

Czech Books for Children and Young Adults 2019



Vojtěch Mašek & Chruďoš Valoušek
PUPPET, PLUM PIT, PLUM, PLANK
AND BACK TO PUPPET



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Introduction

Both this and last year we have been looking back at anniversaries that shaped the statehood of the Czech Republic a hundred years ago through the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic as well as commemorating the ill-fated Munich Agreement of 1938 and the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops in 1968, which interrupted the democratization of this country. In 2019 we will also be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the “Velvet Revolution”, and the current catalogue shows how far Czech books for children and young readers have come since then. In terms of subject matter and genre, this selection illustrates general European trends in this section of the book market: the ever-growing popularity of picture books and author-illustrated books and the publication of prose works but also comic books and graphic novels on serious topics. The age limit of readers is shifting, so in addition to titles for very young readers you will find others for youth and young adults, many of which will also provide a satisfying experience for adult readers or are suitable for reading together across generations.

The award-winning novel *Transport beyond Eternity*, written in a documentary form, deals with the occupation and the Holocaust, while the anniversary of the republic's establishment is marked by the artistic and educational guide *In the Footsteps of a Hundred-Year-Old Lady* as well as a playful picture book for young readers which takes them through the history of

medieval Prague in the company of the main character. Following in the tradition of Jaroslav Foglar's classic adventure stories is Vojtěch Matocha's debut novel *Dustzone* and the cartoons from Pavel Čech's album *For You*.

Not all of the children's books are serious: Petr Stančík launches the amusing knockabout comedy *H₂O and the Secret Water Mission*, which already has a sequel and enjoys great popularity with readers. Author-illustrated works take us to the world of summer holidays but also deeper existential themes in a new edition of Daisy Mrázková's picture book *The Boy and Distance* or in Martina Špinková's new work *The Secret*. Other books are beautifully put together in terms of artwork and graphics: the fable *Brothers in the Field* with pen-and-ink drawings by the eminent illustrator Markéta Prachatická and Vojtěch Mašek's large-format book *Puppet, Plum Pit, Plum, Plank and Back to Puppet* with linocuts by Chrudoš Valoušek, winner of the 2017 Most Beautiful Book of the Czech Republic.

So in addition to offering the best from the past two years, these publications also help to open the door to a greater interest in Czech books for children and young readers, which has begun to grow again, not only through the multiple translations of Pavel Šrut and Galina Miklínová's humorous *Oddsockeaters*, but also other titles accompanied by imaginative illustrations.

Jana Čeňková
on behalf of the team of authors

CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

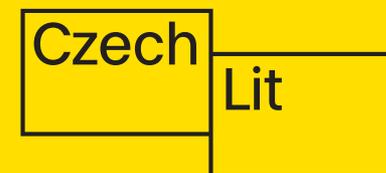
is a state-funded organisation supporting and promoting Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic. The centre is a section of the Moravian Library.

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
- Cooperates on international literature and translation project with partner institutions abroad and in 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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Ivona Březinová

WWW.SHORT-OF-SHOES.CZ

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What is it like for a fifteen-year-old boy when in one fateful moment the rug is pulled from under his feet? The analogy would make Benjamin, the hero of Ivona Březinová's novel, laugh bitterly, since an amputation has left him with phantom pains in place of legs. A schoolboy rivalry to win the favour of a girl ended in a serious ski injury, and so he faces a difficult journey from the initial resignation and fits of rage to an acceptance of reality. With the support of friends, family and health professionals, he discovers his potential in a painful process but with determination and

even goes back to his beloved sport. The book's title only becomes clear in the last chapter, which expands the educational dimension of this unsentimentally presented story. On the fictional level, the website it refers to contains reports about Ben's sporting successes, while in reality it presents the activities of the Emil Foundation, which supports young disabled athletes. The dynamic typography with illustrations by Jakub Troják indicates that despite the hero's handicap, reading this novel written in the natural language of today's teenagers will be a lively ride.

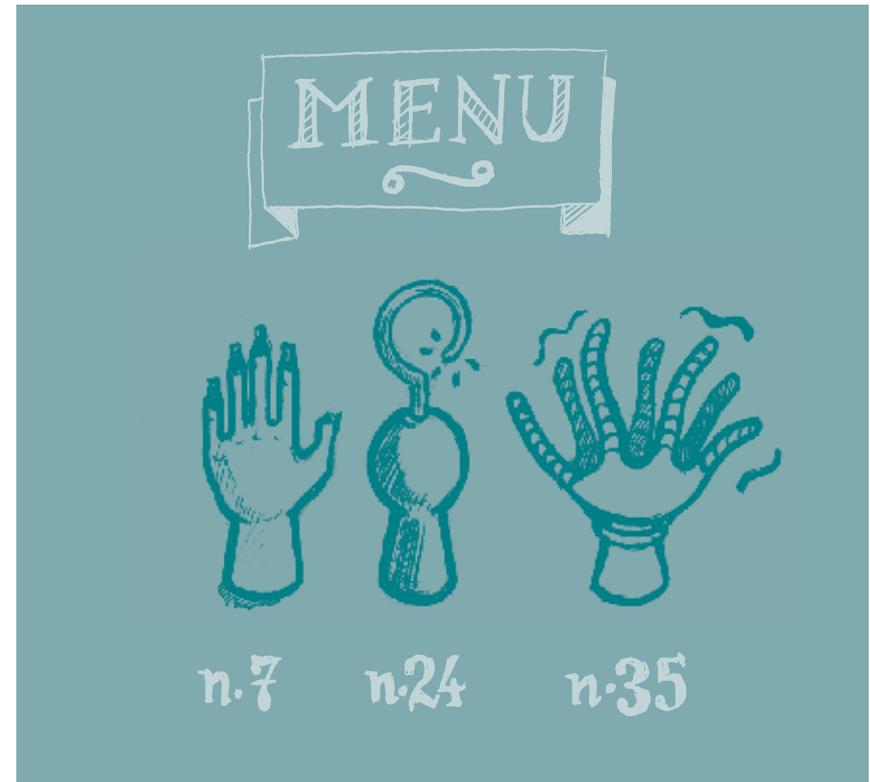
Age: 13+



WWW.BEZ-BOT.CZ
Illustrated by Jakub Troják
Prague, Cattacan 2018, 144 pages
ISBN 978-80-903782-8-5

RIGHTS:
Prague Literary Agency
Maria Sileny
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Ivona Březinová (1964) studied Czech Studies at the J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem. Between 2008 and 2011 she headed the department of creative writing at the Josef Škvorecký Literary Academy. Since the 1990s, she has had a broad range as an author, extending from fairy tales, through stories about the life of children and adolescents, to the fantasy genre. She has garnered numerous awards from the critical community for her socially motivated works in which she observes the lives of disadvantaged people (*Začarovaná třída* – The Enchanted Classroom, 2002; Golden Ribbon, nomination for a Magnesia Litera and inclusion on the IBBY Honour List; *Držkou na rohožce* – Face on the Doormat, 2010), the theme of dangerous addictions (the trilogy *Holky na vodítku* – Girls on a Leash, 2002–2003), ageing and illness (*Lentilka pro dědu Edu* – Smarties for Granddad Ed, 2006) or physical and sensory handicap (*Útěk Kryšpína N.* – The Flight of Kryšpín N., 2014). The novel about living with an autistic sibling *Řvi potichu, brácho* (Yell Quietly, Bro, 2016) earned her a Golden Ribbon and a nomination for a Magnesia Litera.

Jakub Troják (1978) graduated in typeface and typography at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design and works as a graphic designer. He is a member of the association NOUHAU, which provides services in the field of arts and crafts. He works with the publishers Novela bohémica and Triáda among others.

