

# New Czech Books 2019



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# Introduction

Dear readers,

In May 2020 the Czech Republic will face an exciting challenge: being guest of honour at the Warsaw Book Fair, which will hopefully build upon the Czech success at the 2019 Leipzig fair that contributed to the publication of 90 new German translations of Czech titles. Czech authors will be returning to Leipzig this year, primarily to present fresh translations of their books from the second half of last year. Czech literature will also feature at the trade fairs in Frankfurt, Vienna, London and Guadalajara, and after more than a decade it will be returning to the Paris Book Fair; it will also be promoting itself through new works for children and young adults in Bologna and the best of homegrown comics at the Lakes festival in the north of England.

In this publication we offer a selection of 23 books in the categories of prose, poetry, literature for children and young adults, comics and non-fiction. Among them you will also find new titles by two Czech authors who have been awarded the European Union Prize for Literature in the past decade: the novel *Mona* by Bianca Bellová and Jan Némec's autobiographical work of fiction *Ways of Writing about Love*.

I would like to draw your attention to two more exceptional books. In 2018 *Dustzone* by Vojtěch Matocha became a bestseller in the world of children's literature, and its sequel *Black Mercuride* was one of the most eagerly awaited Czech books of recent times. Another publication regarded as ground-breaking is the major work by the historian Petr Čornej *Jan Žižka: The Life and Times of the Hussite Warrior*. It is unusual for a non-fiction book to generate such a buzz, and Čornej has succeeded in doing so not only through his choice of subject matter, but also through the way he writes about it.

I am confident that our edition will introduce you to some inspiring literature!

Martin Krafl  
programme coordinator for Czech presentations  
at international book fairs  
head of the Czech Literary Centre / CzechLit

# CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

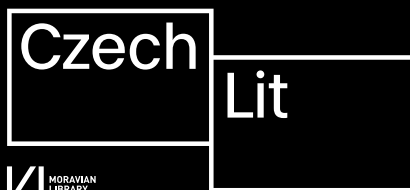
is a state-funded organisation supporting and promoting Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic. The centre is a section of the Moravian Library.

## The Czech Literary Centre:

- 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
- Provides grants for authors to attend cultural events abroad
- Cooperates on international literature and translation projects with partner institutions abroad and in the Czech Republic
- Organises residencies for foreign translators, Czech studies specialists and authors
- Runs the bilingual website [czechlit.cz](http://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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Fiction

# Jan Němec

## WAYS OF WRITING ABOUT LOVE

A novel written from the wreckage of a relationship while reconsidering ways of writing about love.

In his new novel Jan Němec exposes himself in an unprecedented manner as he examines the beginning, middle and end of a six-year relationship – his own. The book, which emerged from the need to understand what went wrong with him and his girlfriend, shows how the death of a relationship can spill over into the birth of a novel as a kind of self-preserving literary

reincarnation. *Ways of Writing about Love* is enhanced by various narrative tricks and techniques, allusions to iconic works of prose, extracts from letters and news reports. This intimate and slightly controversial novel, where the author, narrator and central character meld into one, breaks all the rules of narration, testing the forms which prose can take.



Možnosti milostného románu  
Host, 2019, 420 pp

“The author offers the reader a sophisticated game with genre: a true literary experiment which is rare in Czech literature.”

—*Deník N*

“This novel about love and writing in the age of digital sadness emerged from the ruins of a relationship lasting more than five years.”

—*Respekt*

Photo: David Konečný (Moravská zemská knihovna v Brně – České literární centrum)  
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Jan Němec (1981) is a novelist, journalist and screenwriter. He studied sociology, religious studies and theatre dramaturgy. He has worked with the magazine *Respekt*, Czech Television, Czech Radio and the International Karlovy Vary Film Festival. He is currently an editor at the monthly literary magazine *Host* and lectures at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno. He has published a collection of poetry, *První život* (The First Life, 2007), a book of short stories, *Hra pro čtyři ruce* (A Game for Four Hands, 2009), and the novel *Dějiny světla* (A History of Light, 2013), which was awarded the EU Prize for Literature, has been translated into twelve languages, including English, Spanish and German, and the company Negativ is producing a film adaptation of it. In 2019, he published his second novel, *Možnosti milostného románu* (Ways of Writing about Love).

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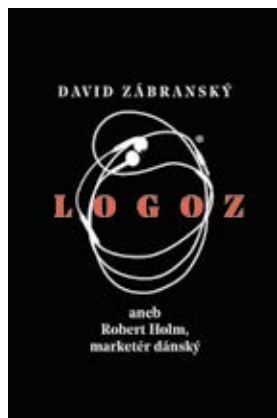
English and French sample translations available

# David Záborský LOGOZ OR ROBERT HOLM, DANISH MARKETER

What if the European elites decided to leave the exhausted continent and choose “elitexit”? Would they be able to build a new, wiser civilisation?

Robert Holm, a Danish branding expert, arrives at a marketing conference in Shanghai, China. While visiting a big shopping center, he witnesses the deaths of two people. This experience shakes him deeply and Holm decides to fight capitalism and its artificial consumerist world. From now on he wants to use his expertise to improve the quality of the environment, avert global warming and motivate people to live in

an eco-friendly way. With the help of social networks he manages to start a mass migration. Led by Robert Holm, the European elites leave the continent and settle in war-ravaged Syria, where they build a new civilisation based on a simple life with conservative values. This new society is shielded from the old world by a wall. But this wall is a hi-tech invention creating a mere bubble amidst the apocalypse.



LogoZ aneb Robert Holm, marketér dánský  
Větrné mlýny, 2019, 403 pp

“Záborský’s new novel has been published at the same time as the Czech translation of Michel Houellebecq’s *Serotonin*. In their latest works both authors present a nontraditional conservative critique of globalization, rejecting overproduction and the ideology of the free market. However, while Houellebecq is content with cynical description, venting frustration, and a few grimy jokes, Záborský goes deeper, and even though one may disagree with him in some ways, he indicates what 21<sup>st</sup> century conservative thinking might look like.”

—*Právo*

Photo: Lukáš Havlena



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

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English and German sample translations available

# Veronika Bendová

## A DEPLETED LAND

A taut road trip from the Czech borderlands about the search for locations for a film of life.

Veronika Bendová's novella is situated in the unwelcoming environment of the resettled Sudetenland in north Bohemia, devastated by brown-coal mining and heavy industry. The story plays out over a short span on three levels: a romantic relationship, a detective mystery, and a higher level where the central role is played by the landscape

rather than a character. Two colleagues, Hugo and Irena, are scouting for a film location for a new TV series in this gloomy region which has been "depleted" on all fronts – including the artistic one – but they discover unexpected magic amongst the brown-coal corruption.



"Bendová's second work of prose may be a novella in length, but the modest format is more than made up for by its content."

—*iLiteratura*

"This new work is based on the sophisticated use of approaches to reading. This is something which many writers have found a hard nut to crack. In both cases, Bendová has passed with flying colours."

