New Czech Books 2022



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Introduction

Dear readers,

The world we live in, with its apparent and fragile stability, is disrupted by unforeseen events affecting the lives of everyone. And, as this selection of 2022 Czech books indicates, Czech authors feel the need to reflect on current events. The time when writers were accused of turning away from society and indulging in private dramas and codified narratives of the past is over.

Thus, in his compact short story collection called *Lilliputin*, Jan Němec responds to events in Ukraine, exploring how the power of literature can deal with the new historical trauma. In his novel *So Much Ash*, nominated for the 2023 EU Prize for Literature, Ondřej Štindl returns to the collective neurosis of the period at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Vratislav Maňák plays out pressing current social themes disguised in allegory in his collection *The Death of Old Masha*. The established novelist Kateřina Tučková, the 2022 Czech State Award for Literature winner, goes deeper into the past in her substantial documentary-like novel *Bílá Voda*, uncovering the persecution of nuns during the communist regime.

The Czech Literary Centre has been paying attention to all forms of literature, but in 2023 it primarily focuses on supporting literature for children and young adults. A selection of interesting books for young readers can be found in this catalogue as well as in our new publication *Czech Books for Children and Young Adults 2020–2022*. Many of these books will be presented at the 2023 International Children's Literature Festival in Saarbrücken, Germany.

In recent years, Czech graphic novels have drawn the interest of foreign publishers. In this catalogue, you will find, among others, Lucie Lomová's *Every Day Is New*, the winner of the 2022 Muriel Award for the best graphic novel. This year, Czech comics will be presented at festivals in Munich (DE), Lyon (FR) and Bowness-on-Windermere (UK).

My team and I are confident that we can introduce you to some inspirational literature!

Martin Krafl Programme coordinator for the presentation of the Czech Republic at international book fairs Head coordinator of the Czech Literary Centre

CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

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.

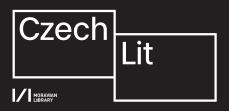
CzechLit:

- 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
- 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 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

CONTACT US: www.czechlit.cz info@czechlit.cz

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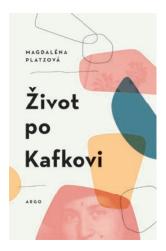
Fiction

Magdaléna Platzová LIFE AFTER KAFKA

A novel inspired by the fate of Kafka's fiancée Felice Bauer

Who was Felice, a woman known to generations of Kafka fans only as a lover of meaty dishes, heavy furniture and precise watches? Who was the woman hiding behind the poised nature and hearty laughter in the accounts? Moreover, what was the reach of Kafka's shadow in her life? Felice has never been deemed worthy of independent study by literary scholars, and little is known about her life after her separation from the Prague writer. She got married, had two children and emigrated to America. For forty years, she kept the letters of the man who left her.

Magdaléna Platzová began searching for traces of Felice in the United States in 2010 when Felice's son was still alive. Platzová met up with him and his family, giving rise to a book that is not only about Felice but also about other people who were close to Kafka and whose fates are linked to the ruins of pre-war Europe, like Grete Bloch, Ernst Weiss, Max Brod and Salman Schocken. Schocken is quoted in the book saying, "If only we knew then what fate had in store for us, and how precious what we were experiencing was, we would have appreciated it more. All we can do now is fish for the pieces of a sunken ship."



Život po Kafkovi Argo, 2022, 240 pages "A book that deserves the attention of Kafka experts as well as those who have never delved deeper into the work of the world's most famous Prague writer."

—Česká televize



Magdaléna Platzová (1972) is a writer and playwright. She grew up in Prague, went to school in the United States and England, and earned a master's degree in Philosophy from Charles University in Prague. She worked as an actress and translator and later as an editor and journalist. From 2009 to 2012, she lived in New York, where she taught a course on Franz Kafka at New York University. She currently lives in Lyon with her husband and three children.