Pavel Čech FOR YOU

In the form of nine gifts, the new comic book by Pavel Čech presents nine real and fantastic stories which, with one exception, touch us even without using words. The ochre panels reveal the influence of the material they were drawn on: wrapping paper found by some bins, which the artist did not hesitate to use for his glorification of the genuine time of childhood. In the stories we discover a new variation on the Rapid Arrows and the genesis of the cryptic “hedgehog in a cage”, and in *Příběh s dobrým koncem*

(Story with a Happy Ending) a misunderstood and mocked boyhood dream, while the parents are only capable of overindulging in drink and staring blankly at the TV. *Třešně* (Cherries) is shorter in length but not in content – it will be appreciated by anyone who longs to live and grow old with someone. A special experience is provided by the miniature *Lodičky* (Boats), portraying a childhood friendship that was violently interrupted by the events of war and yet endures forever in the mind of one of the heroes.

Age: 8+



PRO TEBE
Illustrated by the author
Havlíčkův Brod, Petrkov 2018, 104 pages
ISBN 978-80-87595-69-5

RIGHTS:
Petrkov Publishers
Petr Novotný
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Pavel Čech (1968) has been working freelance as a self-taught artist since 2004. The success of the fairy tale *O čertovi* (About an Imp, 2002) spurred him on to create more than 20 original books and comic books for children and young adults, including the stories *O zahradě* (About a Garden, 2005), *O klíči* (About a Key, 2007), *Tajemství ostrova za prkennou ohradou* (The Mystery of the Island Beyond the Board Fence, 2009) and the series *Dědečkové* (Grandfathers; Muriel prize for best drawing of 2011). His playful elaboration of Foglar's material was demonstrated in the four softcover comic books *Dobrodružství Rychlé Veverky* (The Adventures of Fast Squirrel, 2013–2016). He received a Magnesia Litera in 2013 for the comic *Velké dobrodružství Pepíka Střechy* (Joey Roof's Great Adventure, 2006) about the strength of friendship and imagination. In the award-winning Orwellian comic *A* (2016, Muriel prize for best original book and Golden Ribbon for comics) he warns against totalitarian despotism without using words. His images also inspired the poet Radek Malý to a creative dialogue in the collection *Poštou havraní* (Raven Mail, 2018).

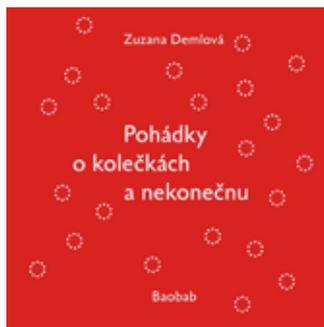
Zuzana Demlová

TALES OF WHEELS AND INFINITY

Philosophy emerged from physics as *metaphysics*, so nature was present at its inception. An awareness of this can be found in Zuzana Demlová's book, aimed not only at kids of a contemplative nature, but all those who are beginning to ask the cardinal logical question: Why? Thanks to the playfully minimalist conception of this work – interrupted here and there by examples stylized as a modern fairy tale, and in other places by digs at man's relentless efforts to continually classify something – it offers the youngest readers a wonderful space for reflection. What is small? Where do

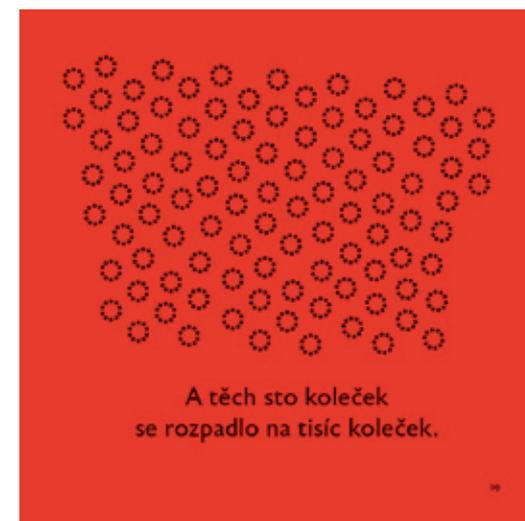
I begin and end? What can I imagine even though it doesn't exist? With the help of stories in graphic form, with dozens if not hundreds of black wheels transforming against a red background, the economical text gives an utterly engrossing explanation of terms like size and quantity, zero and infinity, time, duration and properties of things which are solely dependent on the observer. From there it is just a small step to what this information "cycle" is really about: the will to break free from the throng of wheels fitted together to form gears, especially when you sometimes feel like a square.

Age: 5+



POHÁDKY O KOLEČKÁCH A NEKONEČNU
Illustrated by the author
Prague, Baobab 2018, 112 pages
ISBN 978-80-7515-086-8

RIGHTS:
Baobab Publishers
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Zuzana Demlová (1978), a graduate in multimedia from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Technology in Brno, has long been involved in activities bringing together the world of culture and education. She is a member of the association KVAS, in which she has contributed to projects cultivating the public space (the Hatefree media workshop for pupils and teachers from stage 2 of elementary school), supporting the genius loci (the adventure game Urban Game for the Prague 14 district) or general strategy for local government (e.g. Jihlava vzdělává kulturou). In the SE.S.TA Centre for Choreographic Development she coordinates the project *Škola tančí* (School is Dancing). *Pohádky o kolečkách a nekonečnu* is her first book.

Daniela Fischerová

TOBEUM NOBEUM

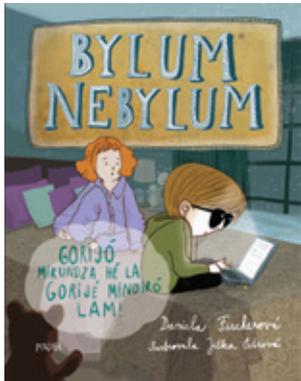
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In the idyllic small town of Islandby it looks as if soon not a stone will be left in place, and even people have begun to disappear. Behind it all is a battle between two ancient tomes: the mighty book of creation, Tobeum, and the book of destruction, Nobeum, which in the hands of a villain would wreak untold damage on the world that has been developing so promisingly before our eyes. Who, in keeping with the laws of the fantasy genre, will save it? In a dramatic arc made up of several narrative layers, the small-mindedness of adults is confronted with the fervent childhood

desire to intervene against injustice. With almost elemental relish, Daniela Fischerová depicts the amazing world of the books and their guardians as a way of highlighting the writer's world-view: at the beginning of all things was the word and it shall continue to be the universal measure of our deeds. Orientation within this magical story about re-establishing equilibrium is aided by the colour differentiation of the characters's voices and plot strands so readers can easily find their way around them, although even with the youngest it's a safe bet that nothing episodic is foreign to them.



Age: 9+



BYLUM NEBYLUM
Illustrated by Jitka Petrová
Prague, Pikola 2017,
120 pages, ISBN 978-80-7549-516-7

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Daniela Fischerová (1948), after studying dramaturgy and scriptwriting at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU), she worked primarily as the author of theatre and radio plays. Her major works include *Hodina mezi psem a vlkem* (The Hour Between Dog and Wolf, 1979), *Velká vteřina* (The Great Moment, 1991), *Cesta k pólu* (Journey to the Pole, 2007) and *12 způsobů mizení* (12 Ways of Disappearing, 2008). For the last forty-five years she has also written for children and young adults. She made an impression with the collections *Duhové pohádky* (Rainbow Fairy Tales, 1982 and 2003) and *Kouzelná lampa* (Magic Lamp, 2010) as well as the story from a mountain sanatorium *Lenka a Nelka neboli Aha* (Lenka and Nelka or Aha, 1994). In the comedy *Pohoršovna* (Deformatory, 2014, Golden Ribbon) she cunningly played with the phenomenon of a witchcraft vocational school. Her books for the youngest readers include the poetry collection *Tetovaná teta* (Tattooed Aunt, 2015).

Jitka Petrová (1975) studied animation at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design and works in graphic design, illustration and web design. Her illustrations for the anthology of 20th-century Czech poetry *V Tramtárii, tam je hej* (The Middle of Nowhere is the Place to Be, 2004) earned her a Golden Ribbon as well as the Albatros Annual Prize. She received the Josef Hlávka Prize for the computer game to go with the book *Krtčí výlety* (Mole Trips, 2006, with J. Hlaváč). Her characteristic playful style has manifested itself in a wide range of books for the youngest readers: from Jiří Žáček's fold-out book *O odvážném autíčku* (The Brave Little Car, 2008), through educational volumes (*Můj první slovník českého jazyka* – My First Dictionary of the Czech Language, 2008) to two children's television series about Berta and Ufo (2007–2010, in book form 2014, with M. Adamec). She has already collaborated with the author on the book *Pohoršovna* (Deformatory, 2014).