—*Artzóna*

Vytěženej kraj  
Fra, 2019, 200 pp

Photo: Radek Brousil



Veronika Bendová (1974) studied screenwriting and dramaturgy at the Film and Television Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts. Her novella *Nonstop Eufrat* (2012) was her literary debut, which was also translated into Spanish. She occasionally publishes short stories in magazines. An extract from the novella *Vytěženej kraj* (A Depleted Land, 2019) will be used for this year's Susanna Roth Award for budding translators.

# Alena Mornštajnová

## YEARS OF SILENCE

A book of two storylines that eventually interconnect, together with the fates of two individuals who could not be more distant from one another – a father and daughter.

Alena Mornštajnová, a novelist who excels in capturing the complexity of human relationships, brings us another sweeping family history bound up with the 20<sup>th</sup>-century history of the Czech lands. This time she focuses on the difficulties of the father-daughter relationship and how it develops. In the narrative prose *Years of Silence* this is illustrated using the example of an introverted girl called Bohdana who lives with her surly father and

the kind-hearted, submissive Běla – it is hardly surprising that this combination gives rise to tension. The novel's chapters, speakers and time frames alternate – the parallel story of the staunch communist Svatopluk Žák, Bohdana's father, is an example of the socialist illusion of a planned future. This powerful, intimate novel with an enigmatic atmosphere culminates at the moment when the two storylines intersect.



“With her work Alena Mornštajnová defies the tradition of much of post-1989 literature in which authors mainly relate their own life experiences. Since her first novel, her ambition has been to tell the stories of several generations of mostly female characters with an emphasis on what shapes their fates and personalities.”

—*Právo*

“A crucial part of Alena Mornštajnová's success with readers is her style, which is simple but by no means banal, full of crystal-clear sentences whose sole purpose is to move the story forward.”

—*A2*

Tiché roky  
Host, 2019, 296 pp



Photo: Vojtěch Vlk



Alena Mornštajnová (1963) studied English and Czech at Ostrava University. She made her debut in 2013 with the novel *Slepá mapa* (Blind Map), and her second novel *Hotýlek* (The Little Hotel) came out in 2015. It was primarily due to her third novel, *Hana*, from 2017 that Alena Mornštajnová became one of the most popular contemporary Czech writers. *Hana* has been translated into more than ten languages (including English, German and Italian) and has won numerous awards: among others, it received the 2018 Czech Book Award and became the 2017 Book of the Year on the website *Databáze knih* (Database of Books). Her latest novel *Tiché roky* (Years of Silence, 2019) went to the top of the national bestseller list immediately after publication. In total, more than 250,000 copies of the author's books have been sold in the Czech Republic. Alena Mornštajnová lives in Valašské Meziříčí.

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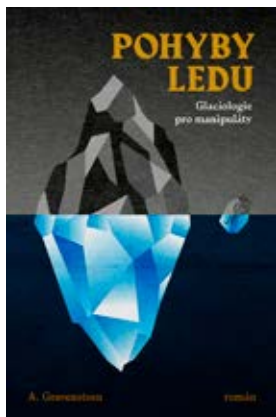
# A. Gravensteen

## GLACIAL MOTION

A detective / romance novel centring around a melting glacier in Greenland.

Although the story begins with an encounter between a mysterious girl in black – a microbiologist called Klára – and a young journalist called Rosli – a man prone to drink – in the Prague Botanical Garden in Trója, the main character of this novel is a Greenlandic glacier. When a new greenhouse is opened, by chance the young journalist finds out that this is the result of embezzlement. The reader is introduced to a flighty musician called Valdemar, a thriller-writer named Nina and other curious individuals.

In a remarkable story arc, the two main protagonists, who already have a romantic connection, find themselves on a scientific expedition in Greenland – a glacier is melting and who knows what is concealed within its depths. But what the pseudonym A. Gravensteen conceals is a first-time novelist whose romance-cum-detective novel with its sophisticated parallel construction, self-mocking narrator, varied narrative world and rich use of language was being hotly tipped even before it came out.



Pohyby ledu  
Paseka, 2019, 416 pp

“One of the most remarkable Czech novels of recent years.”

—Petr A. Bílek, literary historian  
and theorist

“Even re-reading it was an exceptional experience, thanks in part to the linguistic skills of A. Gravensteen, but mainly because the author has created a vivid fictional world that the reader is reluctant to leave, an impression which is reinforced by the book’s ending.”

—*iLiteratura*

Photo: Vojta Sedláček



A. Gravensteen is the name on an apartment door. Who wrote this novel behind it remains a mystery.

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English sample translation available

# Simona Bohatá

## THEY'RE ALL SO LAME

A novella with the intense atmosphere of 1980s Communist Czechoslovakia in a district of Prague.

The author carries on the tradition of Czech prose from the working-class district of Žižkov in Prague. She brings 1980s Žižkov to life with a wealth of characters who have their own micro-stories: secret policemen, prostitutes, currency speculators, as well as children and abused animals – at one point they were all part of this district

for the poor and marginalized, who spoke the language of the tenements. The main characters are schoolchildren from one class, on the threshold of adulthood, but at the same time on the margins of society. The novella portrays the difficult period towards the end of the communist regime through their eyes and voices.



Všichni sou trapný  
Host, 2019, 208 pp

“The Normalization jungle is ruled by predators who prey on the defenceless. The atmosphere is enhanced by the Prague slang used by both the characters and the narrator. And this language has been precisely observed, just as life in Žižkov during this period of great upheaval has been precisely captured.”

—*Respekt*

“Bohatá evokes the atmosphere of growing up in an area which is very far from harmonious, where latent as well as overt violence are constantly present.”

—*H70*

Photo: Peter Schomanek



Simona Bohatá (1965) is a novelist and writer of song lyrics. She studied at a secondary school specializing in economics and then graduated from the Ježek Conservatory in lyrics and screenwriting. She grew up in the Prague district of Žižkov in the 1980s, which is the setting for her novel *Všichni sou trapný* (They're All So Lame, 2019). She described her childhood and adolescence in her debut work *Máňa a my druzí* (Máňa and the Rest of Us, 2017). She lives in a small village near Jindřichův Hradec.

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English sample translation available

# Michal Ajvaz

## CITIES

This wide-ranging novel by the leading Czech writer is a symphony of narrative playfulness as well as a homage to traditional storytelling.

*Cities* is made up of several novels in one book, linked by a narrator who sets out on a classic trip around the world in search of knowledge. While looking for a mysterious machine component containing a flash drive whose contents are unknown, he visits nine countries and cities: from Sweden via Ireland, France, the USA and Japan to Poland. During his adventures he participates in, or learns of, a number of immersive

stories, constructed as separate novels: romance, fantasy, thriller and action. The book is a synthesis of all of Ajvaz's prose work, philosophy, unique sense of humour, favourite narrative approaches and sources of literary inspiration, as well as a homage to narrative traditions. It is also the third and final work in an original trilogy of novels using postmodern techniques.



Města  
Druhé město, 2019, 736 pp

“[The author] has convinced us that he is a master at mixing genres, particularly the high with the low or even trashy – or better still, he is a master at blurring their borders and upsetting their hierarchy.”