RIGHTS SOLD: US (Bellevue Literary Press), France (Agullo), Italy (Voland)

RIGHTS: Argo publishers Veronika Chaloupková: veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz www.argo.cz

English and French sample translations available

Kateřina Tučková BÍLÁ VODA

A monumental novel by one of the most beloved Czech writers

Bílá Voda, limpid white water. This is the poetic name of a forsaken village hidden in the shadow of bordering mountains, to which droves of pilgrims once would journey to entreat the miraculous statue of the Virgin Mary for help. It is in this very place, several centuries later, that Lena Lagnerová arrives, seeking a refuge from her own past, which has brought her to the brink of suicide. Instead of a monastery with a large religious community. however, all she finds are a few nuns, led by the idiosyncratic Sister Evarista. Evarista came to Bílá Voda on the last night of September in 1950, when the communist regime carted off all holy

sisters to detention convents. Lena soon realizes that the demons haunting the past of the Bílá Voda nuns have not disappeared, and what's more, play a role in her own destiny.

Evarista's story, along with the fates of the other nuns, are based on real events, which Kateřina Tučková spent many years researching in archives and from among witnesses. In addition to the riveting narrative, Tučková's novel critically considers the status of women in the Catholic Church, and at the same time, on a symbolic level, the unequal status of women in society as a whole.



Bílá Voda Host, 2022, 688 pp "It could be said that Tučková has invented a new genre. She does not write historical novels, but novels of the silenced."

-Seznam Zprávy





Kateřina Tučková (1980) is a writer, playwright, publicist, art historian and curator of exhibitions. More than 300,000 copies of her books have been sold in the Czech Republic alone. She has won several literary awards, including the 2022 Czech State Award for Literature. In 2017, she was awarded the Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Award by the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes. She has also received the Premio Libro d'Europa at the Book Fair in Salerno, Italy. Her books have been published in twenty languages.

AWARDS: 2022 Czech State Award for Literature

RIGHTS SOLD: Poland (Afera), Hungary (Kalligram), Italy (Keller Editore)

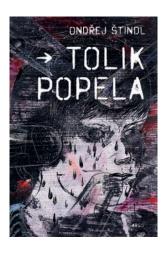
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English and German sample translations available

Ondřej Štindl SO MUCH ASH

Ondřej Štindl's best novel to date takes place in Prague during the pandemic and was nominated for the 2023 EU Prize for Literature.

An aging writer and translator, the novel's protagonist Kryštof abruptly finds himself at a crossroads when he meets the young leftist intellectual Kristýna, and not long afterwards Kamil, a guru with a strange connection to Kryštof's deceased sister. The emerging pandemic is changing life as he knows it, making the possibility of the world's end more real than ever—in fact, Kryštof might be headed towards a "personal apocalypse," plagued by melancholy, the grotesque, intrusive memories and dark forebodings. He becomes a hesitant actor in what is either a story of great revelation or a cruel cosmic joke. Or a love story.



Tolik popela Argo, 2022, 312 pp

"So Much Ash is a novel that transcends the norms of contemporary Czech literary fiction and can also attract foreign readers."

—The Czech jury of the 2023 EU Prize for Literature



Ondřej Štindl (1966) is a film and music critic, writer, screenwriter and DJ. The film *Pouta* (Walking Too Fast), based on his script, premiered in 2010. In 2020 he was awarded the Ferdinand Peroutka Prize for his journalistic work. He is the author of the novels *Mondschein* (2012), *K hranici* (To the Border, 2016), *Až se ti zatočí hlava* (Until Your Head Starts Spinning, 2020) and *Tolik popela* (So Much Ash, 2022).