Sylva Francová

ADELA FELL INTO THE SEWER: A JOURNEY THROUGH OLD PRAGUE

Our capital city can boast as many guides and imaginative books about Prague for children as it has towers, and their number is growing every year. Sylva Francová's large-format journey is intended for the peer group of young Adela, who has temporarily left her sick "twin sis" and slipped through a sewer into the foundations of Prague, located in the Middle Ages much closer to the water. The author presents Gothic and Renaissance architecture and the old Jewish town with its legend about the Golem and tells children about the

statues of saints on Charles Bridge. If it all gets a bit too much for the youngest readers, there's nothing to stop them from pausing at one of the double-page spreads with Adela and her friends the rat and the seagull and enjoying the jokes and hidden extras. Although the heroine's journey back to the hustle and bustle above the modern-day paving stones is not an entirely straightforward one, in the end the little girl is happy about what she found out down there and is looking forward to getting back to her sister.

Age: 6+



ÁDA SPADLA DO KANÁLU
ANEB PUTOVÁNÍ DÁVNOU PRAHOU
Illustrated by the author, Prague,
Albatros 2018, 120 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-00-05043-0

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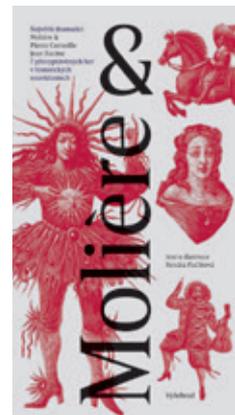


Sylva Francová (1973) studied graphic design and new media at the Academy of Fine Arts and art teaching at the College of Education of Charles University, where she currently lectures. Her studies included periods at art schools in London and Ohio. She was awarded the Josef Hlávka Prize (2001) and triumphed in the Bratislava competition Portfolio Review (2007). She co-founded the magazine *Fotograf*. As well as photography, she also works in illustration, creating artist's books and graphic design. Her illustrations have accompanied collections such as *Půlnoční pohádky* (Midnight Fairy Tales, 2016) by Sára Saudková and the so far three-part series *Projekt pes* (The Dog Project, 2017–2018) by Lucie Hlavinková.

Renáta Fučíková MOLIÈRE & PIERRE CORNEILLE, JEAN RACINE – 7 PLAYS RETOLD WITHIN THEIR HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The second volume of the original book series *Největší dramatici* (The Greatest Playwrights), which adapts gems from world drama, was decked out in cardinal scarlet by the author, with dividers in royal blue. The choice of colours is a reference to the fact that in the 17th century it was largely the supreme representatives of religious and secular power who pulled the strings of history behind the scenes. However, appearing alongside them on the imaginary stage are also courtiers, their acknowledged as well

Age: 10+



MOLIÈRE & PIERRE CORNEILLE, JEAN RACINE
– 7 PŘEVYPRÁVĚNÝCH HER V HISTORICKÝCH
SOUVISLOSTECH. Illustrated by the author
Prague, Vyšehrad 2017, 192 pages
ISBN 978-80-7429-898-1

as secret lovers, children, low-born servants and especially the archetypal characters of the seven plays, written by Corneille, Molière and Racine. The core of the book is represented by the plotlines of five Molière comedies, introduced in cartoon form and illustrated using a delicate scratching technique. In a refined form embellished with a period flavour, the heroes of the Grand Siècle speak to today's readers in a living language about timeless problems. The ability to combine an educational and fictional element into an attractive whole was recognized by a panel of experts with a nomination for a Golden Ribbon in the art category and the conferring of a Golden Ribbon in the literary section of the competition.

AWARDS:
2018 Golden Ribbon Award - Literary Section:
Non-fiction for children and youth

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Renáta Fučíková (1964), graduated from the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague, after which she began to devote herself to book illustration and literary and artistic work incorporating applied art. Since 2016 she has worked at the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. She has illustrated short stories, legends and books about folklore, such as *Pohádky Oscara Wildea* (The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde, 1995), *Příběhy českých knížat a králů* (Stories of Czech Princes and Kings, 2007) by Alena Ježková and *Čínské pohádky* (Chinese Fairy Tales, 2007). At the Práh publishing house she brought out a series of self-penned books *Největší Češi* (The Greatest Czechs), which include *Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk* (2006), *Jan Amos Komenský* (Comenius, 2008), *Antonín Dvořák* (2012) and *Karel IV.* (Charles IV, 2016). An interest in history resulted in her work on the monumental art-history treatise *Historie Evropy – Obrazové putování* (A History of Europe – A Pictorial Journey, 2011, with D. Krolupperová) and the historical collage *Praha v srdci* (Prague in the Heart, 2015, nomination for a Magnesia Litera). The book *Vyprávění ze Starého zákona* (Stories from the Old Testament, 1998) earned her a place on the IBBY Honour List and the Grand Prix at the Biennial of Illustration in Tehran. For the first volume in the series *Největší dramatici*, dedicated to Shakespeare (2017), she received a Golden Ribbon. She was also the winner of the Grand Prix at the 2018 Biennial of Illustration in Zagreb.

Eva Maceková HOLIDAYS WITH OSCAR

This A3-format publication follows on from the award-winning picture book *12 hodin s Oskarem* (12 Hours with Oscar), which used a playful method to instruct pre-school children in basic skills from the area of factual learning. Here too, young children will be engaged by the attractive combination of retro drawings and the joy associated with summertime fun. Once again, a tomcat is the witty narrator of the little boy Oscar's experiences with his grandad in the countryside. The authors invite readers to take an active

role in the subtle stories, to get to know the plants, animals and everything that can be discovered in the woods, at the pond, in a local shop or when working on a farm. Curiosity is encouraged by the wealth of remarkable detail and the prompts against idleness: what about making up a price list for selected items from the shop or cooking scrambled eggs with wild mushrooms using grandad's recipe? There is something to suit everyone's taste. This all adds up to a holiday book that you will come back to again and again.

Age: 4+



PRÁZDNINY S OSKAREM
Accompanied by text by Tereza Horváthová,
Illustrated by the author, Prague, Baobab 2018,
60 unnumbered pages, ISBN 978-80-7515-072-1

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English sample translation available.



Tereza Horváthová (1973), a graduate in Romance languages from Charles University's Faculty of Arts; co-owner of the family-owned publishing house Baobab and initiator of the Tabook festival. She is also co-author of the short-story cycle *Max a Saša aneb Zápisky z našeho domu* (Max and Sasha: Notes from our House, 2009, with her husband J. Horváth) and the dendrological series *Stromovka aneb Abeceda vzácných či všelijak nádherných stromů* (Stromovka: An ABC of Rare or in Various Ways Marvellous Trees, 2010, with J. Dvořák). Her prose work *Modrý tygr* (The Blue Tiger, 2005, Golden Ribbon in the category Beautiful Book as a Whole) was made into a co-production film of the same name (2011, directed by Petr Oukropec).

Eva Maceková (1984) studied at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague at the studio of textile design and the studio of illustrations and graphics. She makes use of various techniques in her work, combining them effectively. She contributed to the Baobab anthologies *12 nejmenších pohádek* (12 Tiny Fairy Tales, 2011 and 2015) and *12 malých hororů* (12 Little Horror Stories, 2013). For the book *12 hodin s Oskarem* she was awarded the Most Beautiful Book of the Year (2013) as well as a prize at the Bologna book fair.