—Czech Radio Vltava

“*Cities* defies clear interpretation; it flows like a dream, yet at the same time it has been precisely planned out.”

—*Právo*

Photo: David Konečný (Moravská zemská knihovna v Brně—České literární centrum)  
(CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)



Michal Ajvaz (1949) is a philosopher, poet, novelist and essayist. After studying at Charles University's Faculty of Arts he had various manual jobs. In the 1990s he was an editor at the journal *Literární noviny*, and since 2003 he has worked at the Centre for Theoretical Studies – a joint research institute of Charles University and the Czech Academy of Sciences. Since 1989 his publications have included a book of poetry, *Vražda v hotelu Intercontinental* (Murder in the Intercontinental Hotel, 1989), books of short stories (e.g. *Návrat starého varana* [The Return of the Old Komodo Dragon, 1991], several novels (e.g. *Druhé město*, [The Other City, 1993], *Zlatý věk* [The Golden Age, 2001], *Cesta na jih* [Voyage to the South, 2008]), philosophical studies (e.g. *Kosmos jako sebeutváření* [The Cosmos as Self-Creation, 2017]) and books of essays (e.g. *Příběh znaků a prázdna* [The Story of Signs and Emptiness, 2006]). He is the recipient of the Jaroslav Seifert Award, a Magnesia Litera prize and the Prix Utopiales Européen. His books have been translated into twenty languages, including English and German.

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English and German sample translations available

# Bianca Bellová

## MONA

Following the international success of her novel *Jezero* (The Lake), which has been translated into 13 languages, Bianca Bellová returns with another dystopia.

In Bianca Bellová's new novel we find ourselves in an unnamed country somewhere in the Middle East ruled by a religious dictatorship. In this land which has been destroyed by violent conflict, a nurse called Mona looks after soldiers in an improvised hospital in a situation where basic human rights, particularly women's, are ignored. She meets a young boy, Adam, and the silence they share becomes a way to allow them both to remember. The past which is uncovered by delicately

outlined scenes does not immediately reveal the characters' motivations and the reader is kept in constant suspense throughout. Like *The Lake*, *Mona* has a mysterious, oppressive atmosphere, as well as a darkness. Here this is not only symbolized by the military conflict, the general poverty and disintegration, but also by the overgrown jungle and the tendrils of its plants which are unsettlingly inappropriate in this environment.



Mona  
Host, 2019, 167 pp

“As in *The Lake*, Bellová is not afraid to ‘dirty’ her book with the present, with problems which plague the world today. The sociocritical dimension of the text directed against the suppression of women's rights is clear in *Mona*.”

—iLiteratura

“The matter-of-fact, carefully constructed sentences do not require pathos or unnecessary finesse, whether she is talking about the blood, pus and desperate cries in the hospital, the soldiers' fear of the jungle paths and the desert, or about the honesty of a friendship with a boy, or the taste of macaroon.”

—iDNES.cz



Photo: Jan Trnka



Bianca Bellová (1970) was born in Prague, where she lives halfway between the Balkan and British parts of her family. She is a translator and interpreter. Her first novel *Sentimentální román* (A Sentimental Novel) was published in 2009. This was followed by the books *Mrtvý muž* (Dead Man, 2011) and *Celý den se nic nestane* (Nothing Happens All Day, 2013). The novel *Jezero* (The Lake, 2016) has won several literary awards, including the EU Prize for Literature, and publication rights have been sold to eighteen countries. Her latest novel is *Mona* (2019).

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# Petra Hůlová

## DADDY THIEF

On the destructive impact of parental divorce on children and the war children wage against their parents

Petra Hůlová's new novel examines the small-scale, private history of a family. Ten-year-old Miky is in the shared custody of his parents, which he detests, just as he hates his new siblings and his stepmother, who has "stolen" his dad. Miky lives in a world of his own, where reality intermingles with the world of mobile-phone and computer games. Misunderstandings, grief and

pain lead to anger and revolt. Hůlová considers the rights of parents with regard to their children and the rights of children at a time when the family is breaking down and being reconfigured. She shows how thin the line is between an unruly brat and an unfortunate boy being dragged into the arguments of his guardians.



Zlodějka mého táty  
Torst, 2019, 276 pp

"Hůlová's new novel offers an uncompromising view of shared custody from a child's perspective and tries to answer the question of what exactly the right to happiness means."

—Czech Radio, Radio Wave

*"Daddy Thief"* is set mainly in Prague. The country is plagued by tropical heat, petrol and diesel cars are now things of the past, and data centres are being built in place of old houses which are no longer fit for purpose. Most children have to wear corsets because their bodies are collapsing due to their perennial addiction to computer games. When they have to write a test at school, they are given pills to help them concentrate."

—*Respekt*

Photo: Martin Rýz



Petra Hůlová (1979) is one of the most widely translated contemporary Czech writers. She also writes theatre plays. She graduated in cultural studies and Mongolian studies. She spent time in Mongolia in 2000 and 2001, which provided the setting for her first novel, *Paměť mojí babičce* (All This Belongs to Me, 2002), which brought the author recognition. She has also lived in the USA, which is the setting for her book *Cirkus Les Mémoires* (2005). She lives in Prague.

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English sample translation available

# Viktorie Hanišová

## RECONSTRUCTION

The last instalment in a trilogy on the lives of women, motherhood and profound guilt.

Nine-year-old Eliška, the main character in the novel *Reconstruction*, the final part of Viktorie Hanišová's loose trilogy, spends her childhood in a dark villa with her reclusive aunt Leonie. Eliška's trauma is almost unimaginable: her mother murdered her younger brother before committing suicide, and both bodies were discovered by the surviving daughter. Eliška knows nothing about the background to the tragedy or about her father, and when she reaches adulthood she decides to look for answers.

Viktorie Hanišová's third novel about a complicated motherhood and a dark past unfolds around the theme of the lure of darkness and the abyss, the complex figure of the mother / murderer and the classic motif of guilt.

"We follow Eliška's journey into adulthood, when the introverted child becomes an architecture student who sets about reconstructing these tragic events. She energetically and obsessively begins to untangle the web of relationships surrounding the life of her mother with a single objective: to discover what led to the family tragedy."

—*Týden*

"*Reconstruction* does exactly what it says in the title. The main character [...] searches in different settings, looking for connections – but always drawing a blank, finding only more questions. She uses psychology and philosophy, looks for parallels in history, searches through her own dreams and on the internet, explores conspiracy theories; interviews criminologists, relatives, her father..."

—*MF DNES*



Rekonstrukce  
Host, 2019, 311 pp

Photo: Vojtěch Vlček



Viktorie Hanišová (1980) is from Prague and graduated in English and German studies at Charles University. She translates and teaches foreign languages. She made her debut as a writer in 2015 with the well-received novel *Anežka* (Agnes) about the dysfunctional relationship between a mother and her adopted daughter, as well as hidden racism and stereotypes. This was followed in 2018 by the novel *Houbařka* (The Mushroom Picker) about childhood trauma and domestic violence. The novel *Rekonstrukce* (Reconstruction, 2019) completes the loose trilogy of novels connected by the theme of motherhood. Viktorie Hanišová's books have been translated into five languages including German and Spanish.

