (for details see the grant application form).

APPLICATION 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



The Czech Literary Centre offers subsidies to support Czech authors travelling to literary events abroad (festivals, readings, book launches, lectures, debates etc.). The applicant can be an event organiser or an author.

Event organisers can request support for appearance fees, travel expenses, meal allowances, accommodation, promotion, interpreting and moderation costs. The subsidy can cover up to 70% of total costs for the event.

Authors can request support for appearance fees, travel expenses and meal allowances. The subsidy can cover up to 100% of the total costs. Accommodation is provided by the event organiser.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- completed application form
- budget for the event (applies only to event organisers)

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

- Event organisers: can receive 40% of the awarded amount before the event (based on an invoice and proof that the author will be taking part in the event) and 60% after the event on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation. Alternatively, they can receive 100% of the awarded amount after the event on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation.

- Authors: can receive 50% of the awarded amount within 15 days after the presentation of the planned event in the organisers materials (on the basis of documentation proving the author's travel expenses and proof of the author's presence at the event) and the remaining 50% on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation. Alternatively, they can receive 100% of the awarded amount after the event on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- 31.3. (for the period of 15.5. to 15.10.)
- 31.8. (for the period of 15.10. to 15.12.)
- 31.10. (for the period of 1.1. to 15.5.)

Residencies for translators and Czech studies specialists

The Czech Literary Centre residency programme is intended for foreign translators of Czech literature, Czech studies specialists and literary scholars with an interest in Czech culture. The residents are accommodated in Prague or Brno for two to four weeks. Application deadlines are announced on the CzechLit.cz website twice a year – in the spring (for the autumn period) and in the autumn (for the spring of the following year).

THE RESIDENT RECEIVES

- a 250 EUR per week contribution to living costs
- accommodation in a studio apartment
- support from the Czech Literary Centre in the form of information, contacts, meetings etc.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- completed application form (including a cover letter and a description of the project)
- CV
- bibliography

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

- ability to communicate in Czech or English
- at least one published translation or scholarly work (including in magazines)

The Moravian Library

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 framework 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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