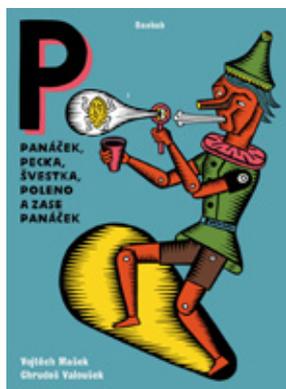
Vojtěch Mašek & Chrudoš Valoušek

PUPPET, PLUM PIT, PLUM, PLANK AND BACK TO PUPPET

The full-page colour linocuts and cartoon input by Chrudoš Valoušek landed this large-scale project with graphic design by Juraj Horváth a Golden Ribbon for artistic achievement of the year as well as victory in the 2018 competition for the Most Beautiful Czech Book for children and young adults, followed shortly afterwards publication in the Netherlands. However, we should not overlook the gleeful contribution of Vojtěch Mašek's fairy-tale text: a boy called Peter converses with a talking plank, which reveals its story to him,

beginning with its origins as a plum fruit. Its stone turns into another fruit tree. In one episode a professor takes this for an exotic tree and is so disappointed to realize his mistake that he angrily heads off to Australia; a Spanish family move into his house and have the plum tree cut down, so the puppet ends up travelling across the world as a plank. The hero's journey as recounted to his friend constantly abounds with new ideas, developing the tradition of the tomfoolery of Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio through distinctive absurd humour.

Age: 5+



PANÁČEK, PECKA, ŠVESTKA, POLENO A ZASE PANÁČEK
Illustrated by Chrudoš Valoušek
Prague, Baobab 2017, 94 pages
ISBN 978-80-7515-072-1

AWARDS:
2018 Golden Ribbon Award - Art Section:
The best artistic work

2017 Most Beautiful Czech Books:
1st place - Children and young adults literature
3rd place - Excellent graphic design prize

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English sample translation available.



Vojtěch Mašek (1977), scripter and artist, studied screenwriting at FAMU. Along with Džian Baban, he contributed to the staging of Monstrkabaret Freda Brunolda (Fred Brunold's Monster Cabaret), which gave rise to the comic-book trilogy *Sloni v Marienbadu – Za vším hledej doktora Ženu – Poslední chobotango* (Elephants in Marienbad – Cherchez Dr Femme – The Last Trunk Tango, 2004–2009). He was also behind the graphic novels *Ve stínu šumavských hvozdů* (In the Shade of the Šumava Forests, 2011) and *Drak nikdy nespí* (The Dragon Never Sleeps, drawings by Jiří Grus, 2015). He has drawn cartoons for the magazines *A2 (Hovory z Rezidence Schlechtfreund – Conversations from the Schlechtfreund Residence), Cinepur (Binderiana)* and *Hype* (the trilogy *Zločiny doktora Ženy – The Crimes of Dr Femme*). Along with Markéta Hajscká and Máša Bořkovcová, he created the triptych *O příbězích*, commenting on the fate of Czech and Slovak Roma. He collaborated on the screenplay for the acclaimed film *Křížáček* (Little Crusader, 2017).

Chrudoš Valoušek (1960), a graduate of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design, in the 1980s he worked as a night watchman, boiler operator and caretaker of a depositary. His woodcuts and linocuts have provided a distinctive look for books such as *O Zlaté mrkvi* (The Golden Carrot, 2003) by Renata Bellingerová and *Zazí v metru* (Zazie in the Metro, 2010) by Raymond Queneau and the *Ďáblův slovník* (The Devil's Dictionary, also 2010) by Ambrose Bierce. Winner of the 2010 Revolver Revue Prize, he received the prize for Most Beautiful Book in the World, awarded at the Leipzig Book Fair, for the picture book *Chrudošův mix přísloví* (Chrudoš's Mix of Proverbs, 2008). In 2013 he pulled a surprising stunt with the family-oriented *Chrudošův zvěřinec* (Chrudoš's Menagerie), in which a notebook, a softcover book and a pair of masks make up an interactive book for all generations.

Vojtěch Matocha

DUSTZONE

27

In the streets of this district, mobile-phone signals, GPS and batteries of all kinds – in short, electricity and wireless communication in general – stop working, and parental supervision over plucky thirteen-year-olds has been disposed of so that it doesn't get in the way. It could hardly be otherwise in this mission into the gloomy nooks and crannies of Dustzone, which in Vojtěch Matocha's novel covers an area somewhere in Prague's second district. The author casts Jirka, Tonda and the mathematically gifted tomboy En *in medias res* and over two hundred pages puts them at the mercy of a gang of money-grubbing adults eager for the power of Prašina to breach the demarcation

line and plunge the city into darkness, which offers more lucrative real-estate opportunities than a block of one-room flats. The text cautiously constructed a homage to Foglar's *Stínadla* trilogy by playing around with themes rather than by elaborate derivation and framed it with the search for a machine from the workshop of a genius rival of the famous inventor František Křižík. The tense mafia atmosphere reminiscent of a computer game and the intrigues gradually revealed by Jirka's grandad, who dishes out explanations to the youngsters in small doses, shows that steampunks may have a point about the appeal of candles. Analogue people were at least closer to one another.



Age: 9+



PRAŠINA
Illustrated by Karel Osoha
Prague, Paseka 2018, 264 pages
ISBN 978-80-7432-910-4

RIGHTS:
Paseka Publishers
Anna Rezková Horáčková
horackova@paseka.cz

RIGHTS SOLD:
Slovakia
Poland

ENGLISH SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE AT:
<https://www.czechlit.cz/en/book/prasina-en/>

Vojtěch Matocha (1989) graduated in mathematical methods of information security at Charles University's Faculty of Mathematics and Physics and is currently working on developing software for mobile phones and smart cards. He led a scout troop for three years. He has published shorter works of fiction in joint anthologies and specialist ones on the server *iliteratura.cz*. The novel *Prašina* (Dustzone) represents his debut in prose for children and young adults.

Karel Osoha (1991), a student of film and TV graphics at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design, in 2015 he contributed to a joint exhibition as part of the festival Komiksfest and to the anthology of Czech manga *Vějíř*. His greatest success to date is the comic book based on a script by the historian Pavel Kosatík *Češi 1948 – Jak se KSČ chopila moci* (The Czechs: 1948 – How the Communist Party Seized Power, 2016; 2017 Muriel prize for best drawing), bringing to a close a series about ground-breaking events in our modern history. He illustrated the novel *Každý má svou lajnu* (Everyone Has a Line to Hold, 2017) by Petra Dvořáková and also contributed to the anthology *Rychlé šípy a jejich úžasná nová dobrodružství* (The Rapid Arrows and their Amazing New Adventures, 2018).

Daisy Mrázková

THE BOY AND DISTANCE

The new softcover publication of *Chlapeček a Dálka* (The Boy and Distance) recalls the fragile text which first appeared in 1969 as part of the Albatros series *Korálky* (Beads). However, this publication from Baobab has new illustrations created to meet the needs of “televsual reading” some years later. The way Daisy Mrázková lingers in detail over seemingly transitory and yet fundamentally important situations in the life of a child entailing joy, sorrow, loneliness or the first good deed, has the strength of the metaphors whose depth is intensified

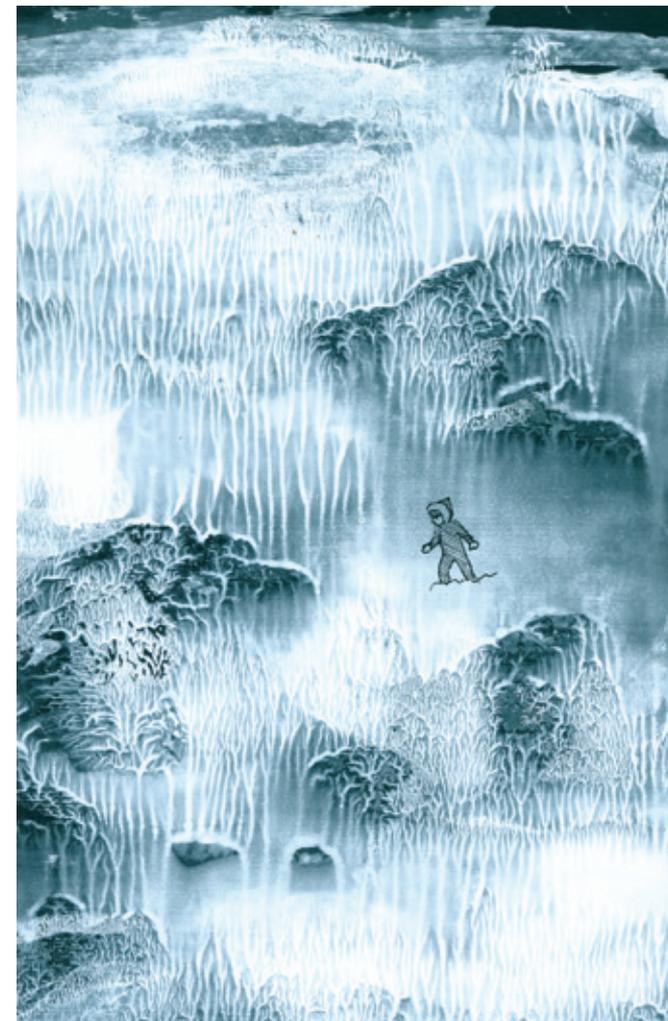
by the drawings of frost on a window pane. The boy dwells in a forest retreat, gathering pine cones and taking in the enchanting winter landscape, when his friend Distance persuades him to take a trip to see wonderful and exalted things. But he soon begins to feel homesick: “Distance would be sad without little cottages, and little cottages would be sad without Distance too.” The watercolours and pen-and-ink drawings inserted into the cyclical tale of nature elevate this parable about a friendship, which matures with the years like a fine wine.