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English and German sample translations available

# Iva Procházková

## UNCOMPROMISINGLY

The first lady of Czech literature for children and young adults has produced a superb thriller for adults. Where is Kazmenia?

The political thriller is the latest genre to be tackled by this novelist with intergenerational appeal. The murder of an investigative journalist critical of Russia, its politics and business is the detonator of this thriller, which, in the words of the author, reflects the current tide of history. This thoroughly contemporary social novel focuses on uncovering aspects which society prefers to ignore.

Events during a single week leading up to the European Parliamentary elections are captured through carefully drawn characters and relationships, and interwoven with a secret whose disclosure could alter the course of history – conspiracy is therefore essential, even in the fictitious post-Soviet country of Kazmenia. Iva Procházková's style of narration is unadorned and straightforward.



“Procházková alternates viewpoints, so we follow the action from the perspective of victims and murderers, journalists, policemen and politicians as well as the young romantics. At the same time, all these characters are three-dimensional and believable; the author constructs a background and personality for them... this is appropriate for a genre whose rules Procházková has mastered perfectly: she is able to create and maintain tension, pace and concern over what happens to the characters.”

—*iLiteratura*

Nekompromisně  
Paseka, 2019, 376 pp

Photo: Agáta Dolejší



Iva Procházková (1953) is a novelist and scriptwriter, a respected author of literature for children and young adults as well as novels for adults and plays. She spent her childhood in Prague. After graduating from the Jan Neruda Grammar School, she was unable to continue studying for political reasons. She had a number of different jobs: for example, working as a cook and a cleaner. In 1983 she emigrated with her husband (the director Ivan Pokorný) and children to Austria. She spent eleven years in exile there and then in Germany. She wrote plays and books, primarily for children and young adults. She writes in Czech and German. Some of her books have been awarded prestigious literary prizes in the Czech Republic and Germany and translated into many languages.

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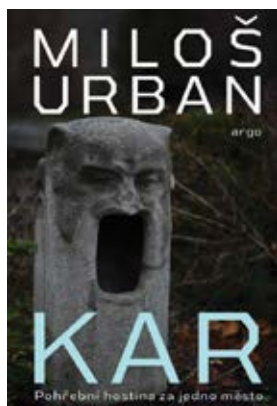
English sample translation available

# Miloš Urban CARLSBAD

A gripping, suspenseful and terrifying murder mystery.

Karlovy Vary, better known abroad as Carlsbad, is a beautiful and somewhat sleepy real spa in western Bohemia, located on a river flowing through a picturesque valley. Something nasty, however, happened a couple of months ago and now it has occurred again: a visitor to the town has been viciously bitten by another tourist who committed suicide shortly afterwards. Both cases are similar, but neither the perpetrators nor the victims had anything to do with each other, they were complete strangers. A sense of terror looms over the cool colonnades and hot springs as guests

begin to cancel their reservations, threatening to bankrupt the whole town. The deputy commander of the city police writes to Julian Uridil, his former friend from school, now a famous mystery writer living in Prague, and begs him to come back to his hometown and help solve the crimes that are so similar to those in his books. Julian arrives in Karlovy Vary and discovers a detail the police overlooked: at each crime scene somebody has left a photograph of a seemingly dead girl covered with false tattoos...



“Urban’s novel *Carlsbad* is again very readable; the protagonist becomes the reader’s guide in the present as well as past Karlovy Vary. Famous people connected with this town – especially Goethe, who becomes a certain symbol of late love in this book – enter the text in short remarks.”

—*Vaše literatura*

KAR  
Argo, 2019, 350 pp



Photo: Jan Křikavá



Miloš Urban (1967) is one of the most translated Czech writers, has published a total of 15 books: novels, novellas and short stories. The novels *Hastrman* (Water-Goblin, 2001) and *Santiniho jazyk* (Santini's Language, 2005) have been made into films, and *Water-Goblin* won the top Czech literary award Magnesia Litera (2012). The novel *Sedmikostelí* (The Seven Churches, 1998), written in the spirit of Gothic novels and tales of terror, full of melancholy and murder in the middle of old Prague, has sold tens of thousands of copies and was translated into 20 languages. Almost every year Urban publishes a new novel on a variety of themes, which underlines his wide scope of interest. He combines suspense with literary quality.

RIGHTS SOLD:  
Spain (Huso editorial)

RIGHTS:  
Argo Publishers  
Veronika Chaloupková:  
veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz  
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English and German sample translations available



# Poetry

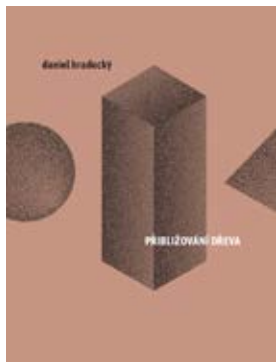
# Daniel Hradecký

## YARDING WOOD

The most important things to come from close friendships in a collection by the north-Bohemian underground bard.

The fourth book of poetry by the current *enfant terrible* of Czech poetry, Daniel Hradecký, is made up of three sections / separate compositions. In the ironic introductory “Editing the perfect poem”, the author focuses on literary language through the eyes of a poetry editor. The composition “Přibližování dřeva” (Yarding Wood) evokes the author’s encounters with

various people whose speech and life experiences create images in the book that will linger in the mind forever. The closing “Raussig” – referring to the German name for the Czech city Ústí nad Labem (Aussig) – is dedicated with affectionate hatred to the author’s hometown and the landscape of north Bohemia.



Přibližování dřeva  
Perplex, 2019, 64 pp

“Rather than a poetry collection, *Yarding Wood* is more like a two-part poem with an overture. Experience, presented here as statements by friends, becomes our own – we adopt it, navigating through it.”

—*Artzóna*

Photo: Josef Chuchma



Daniel Hradecký (1973) is a poet and novelist. From 1994 to 2007 he was an archivist at the Institute for Archaeological Heritage in Most. He has published the poetry collections *Muž v průlomu* (Man on the Verge, 2008), *V cirkuse Calvaria* (At the Clavario Circus, 2009) and *64* (2013, nominated for a Magnesia Litera Award in 2014) and the novel in diary form *Trosky jednoho deníku* (Debris of a Diary, 2016). *Přibližování dřeva* (Yarding Wood, 2019) is his fourth collection of poetry. He has lived in various places in north Bohemia, currently in Litvínov.

# Marie Šťastná HAPPINESS IS SURE TO COME

Marie Šťastná's lean poetry addresses universal questions concerning relationships, family expectations and inner freedom.