RIGHTS: Argo publishers Veronika Chaloupková: veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz www.argo.cz

English sample translation available

Jan Němec LILLIPUTIN: STORIES FROM A WAR

A prompt and powerful literary response to the war in Ukraine by the award-winning Czech writer

A Czech in Ukraine in search of his alter ego. A gang of homeless kids driven from a cellar by tenants using it as a shelter from the war. A German couple who "rented a womb" in Ukraine, whose child is now stuck in Kyiv. A teenager partnered with a Valkyrie for the distribution of lavash in besieged Mariupol, who delays his flight until it is too late. A Russian academic mounting a protest in the centre of Moscow, in a costume from Swan Lake. They may not be soldiers at the front, but for the characters in these stories, life will never again be as it was before the war. Jan Němec has produced a work that could hardly be more different from Ways of Writing about Love (2019), his previous fiction. One thing hasn't changed, though: he is writing not about "themes" but about what really matters in life. "The war fuelled me with an anger I needed to write about. I wanted to know what fiction can do right now - without the benefit of hindsight, without separation by several hundred kilometres. I wrote five stories - two of the west, two Ukrainian, one Russian – as someone might light one cigarette after another. They all talk about war, but it's not always clear who the enemy is," says the writer.



Liliputin: Povídky z války Host, 2022, 168 pp



Fiction

Jan Němec (1981) is the editor-in-chief of the *Host* magazine. His two previous novels are *Dějiny světla* (A History of Light, 2013) and *Možnosti milostného románu* (Ways of Writing about Love, 2019); the former won the 2014 EU Prize for Literature, while the latter was shortlisted for the 2020 Magnesia Litera Award. His books have been published in fifteen languages.

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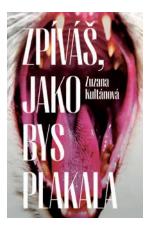
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English sample translation available

Zuzana Kultánová YOU SING LIKE YOU'RE CRYING

How many people can a person love, asks Andrea, who is stuck between two men.

Zuzana Kultánová, the author of the award-winning historical novel *Augustin Zimmermann* (2016), now wrote a story about a contemporary young woman who grew up in the Czech Republic in the 1990s, after the Velvet Revolution and the return to democracy. First a poor student, then a desirable lover and finally a doubting wife and mother who longs for an "ordinary life", which she is unable to build. She underestimates herself and feels that she doesn't deserve it. Andrea is constantly in dialogue with her loved ones, with a world torn apart by crisis and with herself. She is both critical and self-critical. With brutal sincerity, she admits to her faults and failures and recounts the humiliating life of her father, a gastarbeiter and gambler. She is also not afraid to reveal the dark side of motherhood.



Zpíváš, jako bys plakala Paseka, 2022, 192 pp



Zuzana Kultánová (1986) studied Czech language and literature at the University of Ostrava before becoming editor-in-chief of the journal *Opičí revue*. For her debut book *Augustin Zimmermann* (2016) she was nominated for the 2017 Magnesia Litera Award for Discovery of the Year and won the 2017 Jiří Orten Award. She works as a teacher and book editor. The Book *You Sing Like You're Crying* (2022) is her second novel.

RIGHTS: Prague Literary Agency Maria Sileny: maria@sileny.de www.praglit.de

English, French and Spanish sample translations available

Bianca Bellová THE ISLAND

Love, adventure, exoticism, enterprise – traditional ingredients that can still be worked with to create a playful yet sophisticated story.

The Island is a compact novel that focuses on an isolated island through which trade routes between Europe and Asia ran sometime in the late 17th century. Rather than being a utopia, the novel is a dystopia – the good times are long gone and now everything is just surviving, nostalgically looking back to the past and unable to stop decay and extinction. This atmosphere evokes Bianca Bellová's previous novels – *The Lake* and *Mona*. However, the melancholy of the island is balanced by the places where it is possible to make a name for oneself and where the predatory entrepreneurial spirit that prevails on the journey from Venice to Persia is already manifesting itself. One passes imperceptibly into the other: the novel shows how thin the line is between cleverness and calculation, courage and recklessness, civilization and barbarism, but also between love and self-love. *The Island* has all the ingredients of a story that can't be put down until we know how it turns out.



Ostrov Host, 2022, 184 pp

"Bianca Bellová has written her best book yet." —Host

"*The Island* is one of those books that you can read more than once and find something new every time." —*iLiteratura*



Bianca Bellová (1970) was born in Prague, where she lives halfway between the Balkan and British parts of her family. She is a writer, translator and interpreter. She has published seven books of fiction, most notably the novel *Jezero* (The Lake, 2016) which has won several literary awards, including the 2017 EU Prize for Literature, and its publication rights have been sold to twenty-two countries. Her latest novel is *Ostrov* (The Island, 2022).