Age: 5+



CHLAPEČEK A DÁLKA
Illustrated by the author, Prague,
Baobab 2017, 24 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-7515-062-2

RIGHTS:
Baobab Publishers
gplusg@gplusg.cz



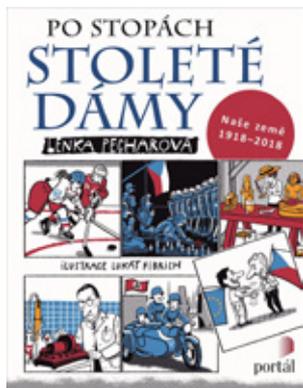
Daisy Mrázková (1923–2016) was one of the country’s most distinctive illustrators. In particular she developed a tradition of picture books for very young children. Despite not completing her studies at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design, she gained worldwide fame with her original books *Neylač, muchomůrko* (Don’t Cry, Toadstool, 1965), *Haló, Jácíčku* (Hello, Jácíček, 1972), *Neposlušná Barborka* (Rebellious Barbora, 1973), *Můj medvěd Flóra* (My Teddy Bear Flora, 1973 and 2011) and *Auto z pralesa* (The Truck from the Forest, 1975), mostly brought out by the publisher Albatros. Recently her legacy has been commemorated in reissues with new graphic design – such as *Co by se stalo, kdyby* (What Would Happen If, 1980 and 2012) – but previously unpublished work has also appeared, e.g. *Písně mravenčí chůvy* (Songs of the Ant Nanny, 2009).

Lenka Pecharová IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD LADY – OUR COUNTRY 1918–2018

This year Mrs Czechoslovak Republic was celebrating a double round birthday, despite the fact that she had a hard time of it during the Protectorate and slimmed down a lot after her divorce. The form of this year-by-year account of the events of her life is reminiscent of the jubilee volume *Dějiny Československa v datech* (A History of Czechoslovakia in Dates, 1968); however, in this new illustrated version for young people without red neckerchiefs but with tablets in their hands it could hardly be more different. With all due respect to the fateful moments for the state, which

are not only represented by the knotty “eights” (e.g. 1918, 1938, 1948, 1968), Lenka Pecharová takes the interests of its youngest citizens into account. In accordance with the author’s educational aims, she also includes archival anecdotes, brainteasers and quizzes. After all, if history is not to be ominously repeated, it must be kept alive. The child’s experience of the everyday is enriched by an awareness of when and why we started driving on the right, when the first zoo was opened and when our ancestors developed Merkur construction sets, Verzatilka pencils and Igraček toys. And budding sociologists will be happy to find out more about other Czech achievements such as Semtex, safety hatching for steps or – why keep it a secret – sobering-up stations.

Age: 9+



PO STOPÁCH STOLETÉ DÁMY – NAŠE ZEMĚ 1918–2018
Illustrated by Lukáš Fibrich
Prague, Portál 2018, 184 pages
ISBN 978-80-262-1326-0

RIGHTS:
Portál Publishers
Martin Bedřich
bedrich@portal.cz



Lenka Pecharová (1973) studied history and German studies at Charles University’s Faculty of Arts and teaching and English studies at the Faculty of Education at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. She teaches at a religious school of elementary and art education in Prague 1. At the Portál publishing house she has brought out the “fun maths for stage 2 of elementary school” titles *Od blechy po slona* (From Flea to Elephant, 2012) and *Počítáme s vitamíny* (Let’s Count on Vitamins, 2015). The systematic effort to merge the curricula for individual subjects using interactive elements can also be seen in one of the previous volumes of a loose series of books: the educational guide *Po stopách Karla IV.* (In the Footsteps of Charles IV, 2016).

Lukáš Fibrich (1974), a graduate of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design (film and TV graphics) and FAMU (animation), he illustrates language textbooks and contributes to the comics reviews *AARGH!* and *Bublifuk*. His collaboration with the magazine *ABC* resulted in the comic albums about a sprightly tomcat *Mourrison* (2006) and *Mourrison 2, hrdina bez kázně a hany* (Mourrison 2, A Hero in Shining Ardour, 2010). He brought a condensed cartoon form to the field of historiography in his illustrations for Klára Smolíková’s prose work *H. U. S. – Hus úplně světověj* (H. U. S. – Hus Unambiguously Superlative, 2015) and even more so in the series *Obrázky z moderních československých dějin 1945–1989* (Images from Modern Czechoslovak History 1945–1989, 2016, text by Jiří Černý; Muriel prize for best original comic book of the year).

Petra Soukupová

WHO KILLED SNOWY?

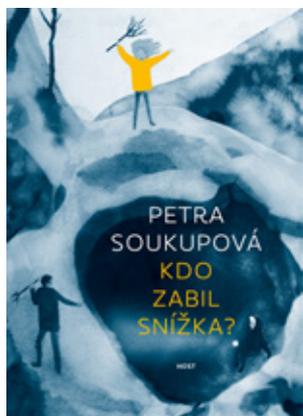
33

More than anything else, Martina wants a dog, but instead of her dream animal companion she ends up with an uncontrollable deaf mongrel which wanders off, raids the village hen-houses, terrifies toddlers and loses an eye during one of its escapades. After finding Snowy's dead body in a ditch by the road, the girl sets out with her friends on the trail of the murderer with the same tenacity that got her the animal in the first place. She is not only motivated by the age-old longing for adventure, but by a sense of justice. During their secret forays over the

neighbours' fences they inadvertently unravel the fabric of interpersonal relationships, the complexity of which the ten-year-old narrator comments on with impressively uncompromising objectivity. The laconic, colloquial language chimes well with the realistic psychological portraits of the child and adult characters. The wintry atmosphere of the detective story, in which the chilling discoveries are counterbalanced by the warm feeling of solidarity with family and friends, is enhanced by the blue and yellow drawings and the impressive graphic design.



Age: 10+



KDO ZABIL SNÍŽKA?
Illustrated by Tereza Ščerbová
Brno, Host 2017, 152 pages
ISBN 978-80-7577-226-8

RIGHTS:
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ENGLISH SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE AT:
<https://www.czechlit.cz/en/excerpt/who-killed-snowy/>

Petra Soukupová (1982) studied dramaturgy and screenwriting at FAMU. She worked as a screenwriter on the television sitcom *Comeback* (2008–2010) and on the serial *Kosmo* (2016). She first made a name for herself as a prose writer with her debut work *K moři* (To the Sea, 2007, Jiří Orten Award) and the short-story triptych *Zmizet* (To Disappear), which was awarded Book of the Year at the Magnesia Litera 2010 competition. She turned to child readers with the story *Bertík a čmuchadlo* (Bertie and the Snuffler, 2014), where she described complicated family relationships from the perspective of a small boy. The mystery story *Kdo zabil Snížka?*, which was nominated for a Magnesia Litera, was loosely followed by the adult novel *Nejlepší pro všechny* (Best for Everybody, 2017).