The collection *Happiness Is Sure to Come* is made up of sections that bring together poems on a particular theme – “Rules”, “Time”, “Breathing”, “Moving” and “Bridges” – and one could say they are everyday poems written from the perspective of a woman, mother, girlfriend, daughter and granddaughter. A concealed freedom is happily poured into the poems about the smiling promise of happiness in life, which plays very well with the author's surname on the cover

(“Šťastná” means “happy” in Czech). A detachment from non-happiness and sorrow – strangers' and one's own – the ability to take a sober and, in places, amused look at them, mixes with the ability to revive and rejoice in the old predatory ferocity and indomitability incarnate. *Happiness Is Sure to Come* has a disturbing chill to it, beneath which boils something very erotic and elementally unrestrained, which will obstinately rebel against the everyday and the expected.



Šťěstí jistě přijde  
Host, 2019, 72 pp

“The author has the ability to view situations and herself with detachment and humour that is unpretentious and unobtrusive, yet cathartic.”

—*Kulturní noviny*

Photo: Ladislav Purší



Marie Šťastná (1981) graduated from the teacher training college in Přerov and in art history and cultural history from Ostrava University's Faculty of Arts. She has written for various literary journals and published the poetry collections *Krajina s Ophelií* (Landscape with Ophelia, 2003, Jiří Orten Award 2004), *Akty* (Nudes, 2006) and *Interiéry* (Interiors, 2010). In the same year she was awarded the Dresden Lyric Prize. She lives in Prague.

RIGHTS:  
 Dana Blatná Literary Agency  
 Dana Blatná:  
 blatna@dbagency.cz  
 www.dbagency.cz

English sample translation available

# Jitka N. Srbová

## THE WORLD:

With one colon the author opens up the world: it is rich, colourful and judgment-free.

This fourth poetry collection by an author from the middle generation follows on from the poetic style of her previous collection *Les* (Forest, 2016). Here Jitka Srbová focuses on creation, on building worlds, on the moment when things come into being. God takes on many human roles and

characteristics. The colon at the end of the title *The World:* allows the reader to create their own world, to populate it with characters, sets and events, to make it their own. A lover of nature and train travel, Srbová is an observer of minor events who has a good ear for conversation and matters of the heart.



“The poet’s detailed view is admirable and sensitive.”

—*Krajské listy*

“A colon ... a modulator or variable that can be recast, a curly bracket after which anything might happen: the true start, an introduction as well as a continuation ... it says to the reader: everything that I intended, I intended to leave to you.”

—*Artzóna*

Svět:  
Dauphin, 2019, 118 pp



Photo: Jan Horáček



Jitka Bret Srbová (1976) is a poet and journalist. From 2006 to 2011 she was the editor-in-chief of the literary online almanac *Wagon*. She currently contributes to the fortnightly literary journal *Tvar*. She has published the poetry collections *Někdo se loudá po psím* (Someone Is Hanging Around Like a Dog, 2011), *Světlo vprostřed těla* (The Light in the Centre of the Body, 2013), *Les* (Forest, 2016) and *Svět*: (The World:, 2019). She lives in Hořovice.

RIGHTS  
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English sample translation available



# Children's and Young Adult

# Vojtěch Macocha

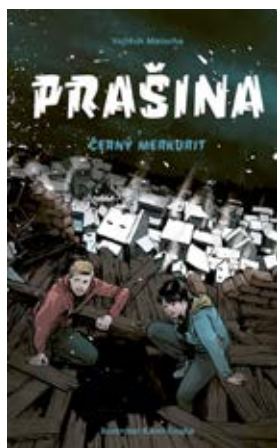
## DUSTZONE: BLACK MERCURIDE

The second instalment of the phenomenally successful adventure from a strange district of Prague.

Just like the first part of this thrilling story, the second volume of *Dustzone* has been a hit with readers. It brings the heroes, Jirka and En, back to Prašina – a district of Prague where electricity doesn't work and where the two central child characters have their Den. However, not far away is Křchleby, a dark corner of Prašina that poses a threat to the city. What's more, the friendship between the two

children is jeopardized by the secrets they are keeping from each other. But everything turns out quite differently to how readers would expect. The thrilling story, which the reader just can't put down, is complemented by Karel Osoha's shadowy illustrations of the mysterious district where normal rules don't apply and there are no modern conveniences to be found.

Age: 9+



Prašina: Černý Merkurit  
Illustrated by Karel Osoha  
Paseka, 2019, 260

“The new adventure is perhaps even more dangerous than the last and the author succeeds in developing themes previously hinted at... The second part feels as if it is leading up to another story.”

—iLiteratura

“Like the first book, the second is intense and thrilling. It's an unputdownable read until the very last page.”

—iDNES.cz

Vojtěch Matocha, photo: Agáta Dolejší



Vojtěch Matocha (1989) studied mathematics and now develops software for mobile phones. He has devoted himself to creative writing since grammar school, has successfully taken part in a number of literary competitions and writes reviews for *iLiteratura*. His debut *Prašina* (Dustzone, 2018) became a bestseller and enjoys popularity with readers across the generations. The book won the Teachers' Award for Contributing to the Development of Children's Reading and the "Night with Andersen" Night Sleepers' Award. It brought the author nominations for a Magnesia Litera Award, a Jiří Orten Award and a Golden Ribbon Award.

Karel Osoha (1991) is one of the leading Czech comics authors. He won the Muriel Award for Best Drawing for *Češi 1948: Jak se KSČ chopila moci* (Czechs 1948: How the Communist Party Seized Power, 2016). The illustrations for the book *Prašina* (Dustzone, 2018) and the first volume of the comics trilogy *Návrat Krále Šumavy* (The Return of the King of the Šumava, 2018) earned him a nomination for the Czech Grand Design Awards.

RIGHTS SOLD:  
Slovakia (Artforum)

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Paseka Publishers  
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www.paseka.cz

English and German sample translations available



DUSTZONE: BLACK MERCURIDE



# Petra Soukupová

## THE WEIRD KIDS CLUB

The third book for children and young adults, especially those who feel “weird”, penned by the respected and popular prose writer.

*The Weird Kids Club* includes ten-year-old Mila, who has a thing about insects and spiders; Petr, who is a little younger and hasn't grown much but is great at drawing and can't sleep at night because he's afraid of the dark; Katka, who's a bit chubby and takes refuge in books to escape her loneliness. And then there's Franta, who walks using crutches and is often mean. In their own way, each of them is wrestling

with being different from the majority. What keeps these “weird” kids from going under – excluded children who are completely normal but don't have it easy in the world of the perfect? Perhaps an unexpected friendship? Petra Soukupová has a deep understanding of children and is able to write stories for them that adult readers find riveting too.

Age: 9+



“The author wrote *The Weird Kids Club* with feeling, with profound empathy for the world of children, their hopes and fears. To do so, she chose her typical, tried-and-tested signature style: concise and clear sentences honed on screenwriting and shaping characters and situations mainly through direct speech. And it works to excellent effect: brilliantly written prose on a subject which won't go away any time soon.”