RIGHTS SOLD: Bulgaria (Izida)

RIGHTS: Pluh Edgar de Bruin: info@pluh.org www.pluh.org

English sample translation available

Dora Kaprálová SUFFERING AND OTHER GENRES

Distinctive prose about everyday sufferings and pleasures and the passing of loved ones

In this collection of prose pieces, the autobiographical narrator records seemingly everyday moments from her life and the lives of her loved ones as well as people she just sees on the street. All the subtle observations and depictions of random encounters and incidents prove that Dora Kaprálová is one of the more linguistically skilful Czech writers. Her prose is sometimes imaginative, sometimes ironic, sometimes even dreamy, but always stylistically precise and masterful. As in her previous books, the writer deals with themes such as exile, one's relationship to home, to other people, but also the finite nature of life and the passing of loved ones. As the title of the collection might suggest, Kaprálová does not write true short stories but she rather moves freely in the literary space, sometimes switching to a reportage style and occasionally even to poetry within her prose. However, her narratives are always engaging and captivating.



Utrpení a jiné žánry Druhé město, 2022, 208 pp "A great strength of Dora Kaprálová is her ability to observe both close up and from a distance at the same time: with attention to detail, but insightfully and concisely."

—iLiteratura



Dora Kaprálová (1975) is a Czech writer and journalist. She grew up in Brno, where she gained an M.A. in dramaturgy and scriptwriting from the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts. Currently based in Berlin, she has published a number of texts on migration, integration, living in exile, communist heritage, Czech and Central European literature, and contemporary poetry. She is the author of Zimní kniha o lásce (A Winter Book of Love, 2014), Berlínský zápisník (The Berlin Notebook, 2016) and Ostrovy (Islands, 2019) as well as children's books, plays and screenplays. She has received several journalism awards and a number of her books have appeared in German translation.

RIGHTS SOLD: Germany (Balaena Verlag)

RIGHTS: Druhé město publishers Jan Pražan: prazan@druhemesto.cz www.druhemesto.cz

Viktor Špaček AN IMPECCABLE LIFE IN HUMILITY

Well-crafted stories about people whose lives slip between their fingers.

In the collection of ten stories *An Impeccable Life in Humility* the artist and writer Viktor Špaček relies on his extremely precise and polished language to depict ten individuals whose lives have in some way gone fundamentally wrong. Instead of trying to reverse the unfavourable situation, they choose to ponder when it was that their fate deviated from the original trajectory. Like the young hedonist from the short story "Kostěj", who becomes a father and suddenly is overlooked by his partner and now has room for reflection. The author brilliantly captures all the different characters with their ambitions, desires and pasts. Although all the stories in the book focus on a similar theme, they do not feel repetitive. The stagnation of the characters' lives gradually reveals itself to the reader as permanent rather than temporary, which gives the texts a hopeless but also inexorably authentic tone.



host

Čistý, skromný život Host, 2022, 182 pp "A book you simply can't put down." —*Kultura21*

"Although the characters of Viktor Špaček's short stories have little hope left, the reader does not get the feeling that all hope is lost. Špaček's stories are meaningful."

-Host



Viktor Špaček (1976) is a poet, writer and artist. He studied sculpture and now works freelance as a proof-reader, editor, librarian and teacher of creative writing courses. He published three collections of poems and two collections of short stories. His poems were repeatedly featured in the *Best Czech Poetry* anthologies.