Tereza Ščerbová (1982) studied art education at Ostrava University's College of Education, and illustration and graphic design at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. She has worked on the literary monthly *Host* and other cultural magazines. Her illustrations have accompanied stories such as the detective fairy story by Lenka Brodecká *Hledá se hvězda* (Looking for a Star, 2015). She was awarded a Golden Ribbon for her illustrations for Marka Míková's imaginative prose *Škvíry* (Crannies, 2014) and for the illustrations for her self-penned book *Krtmík* (Kooki, 2016), which was her diploma project.

Petr Stančík

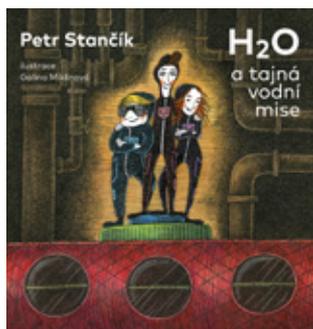
H₂O AND THE SECRET WATER MISSION

H₂O is the formula of the most useful chemical compound and at the same time the initials of Hugo, Hubert and Ophelia, who despite their tender years have formed a commando unit to protect the life-giving liquid from the whims of crackpots. This crazy water-mains thriller will appeal to both intrepid girls and boys since Petr Stančík has presented it as elaborate “pulp fiction” which “plumbs the depths in a pocket submarine”. So they can look forward to an inventor of shrink rays and a sticky-fingered

Foglar-style brotherhood, not to mention the villain present in every respectable comic book. The fun and games in the water pipes, promising nothing less than a battle to save the world, culminate in a showdown in the city waterworks. The light tone of the book, which won a Golden Ribbon, is reinforced by Galina Miklínová’s illustrations, but also by the explanations of the terms used, in which the author confirms his longstanding interest in treating life as a surrealist farce.



Age: 10+



H₂O A TAJNÁ VODNÍ MISE
Illustrated by Galina Miklínová
Horoměřice, Abramis 2017, 84 pages
ISBN 978-80-87618-01-1

AWARDS:
2018 Golden Ribbon Award - Literary Section:
Fiction for Children

RIGHTS:
Prague Literary Agency
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ENGLISH SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE AT:
<https://www.czechlit.cz/en/book/h2o-a-tajna-vodni-mise-en/>

Petr Stančík (1968), poet, novelist and essayist, he entered the literary world in 2006 under the pseudonym of Odillo Stradický ze Strdic. He studied at the Charles University’s College of Education and at DAMU. He has worked as a director, copywriter and consultant. In his novel *Pérák* (The Bedspring Man, 2008), he plays with the Protectorate legend of the Prague superman. Prague after the Prusso-Austrian War became the background for the detective farce *Mlýn na mumie* (Mummy Mill, 2014; Magnesia Litera 2015). After the success of his vegetarian thriller for children *Mrkev ho vcucla pod zem* (A Carrot Sucked Him Underground, 2013) came the series of books about Chrujda the badger (2014–2018). We are reminded of the Morgensternian foundations of his poetics in the quirky *O díře z trychtýře* (The Hole from the Funnel, 2016).

Galina Miklínová (1970), studied film and TV graphics at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague, in addition to her artistic contribution to the children’s cartoon *O Kanafáskovi* (About Kanafásek, 2003), her collaboration with Pavel Šrut in his trilogy about the Oddsocketeers was particularly successful (2008–2013, filmed 2016, Trilobite award 2017). She is also linked with the author, who died this year, through their collaboration on the fairy tales *Pavouček Pája* (Pája the Spider, 2001) and *Verunka a kokosový dědek* (Verunka and the Coconut Granddad, 2004, Golden Ribbon and 2006 IBBY Honour List), as well as the nonsensical collections *Veliký túdle* (The Big “No Way!”, 2003), *Příšerky a příšerí* (Little Monsters, 2005) and *Šišatý švec a myšut* (The Crooked Cobbler and Mousey, 2007). Her other illustration work includes the novella *Kosprá a Telecí* (Fartson and Silliet, 2013) by Eva Papoušková, and the first Czech editions of the Harry Potter novels.

Ester Stará

GREATEST WISH

The odyssey of a blue toy horse begins in an Asian factory full of noisy machines. In the hands of an unhappy seamstress employed far from home, the azure soft toy first becomes aware of its uniqueness against a background of mass production. As he sails to Europe on a container ship brimming with goods, his one great wish is that at the end of his journey he will find someone who he will bring joy to and who will love him. What he doesn't know is that in a consumerist world the most self-evident wishes are also

the hardest to fulfil. Ester Stará presents many topical themes to think about, including migration and social and economic justice, while Daniela Olejníková's illustrations provide a rich visual accompaniment to her lean text. The little horse's journey was produced in collaboration with the charity organization People in Need (as part of the Global Schools project) and Czech teachers can make use of materials which are freely available on the Varianty website.

Age: 6+



NEJVĚTŠÍ PŘÁNÍ
Illustrated by Daniela Olejníková
Prague, 65. pole publishing 2017, 40 pages
ISBN 978-80-87506-97-4

RIGHTS:
Albatros Media
Tomáš Jodas
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China

English sample translation available.



Ester Stará (1969) studied speech therapy and hearing-impaired studies at Charles University's College of Education. Her studies are reflected in her work for children which focuses on developing communication skills, for example in the volumes *Žežicha se neříká* (We Don't Say Cwess, 2004), *Strč prst skrz krk* (Tip of the Tongue, Top of the Teeth, 2008), *Žvanda a Melivo* (Žvanda and Melivo, 2009), *Mařenka už říká Ř!* (Marie Can Already Say Ř!, 2012) and *Poviš mi to?* (Can You Tell Me?, 2015). The fairy story *Chrochtík a Kvíkalka na cestě za blyškavým prasátkem* (Chrochtík and Kvíkalka on the Trail of the Shimmering Pig, 2012), with illustrations by Martina Matlovičová, was awarded a Golden Ribbon. The author usually works with her husband, the artist Milan Starý; their joint projects include the interactive publication *Dům za mlhou* (The House Beyond the Mist, 2013), stimulating graphomotor skills and artistic creativity, and the poetry collection *Každý bulí nad cibulí* (Everyone Blubs over an Onion, 2017).

Daniela Olejníková (1986) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, specializing in painting and illustration. She has won many awards for her book and magazine illustrations for children and adults, even while still a student. Her own book *Liek pre Vlčika* (Medicine for the Wolf Cub, in book form 2013) and her illustrations for the novellas *V melónovom cukre* (In Watermelon Sugar, 2011) and *Na úteku* (On the Run, 2016, Golden Ribbon 2018 for the Czech edition) won awards at the Most Beautiful Books of Slovakia. For her artistic treatment of the books *V melónovom cukre* and *Trináť* (Thirteen, 2012) she received a BIB plaque; in 2017 she received a Golden Apple BIB. Czech readers also know her as the illustrator of Martin Vopěnka's trilogy *Spící město* (The Sleeping City, 2011-2013).

Martina Špínková

THE SECRET

39

A pensive man is sitting at the threshold to a little house, a light shining in the room behind him, and around the corner a bird is gazing out at the landscape. In Martina Špínková's slim book, the white background of the scene with the building floating in the sky evokes the atmosphere of mystery which envelops our existence from the moment of birth until our death. Where do we come from? What do we know and not know as an unborn baby? Why do people have souls while robots don't? What kind of universe surrounds us, is there a God in it, and what happens when we die? And what

is hidden in shells? Now and again the symbolic scenes hint at an answer, but they usually prompt the reader to look within, to let the search for the mysteries of existence resound in their soul with the help of a music each of us is capable of. Life's gifts and challenges are not always a walk in the park, but young and old alike are curious to know the meaning of those lights in the depths of the forest. All you need is the resolve to ask what is behind the looking glass. The courage to explore your own self is encouraged by the warm pastel colours and letters which permeate the artist's watercolours.