—iDNES.cz

Klub divných dětí  
Illustrated by Nikola Logosová  
Host, 2019, 216 pp





Petra Soukupová (1982) is a novelist, script editor and screenwriter. She studied scriptwriting and dramaturgy at Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. She is one of the most successful contemporary Czech novelists. To date she has published several novels for adults and three books for children. She is the recipient of numerous awards and nominations; her books regularly make it onto bestseller lists and have been translated into eight languages. Since 2009 she has been a regular contributor to themed short-story anthologies from the publisher Listen. Some of her books have also been made into films. For her prose debut *K moři* (To the Seaside, 2007) she received the Jiří Orten Award and was nominated for the Josef Škvorecký Award and the Magnesia Litera Award. Her second book, the triptych of short stories *Zmizet* (To Disappear, 2011), won the main prize – Book of the Year – as part of the Magnesia Litera Awards in 2010. She lives and works in Prague.

Nikola Logosová (1992) studied at the studio of illustration and graphic design at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague and now works as an illustrator and graphic designer. She focuses on original projects, zines, children's books and poster design. Her achievements have been acknowledged at the Most Beautiful Czech Books (2018) and Golden Ribbon (2019) awards.

RIGHTS:  
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English and German sample translations available

# David Böhm

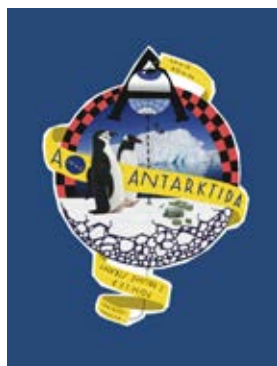
## A IS FOR ANTARCTICA / A VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE

What do the icy continent and its resilient inhabitants tell us about the comfortable existence of the rest of the globe?

Antarctica and its fauna as well as researchers and explorers are the heroes of David Böhm's richly illustrated book. The South Pole of Roald Amundsen and his rival Robert Falcon Scott is the subject of this encyclopaedia-style popular science book which looks at

Antarctica's unforgiving climate, inaccessibility, potential for exploration and interconnectedness with the global ecosystem. The use of mixed media, with the incorporation of old maps and photographs, ensures the book is lively and varied.

Age: 6+



A jako Antarktida / Pohled z druhé strany  
Illustrated by David Böhm  
Labyrint, 2019, 80 pp

“In *A for Antarctica*, Böhm does not just rely on the playful illustration style he employed in the award-winning publication *Hlava v hlavě* (The Head in the Head, 2013), but has actually transferred it into an original work of his own that ranks among world-class artistic encyclopaedias for the teenage audience.”

—*Literární noviny*

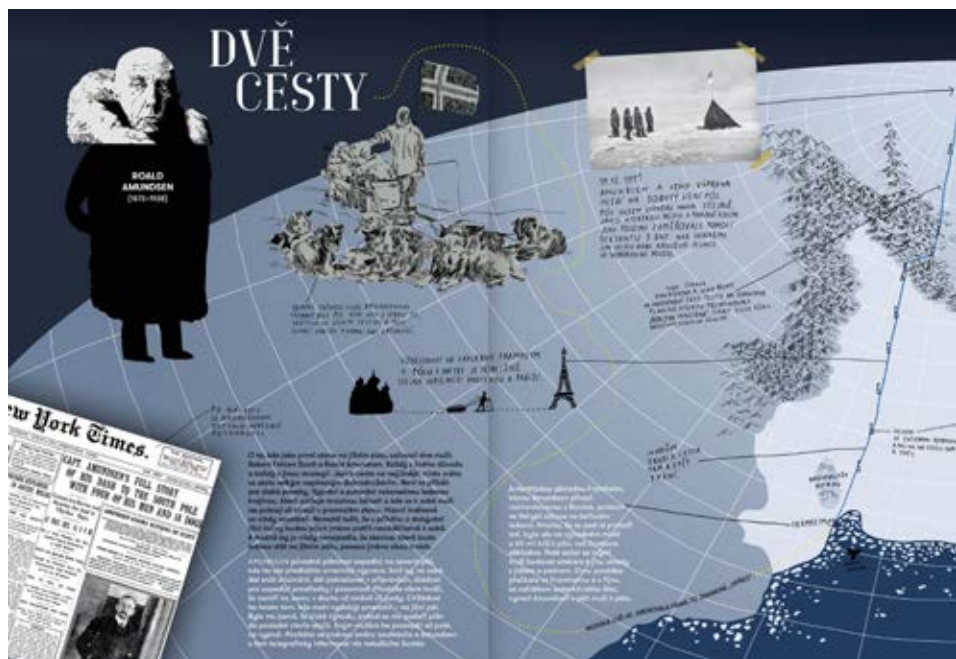
Photo: David Konečný (Moravská zemská knihovna v Brně—  
České literární centrum) (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)



David Böhm (1982) is an artist and author of illustrated children's books. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. His collection of comic-strip tales from Africa, *Ticho hrocha* (The Silence of the Hippo, 2009) won 2nd place in the competition for the Most Beautiful Czech Books of the Year. He also had success with the publication *Hlava v hlavě* (The Head in the Head, 2013): an encyclopaedic fount of knowledge with imaginative artistic and technical explanations of the functioning of the head perched on our necks (Most Beautiful Czech Books of the Year, 2014 Magnesia Litera Award, with the poet Ondřej Buddeus). There have been numerous translations – into German, Italian, Russian, Korean, etc. – of the work *Jak se dělá galerie* (How to Make a Gallery, 2016), created together with a team of authors from the Moravian Gallery headed by Ondřej Chrobák. His new book is called *A jako Antarktida* (A is for Antarctica, 2019). The book was first published in German in 2019 by Karl Rauch Verlag.

RIGHTS SOLD:  
Germany (Karl Rauch Verlag), Slovakia (BRaK),  
South Korea (Doureil)

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www.karl-rauch-verlag.de



### TUČŇÁK ÚŽŇOVÝ

délka 70 cm  
šířka 2,8 kg  
váha 2,5-3,5 kg

Jako je jasné z nápisů, tučňáci jsou dravci, kteří se živí rybami. Na ledě, kde žijí, nemají žádnou ochranu před predátory. I když se jim podaří najít potravu, musí se rychle vrátit do vody, aby se mohli vyhnout predátorům.



### TUČŇÁK OSLÍ

délka 70 cm  
šířka 2,8 kg  
váha 2,5-3,5 kg

Jedná se o druh tučňáka, který žije v Antarktidě. Jeho tělo je pokryto bílými a černými pruhy, což mu umožňuje dobře se maskovat před predátory.

## TUČŇÁCI

Slava tučňáků vychází ze spojení „tučný“ a „pák“ (tučný, lahodný, příjemný) – tučný, lahodný, příjemný. Hlavní to důvod, proč jsou tučňáci tak oblíbeni. Jsou to dravci, kteří se živí rybami. Na ledě, kde žijí, nemají žádnou ochranu před predátory. I když se jim podaří najít potravu, musí se rychle vrátit do vody, aby se mohli vyhnout predátorům.