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

Jana Guljuškina JOLKA

A captivating debut novel about studying abroad in St. Petersburg, Dostoevsky's novels and the search for oneself

In the novel *Jolka*, the protagonist of the same name goes on a study trip to St. Petersburg to penetrate the mystery of Dostoevsky's novels, to get to know the distinctive Russian soul and, last but not least, to escape from her own past. A graduate in Russian studies, Jana Guljuškina wrote an imaginative story set mostly between 2007 and 2008 in which narrative perspectives alternate vividly. The novel focuses mainly on the young woman's encounter with a different culture – at first Jolka experiences misunderstanding in St. Petersburg as she does not know the language and the Russian students have a problem pronouncing her name. Over time, however, she begins to bond with both the frosty environment of St. Petersburg and some young Russians. At the same time, it turns out that more than the desire to discover a foreign country, she was driven to Russia by her bleak past, in which there are several broken relationships. This dense, somewhat melancholic novel is a mature work by a writer from whom both Czech and foreign readers can expect a lot from in the future.



Jolka Dybbuk, 2022, 256 pp "The book has a fast pace, and it's hard to walk away from it." —*iLiteratura*

"Jolka is a well-crafted story about searching for a home and trying to reconcile with oneself."



Jana Guljuškina (1984) studied Russian language and literature at Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno. She specializes in contemporary Russian literature.

RIGHTS: Dybbuk publishers: Šárka Šavrdová: sarka@dybbuk.cz www.dybbuk.cz

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Anna Cima REMEMBERING THE EEL

This multi-layered novel set in Japan is a story of friendship, courage and the power of memories.

Sára Fukuharová, born to a Czech mother and a Japanese father, lives in Yokohama and is doing research on the Japanese eel, a species which is dying out. Her few friends include Mr. Nakajima, the owner of the house in which she lives, and neighbour Miju, who can't take a step without her wooden sword and spends hours talking to Unagi the eel. This peaceful life is turned upside down by the visit of Yuka Suzuki, Sára's former classmate from school, who is searching for a missing colleague from the editorial office of the newspaper where she works. Long forgotten events emerge from the past, and all three women embark on a journey that presents them with one life challenge after another.



Vzpomínky na úhoře Paseka, 2022, 720 pp "After the successful debut *I Wake Up in Shibuya*, Anna Cima again shows her unique position in contemporary Czech fiction. Her books deviate from the local context so much they almost give the impression of translated fiction."

—iLiteratura

"Cima has proved she is one of the most outstanding talents of Czech literature."

-Víkend HN



Anna Cima (1991) was born in Prague and studied Japanese Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. She currently lives in Japan, where she is focusing on post-war Japanese literature. Her first novel, *I Wake up in Shibuya* (2018), received an enthusiastic response from both readers and critics. It also won a number of awards, including the Jiří Orten Award and the 2019 Magnesia Litera Award for Discovery of the Year. In addition to writing, Anna Cima also translates from Japanese.

RIGHTS SOLD: Hungary (Metropolis Media Group Kft.)

RIGHTS: Paseka publishers Pavlína Juračková: Jurackova@paseka.cz www.paseka.cz

Vratislav Maňák THE DEATH OF OLD MASHA

In six allegorical short stories, the author employs various folklore literary genres – from legend and fable to arabesque – to depict the problems of today.

Once upon a time... The Virgin Mary died in Warsaw. Poachers slit the bellies of grouse. Masquerade boots were made from lion paws. Persian gates were closed to caravans. The Full Moon lent to hares so that they could buy furs. The magician Rye crowed over Prague. *The Death of Old Masha* presents the reader with romantic illusion. Thomas the Apostle warns at the outset: "Truth is a story hidden behind legend." "The book is ultimately an experiment and a play with genre. It is an attempt to talk about the present as though it happened long ago and has left behind only a remnant of myth. Or perhaps it's the other way around: an attempt to find a remnant of myth in the present," says Vratislav Maňák.



Smrt staré Máši Host, 2022, 242 pp "The author confirms his exceptional linguistic talent in *The Death of Old Masha*."

—Aktuálně



Vratislav Maňák (1988) is the author of the short story collection *Šaty z igelitu* (Polythene Clothes, 2011), for which he won the Jiří Orten Award. In 2016, he published the novel *Rubikova kostka* (Rubik's Cube), which was nominated for the 2017 EU Prize for Literature. He works as a journalist and teaches at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague.