Age: 6+



O TAJEMSTVÍ
Illustrated by the author, Prague, Cesta domů
publishing 2018, 48 unnumbered pages,
ISBN 978-80-88126-40-9

RIGHTS:
Cesta domů Publishers
Martina Špínková
martina.spinkova@cestadomu.cz

English version available.

Martina Špínková (1959) studied book culture and writing at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. She has illustrated and/or written 70 books and also writes poetry (*Před andělem strom*, *The Tree Before the Angel*, 2008). She is a long-term collaborator with the Munich publishers DBV, which culminated in her illustrating a large children's bible. The co-founder, long-term director and now editor-in-chief of Cesta domů, she campaigns for a better understanding of the situation of terminally ill patients as well as the position of their carers. Through her publishing firm she has brought out the self-penned books *Anna a Anička* (Anne and Annie) and *Kocouře, ty se máš* (Tomcat, You Have It All Right). She won awards at the Most Beautiful Czech Books competition for her illustrations to Geyza Demeter's collection *Ráj na zemi – Romské pohádky* (Heaven on Earth – Romany Fairy Stories, 2011) and her own prose *Divný brach strach* (That Odd Fellow Fear, 2015).

Jana Šrámková & Markéta Prachatická

FIELD BUDDIES

The children's story *Bratři v poli* was nominated for a 2018 Magnesia Litera for children and young adults and is the result of a collaboration between a much-in-demand writer and a unique illustrator. We last came across Markéta Prachatická's famous hatched pen-and-ink drawings in Iva Procházková's animal "dumka" about life coming to an end, *Mysí patří do nebe* (Mice Belong in Heaven) – this time she has drawn the vole Dageš and the gopher Mapík, who not only play at being knights and space adventurers, but even at

Hercules and Achilles from the Trojan War. However, in accordance with the laws of nature, the gopher must settle down to hibernate while the vole waits impatiently for the first signs of spring. After all, the heart of his inseparable friend beats for him down there under the ground! The font in the book transforms from an autumnal shade of orange to blue in winter, and with the approaching thaw turns golden again to express the return of merrymaking, leaping and hugging.



Age: 6+



BRATŘI V POLI
Illustrated by Markéta Prachatická
Prague, Běžíliška 2017, 64 pages
ISBN 978-80-906467-6-6

RIGHTS:
Albatros Media
Tomáš Jodas
foreignsales@albatrosmedia.cz

English sample translation available.

Jana Šrámková (1982) studied at the Evangelical Theological Seminary, and also studied creative writing and editorial work at the Literary Academy. She writes for the magazines *Respekt* and *A2* as well as working with Czech Radio. She made a name for herself with her debut novel *Hruškadóttir* (Peardóttir 2008, Jiří Orten Award 2009). Her book for children *Putování žabáka Filemona* (The Travels of Philemon the Frog) was published in 2010, and she writes short fairy tales and fold-out books for the *Mikroliška* (edition of micro stories) series. In *Zuza v zahradách* (Susie in the Gardens, 2015) she describes the poetic meeting of the younger and older generation. In the same year she also published the boisterous fairy story *Kuba Tuba Tatubahn* (Golden Ribbon and 2018 IBBY Honour List for the illustrations by Filip Pošivač).

Markéta Prachatická (1953), a self-taught artist from the prominent Kolíbal family; in the 1970s she was repeatedly rejected by the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague for political reasons. In 1990 she spent six months at Camberwell College of Art in London. In 1984 she was awarded the Premio Grafico Bologna for her illustrations for the book *Alenka v kraji divů a za zrcadlem* (Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass) by Lewis Carroll. She has exhibited work at the Biennial of Applied Graphics in Brno, the Art Museum in Tokyo and the Biennial of Illustration in Bratislava. She has illustrated major books for children and adults (Hans Christian Andersen, Roald Dahl, Milena Lukešová, Charles Perrault and Jaroslav Seifert). Her drawings have reappeared in recent re-editions of Pavel Šrut's *Kočičí král* (The Cat King, 2009), Emanuel Frynta's *Písničky bez muziky* (Songs Without Music, 2010) and Iva Procházková's *Mysí patří do nebe* (2017).

Jana Šrámková & Andrea Tachezy HOUSE NUMBER 226

This poetic book about the traces each human life leaves behind has an unusual main character: the overgrown infant decorating the Art Nouveau façade of house number 226 in the Prague neighbourhood of the Chotek Gardens and the Kramář Villa. On rare occasions when none of the adults are around, he secretly climbs down to walk across the garden and into the rooms to share the memories he has stored up with the children living there today. Eight-year-old Dorothy represents the sixth generation in the history of a building that is more than a century old, and after overcoming her initial disbelief she becomes absorbed in his stories about the time when the house stood

on its own before there was a busy street, when biplanes took off from Letná Park and when Great-great-gran Emilia held afternoon get-togethers with coffee and cakes. Or about the relatively recent past when the girl's father used to whizz about on roller skates in his baggy tracksuit bottoms. Jana Šrámková's text was based on an idea by Andrea Tachezy, whose imaginative collage using historical photographs enhances the magical mixture of fantasy and documentary elements. This book, in which time begins to run in all directions, is a stimulus for intergenerational encounters and the passing of the narrative baton. Grandmothers enjoy recalling the past – all we have to do is show an interest.

Age: 7+



DŮM ČÍSLO 226
Illustrated by Andrea Tachezy
Prague, Běžíliška 2017, 76 pages
ISBN 978-80-906467-8-0

AWARDS:
2018 Golden Ribbon - Art Section:
Literature for Younger Children

RIGHTS:
Běžíliška Publishers
František Havlůj
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Jana Šrámková (1982) – see page 41

Andrea Tachezy (1966) graduated from the studio of animated film at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. She has illustrated more than thirty books for children. She focuses on the youngest readers and has also created paper, wood and textile toys and decorations for them. Her illustrations for Jana Šrámková's *Zuza v zahradách* (Susie in the Gardens, 2015) and Petr Borkovec's fold-out book *O čem sní* (What They Dream About, 2016) were nominated for a Golden Ribbon. She also received this award for the 3D fold-out book *Ferdinand!* (Ferdinand!, 2013) with poetry by Robin Král, her illustrations for Ivan Binar's fairy tale *Bořivoj a blecha Fló* (Bořivoj and Flo the Flea, 2014) and her collages for the book *Dům číslo 226* (2017).

František Tichý

TRANSPORT BEYOND ETERNITY

Even in the introduction to 12-year-old Honza's testimony, there is an indication that, along with the usual adventures, the boy will also have to contend with those resulting from the war year of 1940 and subsequent developments. His world falls apart in the grip of the Protectorate decrees: his father is arrested and executed by the Gestapo for participating in the resistance, while at school his Jewish schoolmates began to quietly disappear. Inspired by his father's example, Honza decides not just to stand by and do nothing about these injustices – he slips through the walls into the Terezín ghetto with the aim of freeing his friend and for several months becomes part of the children's

camp... František Tichý was inspired to write this book by the discovery of the family correspondence of an executed resistance fighter as well as his own emotional experience of visiting Terezín. He fuses genuine letters written by a prisoner, articles from the Terezín magazine *Vedem* and the diaries of a Jewish boy called Petr Ginz with literary fiction so that the lives of real people and fictional characters become intertwined. Stanislav Setinský's illustrations, on the border between realism and symbolism, reference the films of the period with their grey-blue tones – in a credible way. After all, "the only thing which distinguishes us from them is that we were born into happier times."

Age: 10+



TRANSPORT ZA VĚČNOST
Illustrated by Stanislav Setinský
Prague, Baobab 2017, 244 pages
ISBN 978-80-7515-052-3

AWARDS:
2018 Magnesia Litera:
For Children and Youth

RIGHTS:
Baobab Publishers
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František Tichý (1969) graduated from Charles University's Faculty of Science and in 1993 established the Nature School in Holešovice, which he still runs. He summarized his pedagogical approaches and the history of the school in *Přírodní škola – cesta jako cíl* (Nature School – the Journey as the Goal, 2011). He described the life of Petr Ginz in the book *Princ se žlutou hvězdou* (Prince with a Yellow Star, 2014), which was awarded a Golden Ribbon. *Transport za věčnost* (2017) was originally published in paperback form at his own expense (2011).