### TUČŇÁK KRÁLOVSKÝ

délka 70 cm  
šířka 2,8 kg  
váha 2,5-3,5 kg

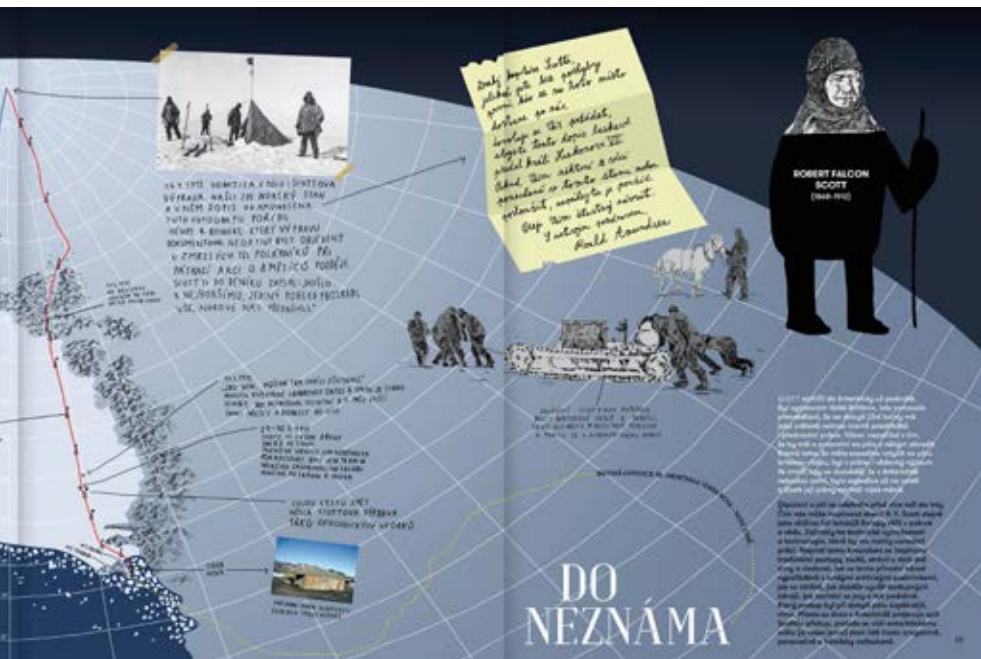
Slava mu byla dána díky tomu, že je velmi krásný a má velmi krásnou barvu. Jeho tělo je pokryto bílými a černými pruhy, což mu umožňuje dobře se maskovat před predátory.



### TUČŇÁK ŽLUTOKRÝ

délka 70 cm  
šířka 2,8 kg  
váha 2,5-3,5 kg

Slava mu byla dána díky tomu, že je velmi krásný a má velmi krásnou barvu. Jeho tělo je pokryto bílými a černými pruhy, což mu umožňuje dobře se maskovat před predátory.





# Jiří Dvořák

## WHERE WE LIVE

What we have learned from animals about constructing our dwellings is revealed in this book, which can be looked at through two filters using different-coloured plastic sheets.

Jiří Dvořák examines how animals and people create their homes. Burrows, nests, webs, excavated holes, castles, skyscrapers, palaces – all of these utilize what nature has to offer. The author of this interactive book has tried to show that the way in which people's dwellings are constructed does not significantly differ from the way members of the animal kingdom create theirs, and that animals have also inspired people in the way they create their homes.

The book has not only been designed to be read and looked at, but also to be examined more closely: the green plastic film shows the world of people and the red one the world of animals.

Age: 8+



Bydlíme!  
Illustrated by Daniela Olejníková  
Baobab, 2019, 32 pp

“The book *Where We Live* goes beyond traditional books for children. The use of red and green not only looks attractive, but it also offers the opportunity to uncover analogies in the lives of people and animals. In the age-old conflict between humans and animals, the reader can alternate perspectives using transparent green and red film. The harmonious typography in the thoughtfully layered illustrations and the pleasing rhythm combine to produce a flawless overall experience from the book.”

—Most Beautiful Czech Books jury

Photo: Baobab



Jiří Dvořák (1970) is the author of books for children and young adults and educational history books. He studied at the College of Agriculture in Suchdol. Since graduating he has been employed as a magazine editor. His book *Zpátky do Afriky!* (Back to Africa!, 2005) was nominated in the Golden Ribbon competition in the category Literary Work of 2005. He is also the illustrator of the book *Jak zvířata spí* (How Animals Sleep, 2014).

AWARDS:  
2018 Most Beautiful Czech Books – Literature for  
Children and Young Adults

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Baobab Publishers  
gplusg@gplusg.cz





# Comics

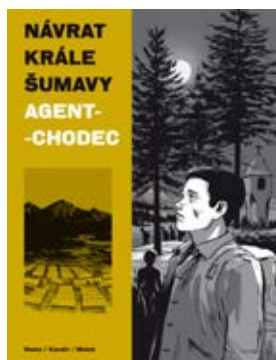
# Ondřej Kavalír, Vojtěch Mašek, Karel Osoha

## THE RETURN OF THE KING OF THE ŠUMAVA, PART 2: AGENT-WALKER

The second part in a thrilling, dramatic series about one of the most remarkable figures from Cold War Czechoslovakia.

A continuation of the series based on the bestselling novel by David Jan Žák, *The Return of the King of the Šumava*, inspired by real-life events, in which the former border guard Josef Hasil, the legendary King of the Šumava, escapes from a labour camp to Bavaria along with refugees from Czechoslovakia. This makes him a sought-after

individual by both sides' counterintelligence and the Czech secret police, including his adversary Captain Fišer. We find ourselves back in the border region, but also at the headquarters of State Security during the Cold War. Just as thrilling as the first volume and with the same real flesh-and-blood hero.



Návrat Krále Šumavy 2 / Agent-chodec  
Illustrated by Karel Osoha  
Labyrint, 2019, 216 pp

“A work with the intensity of a thriller that will have you eagerly awaiting the next instalment.”

—Aktualne.cz

“The authors of *The King of the Šumava* have given readers hope with a Marvel-style character whose doubts, dark aspects and weaknesses offer a living interpretation of recent history.”

—Respekt

From left to right: Vojtěch Mašek, Ondřej Kavalír and Karel Osoha.  
Photo: Labyrint



Ondřej Kavalír (1980) is a writer for the magazine *Raketa* and an editor, dramaturg and translator. He studied political science, history and film science and comparative studies at Charles University in Prague. He worked as editor of the revue *Labyrint* and for many years as an essayist and film and literary critic for the magazine *A2*. He is the recipient of a Golden Ribbon for best translation and a Muriel prize for best translated comic book.

Vojtěch Mašek (1977) is a comics writer and artist, author of film screenplays and theatre plays. The film *Křižáček* (Little Crusader, 2017), which he co-wrote received the main award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Along with Markéta Hajsá and Máša Bořkocová, he created the triptych *O přibježi* (2010), commenting on the fate of Czech and Slovak Roma. In 2019, he received three Muriel prizes for the books *Sestry Dietlové* (The Dietl Sisters, 2018) and *Svatá Barbora* (Saint Barbara, 2018). Mašek is also 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.