Stanislav Setinský (1985) studied illustration and graphic design at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague and is currently a freelance artist. He illustrated Etgar Keret's books *Najednou někdo klepe na dveře* (Suddenly, a Knock on the Door, 2014) and *Sedm dobrých let* (Seven Good Years, 2015) and has also done cartoon work for magazines (e.g. as part of the campaign *Ti, kterým se vyhýbáme* – Those we avoid, for a better understanding of the problems faced by those with mental illnesses). In terms of children's literature, he has written the comic story *Krvavá planeta* (Bloody Planet), which is part of the anthology *12 malých hororů* (12 Little Horror Stories, 2013).

Marek Toman

CROSS-EYED JIM'S CONFECTIONARY

At Cross-Eyed Jim's gunslingers' confectionary they don't just serve freshly ground coffee, cakes and eggnog, but also literary treats. Ever since the librarian Goddie Noose set up the prison library and made life more bearable for the most hardened death-row criminals, the hearts of the villains have been moved by group readings and interpretations of literary works, and even their tastes have begun to change. This harmony, however, is disrupted by Dante Skunk Shakespeare, the greatest literary gangster of all time, shamelessly purloining all kinds of texts, from classic

novels to timetables. The fight with the bookworm bandit ends in victory for the intrepid Czech librarian. Although she fails to secure the support of the hard men of the Wild West for a revolt against the Habsburgs, the cultivated spirit of their literary meetings is reflected in the character of the town. Marek Toman masterfully weaves together parody and paraphrases, paying homage to both low and high literature, as both of them have the power to set a crooked world straight: in the end the town of Askew turns into Rowney.



Age: 12+



CUKRÁRNA U ŠILHAVÉHO JIMA
Illustrated by Františka Loubat
Prague, Baobab 2018, 176 pages
ISBN 978-80-7515-075-2

RIGHTS:
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RIGHTS SOLD:
Macedonia

English sample translation available.

Marek Toman (1967), a graduate of Charles University's Faculty of Arts, he has worked as a literary editor for Czech Radio and since 1997 at the Czech Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition to his own creative work, he is also a translator and editor. His first book for children was *O Ryzce a Vraníkovi* (Ryzka and Vraník, 2003). His subsequent novels turned to the past: *Dobytí ostrova Saaremaa* (The Conquest of Saaremaa Island, 2007) described the Crusaders' conquest of the Baltics, while *Můj Golem* (My Golem, 2009) was loosely based on the story of Rabbi Loew. His prose for adults also deals with historical material and how it influences the present; for example, in the books *Veliká novina o hrozném mordu Šimona Abelese* (The Shocking Story of the Murder of Simon Abeles, 2014) and *Chvála oportunistu* (In Praise of Opportunism, 2016).

Františka Loubat (1986) studied at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague at the studio of illustration and graphics. In 2012 she began working with the screenwriter Tomáš Končinský on the comic-strip *Kustodka Květa* for *artalk.cz*, which was awarded the Muriel 2014 prize and was also published in book form (2015). The post-apocalyptic comic *Sicktown* (2012, published under the pseudonym Františka Lachmanová) won a prize in the Art Books Wanted competition. She illustrated Ivana B. Englmaierová's book *Srdcový erb* (The Heart Coat of Arms, 2013, as Fany Lachmanová) and produced the comic *Nebud' jak gadžo!* (Don't be a Gadjo! 2016) in collaboration with the Ašta šmé group.

Dagmar Urbánková

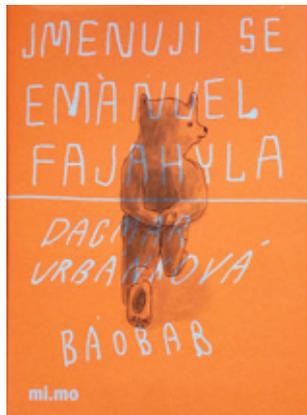
MY NAME IS EMANUEL

FAJAHYLA

The writer and bachelor Eman Fajahyla is something of a flake and procrastinator, which can happen to an intellectual shut up in his study. But first things first: fate has landed him with a bear in order to “severely upset the rhythm of his life.” On his everyday journeys around Prague, and even on his birthday trip to London, Eman’s programme of isolation from other people is disturbed by a furry torpedo by the name of Bingi, who is out to stop his master being such a social misfit. Eman’s first-person narrative, in which Dagmar Urbánková pays tribute to the tradition of absurdist French novels and adds a liberal helping of

the fairground fun of Josef Lada, will please teenage readers with its abundance of words retrieved from the basement of the Czech language. The novella flushes these out like a small dog, while for sentences in English it comes up with tongue-twisters written without vowels. And what does all this joking tinged with sadness mean for today’s “singles” who have trouble finding an equally shy counterpart? Just as Saroyan’s Tom Tracy had a tiger borrowed from William Blake to give himself a boost, Eman has someone to take the sting out of his loneliness at a time when there are no prospective girlfriends on the horizon.

Age: 12+



JMENUJI SE EMANUEL FAJAHYLA
Illustrated by the author
Prague, Baobab 2017, 136 pages
ISBN 978-80-7515-068-4

RIGHTS:
Baobab Publishers
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Dagmar Urbánková (1972) studied stage design at DAMU and worked as a designer for the Minor theatre. She writes poetry and prose, and is involved in theatre as well as book illustration. For very young children she has written the books *Byl jeden dům* (Once there was a House, 2004 and 2016), *Adam a koleno* (Adam and the Knee, 2007), *Chlebová Lhota* (The Chronicles of Breadburg, 2010) and the interactive fold-out book *Cirkus ulice* (Circus Street, 2012) and *Maškary* (Masks, 2016). She illustrated the short-story collection *Čáp nejní kondor* (A Stork is not a Condor, 2011) by the songwriter Radůza for Baobab Books. Her boundless creativity is demonstrated by the pictorial glossary of illustrated mistakes *Už měkoně vyvádějí* (Mehorses Are Acting Up, 2016), in which she summarized *idées fixes*, garbled speech and mishearings from childhood.

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 (1,800 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 May** 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

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

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MINISTRY OF CULTURE
CZECH REPUBLIC

Travel grants

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:

- 31st March (for the period of 15th May to 15th October)
- 31st August (for the period of 15th October to 15th December)
- 31st October (for the period of 1st January to 15th May)

www.czechlit.cz/en/grant/travel

Selected literary awards in the Czech Republic

MAGNESIA LITERA AWARDS

Magnesia Litera is a set of annual Czech literary awards in many categories noticeably covered by the media which has been awarded by the Litera Association in cooperation with sponsors since 2002. The main award, The Book of the Year, features a financial bonus of CZK 200,000.

František Tichý in 2018 for *Transport Beyond Eternity*
- p. 44

MOST BEAUTIFUL CZECH BOOKS AWARDS

The Most Beautiful Czech Books of the Year competition looks at the polygraphy, graphic and illustrative aspects of books that are published by Czech publishers and printed by Czech printing companies during the previous calendar year. The award is bestowed in seven categories and students works category.

Robin Král, Šárka Svobodová, Tereza Vostradovská in 2017 for *Cross-Section of a Cat*
- p. 20

Vojtěch Mašek, Chrudoš Valoušek in 2017 for *Puppet, Plum Pit, Plum, Plank and Back to Puppet*
- p. 24

GOLDEN RIBBON AWARDS

With more than 20 years of tradition, annual Golden Ribbon prizes have been awarded to the authors of the best books for children and the young published in the Czech language. The Golden Ribbon is the only award in the Czech Republic focusing solely on children's literature. The prize is organised by the Czech section of IBBY.

Renáta Fučíková in 2018 for *Molière & Pierre Corneille, Jean Racine - 7 Plays Retold Within Their Historical Context*
- p. 18

Vojtěch Mašek, Chrudoš Valoušek in 2018 for *Puppet, Plum Pit, Plum, Plank and Back to Puppet*
- p. 24

Petr Stančík in 2018 for *H₂O and the Secret Water Mission*
- p. 34

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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