Karel Osoha (1991) is one of the leading Czech comics authors. He won the Muriel Award for Best Drawing for *Češi 1948: Jak se KSČ chopila moci* (Czechs 1948: How the Communist Party Seized Power, 2016). The illustrations for the book *Prašina* (Dustzone, 2018) and the first volume of the comics trilogy *Návrat Krále Šumavy* (The Return of the King of the Šumava, 2018) earned him a nomination for the Czech Grand Design Awards.

RIGHTS:  
Labyrint Publishers  
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[www.labyrint.net/stranka/21/english](http://www.labyrint.net/stranka/21/english)

# Nikkarin SUPER SPELLSWORD SAGA: THE LEGEND OF INFINITY

A comedy comic book from the fantasy genre full of pop-culture allusions.

In this funny and entertaining conversational comic book, the wizarding order is confronted with the dangerous Magic Doughnut of Infinity. Two wizards, Klerenc and Eliot, are sent to find the “chronomancer,” the

only one who can eat the doughnut without it bringing about the end of the world. This playful, colourful comic book full of references to contemporary pop culture is highly original and masterfully drawn.



Super Spellword Sága: Legenda o Nekonečnu  
Illustrated by Nikkarin  
Labyrint, 2019, 128 pp

“In his new comic book, Nikkarin moves away from the black-and-white drawings of the previous 130 series. It’s now more colourful, playful, talkative and cheerful.”

—*iLiteratura*

“The book is brightly coloured, the stylization brutally simple, the narrative is pacy and there isn’t a single page without humorous chat or visual jokes.”

—*Host*

Photo: Marcel Skýba



Nikkarin (real name Michal Menšík, 1987) is an artist, cartoonist and comic-book author. He publishes comic strips in the magazine *ČiliChili*. He mainly came to attention through the comic-book series 130. He illustrated the children's books *Jak vznikl film* (How Film Came into Being, 2017) and *Jak se dělá film* (How to Make a Film, 2019). *Super Spellsword Sága* is the first major book of his own.



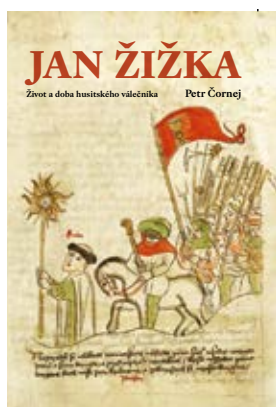
# Non-Fiction

# Petr Čornej JAN ŽIŽKA: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE HUSSITE WARRIOR

A monumental new biography of the most famous Czech Hussite military leader, Jan Žižka of Trocnov

The acclaimed historian Petr Čornej has written a ground-breaking biography of one of the emblematic figures of Czech history. The book is being published to mark the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Hussite revolution and is the culmination of the author's life-long professional interest in Hussitism. The biography of Žižka represents the undefeated captain in an unconventional way: against the background of a colourful historical panorama, which helps us to understand Žižka's

inner world and the motivation for his actions. It points out his strategic and leadership abilities and the flexibility and dedication of his warriors. In several thematic blocks, it explains the activities of Jan Hus, the situation in Hussite Prague, the personality of the Czech king Jiří of Poděbrady, the historiography of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and how Hussitism is reflected in modern Czech society.



Jan Žižka: Život a doba husitského válečníka  
Paseka, 2019, 856 pp

“This large-scale biography of Žižka is 856-pages long and is accompanied by around 180 images. In it the undefeated warrior emerges as a bold, courageous, impulsive and deeply religious field commander whose ambivalent deeds were motivated by sincere devotion to the Hussite conception of the holy law as well as the desire to atone for his personal failures.”

—*Proti sedí*



Photo: Agáta Dolejší



Petr Čornej (1951) is an eminent Czech historian. He specializes in the history of the Late Middle Ages, especially Hussitism, the history of historiography and research into historical memory. Before 1989 he worked at the Institute for Czech and World Literature at the Czech Academy of Sciences, and afterwards he lectured at Charles University's Faculty of Arts, headed the department of history and history didactics at the university's Faculty of Education and taught at the Literary Academy. Since 2013 he has worked at the Czech Academy of Sciences. He is the author or co-author of many books, including two volumes of *Velké dějiny země Koruny české* (Great History of the Lands of the Czech Crown).

# Anna Beata Hábllová

## THE NON-PLACES OF TOWNS

A book about non-places – spaces beyond the boundaries of our everyday life that we would prefer to ignore.

The book of essays *The Non-Places of Towns* by the poet and architect Anna Beata Hábllová takes a multi-perspective view of the marginal spaces in towns: neglected, transitory and overlooked places, i.e. “non-places.” Non-places come into existence for various reasons: because of an ill-conceived development, an impractical location or interventions in the landscape. Although they are irritating and repellent, they can also be a place to

escape the predictability of the public space. The author works with sources from the field of architecture and urban planning or urban studies, but also philosophy, sociology, economics and geography. Each essay is preceded by a thematically linked short story. *The Non-Places of Towns* is a contribution to the search for a home and one's own place in the world: such a topical issue in this day and age.



“...these are inspirational musings on the hidden face of our towns, encouraging us to view them as living tissue which transforms, dies off and regenerates in an elemental way.”

—*iLiteratura*

“The book forces everyone to think about their own life and the places in which it has played out and is playing out, and also to dig up memories that have been very deeply buried. It is sometimes unpleasant, but all the more important for that.”

—Adam Gebrian, architect

Nemísta měst  
Host, 2019, 168 pp

Photo: Ladislav Zedník



Anna Beata Hábllová (1983) is an architect, urban planner and poet. Her first scholarly book was the cross-genre publication *Města zdí* (Cities of Walls, 2017) about the history, interpretation and basis of shopping centres in relation to the town, written in the form of essays, short stories and comics. She contributes feuilletons about architecture and urban planning to Czech Radio Vltava broadcasts. She hosts themed evenings about art and architecture at the Prague cultural centre Dominikánská 8. She lives in Prague.

# 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:

- publishing costs of an issue where at least 50% of the total content is dedicated to original Czech literature. In total, the grant can cover up to 70% 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

- 15<sup>th</sup> May for books and excerpts to be published in the same year as the application is submitted
- 15<sup>th</sup> November for books and excerpts to be published in the following year after the application is submitted

CONTACT PERSON:  
Radim Kopáč, Ministry of Culture Czech Republic  
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For more information visit:  
[www.mkcr.cz/literature-and-libraries-1123.html?lang=en](http://www.mkcr.cz/literature-and-libraries-1123.html?lang=en)



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

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

# 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 frame-work of a thematic national exposition. The accompanying cultural programme aims at bringing Czech authors together in the form of discussions and readings, especially at the Leipzig Book Fair (focused primarily on translations) or at the most important venue, the Frankfurt Book Fair. Czech book culture is presented in a similar scope also at the book fair in Bologna, which focuses on books for children, and at the London Book Fair. The Moravian Library is also the parent organisation of the Czech Literary Centre, which supports and promotes Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic.

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