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

English sample translation available



Petr Hruška I CAUGHT SIGHT OF MY FACE

Poems from the deck on which the struggle for humanity is fought

Petr Hruška has been widely considered as one of the most important Czech poets with his poems based on focused observation. But his latest book, *I Caught Sight of My Face*, has really taken readers' breath away. The theme of the collection is not the present, but rather the past. And lyricism here is replaced by epic, and not just any epic: the poetic cycle draws on *The First Voyage around the World*, written exactly five hundred years earlier for the imperial court by Antonio Pigafetta, one of the participants in Ferdinand Magellan's voyage of discovery. However, the reader should not expect a glorious saga of human heroism and conquest. In fact, it is quite the opposite: Hruška adopted the fictional perspective of a Venetian adventurer to show that human behaviour has not changed in half a millennium. Man remains an anxious, insecure, sometimes cowardly, evil, xenophobic and violent being. It is an easy-to-read, uncomplicated, yet at the same time deeply profound book.



Spatřil jsem svou tvář Host, 2022, 70 pp



Petr Hruška (1964) is a poet and literary scholar who lives in Ostrava and works at the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. He has published eight poetry collections, including *Darmata* (To No Travail, 2012), for which he was awarded the Czech State Award for Literature. His poems have been translated into many European languages and books of his selected poems have been published in Germany, Poland, Italy, Hungary and Slovenia.

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RIGHTS: Petr Hruška: lijavec@volny.cz

English and Spanish sample translations available

Radek Malý POEMS ON PUNCHED CARDS

How to survive a pandemic other than through poetry?

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Radek Malý decided to play an unusual game in order to keep his sanity at a time when the world around him seemed to be shaking at its foundations. He got hold of an old typewriter and a bundle of used punched cards on which he wrote over 400 poems. It became the distinctive diary of the "plague year", also portraying the breakup of traditional values, family relationships and the poet's private anxieties. For the book, the editor Olga Stehlíková selected poems representing all the different shades of Malý's poetry in order to attractively showcase the various themes and to make sure none of them overshadows the others. A harmonious book emerges that surprises with its openness, sexuality and humanity.



Básně na děrné štítky Odeon, 2022, 80 pp



Radek Malý (1977) is a poet, specialist in Czech Studies, translator and pioneer in live poetry and poetry for children. He has won several major literary awards including the Jiří Orten Award and two Magnesia Litera Awards. He translates the poetry of Georg Trakl.

RIGHTS: Euromedia Group Jindřich Jůzl: odeon@euromedia.cz www.euromedia.cz

Olga Stehlíková SIREN TEST

Poetry of love and passion for language, a desire to understand it and an attempt to show how language holds us with its power.

The starting point of this collection consists of two of the most common types of lyric poetry which are deeply rooted in the literary tradition - love and nature. But it is only a floor plan, so to speak, because motifs and themes are not the main thing in this collection, the main thing is the language itself and its infinite possibilities. Olga Stehlíková shows how through words and linguistic expression we relate to events, situations, people and things ... This collection is not a linguistic laboratory where sterile experiments take place; but on the contrary, it is a set of poems behind which we always

feel an authentic experience, a real life story that finally took the form of a text and ended up on paper. The author does not tell the stories of the characters or even her own stories, but she tells the story of a language that has to go through so many different situations while always serving the purposes that are given to it from the outside. In Olga Stehlíková's poems, it is as if one could breathe out for a moment, take a break and express oneself, showing complicity in what we call reality and what we usually consider as an objective fact - but half of it is actually linguistic.



Zkouška Sirén Host, 2022, 72 pp



Olga Stehlíková (1977) works as a freelance writer, editor and critic with a focus on contemporary Czech literature. She has edited dozens of books of poetry and prose for various Czech publishing houses and her own poetry has appeared in many Czech and foreign literary magazines, including *Modern Poetry in Translation* and *Versopolis Review*. Her debut collection *Týdny* (Weeks, 2014) won the 2015 Magnesia Litera Award for poetry. Her second collection *Vejce/Eggs* (Couplets, 2017), was released along with an LP with Tomáš Braun's music. Her third book of poetry was *Vykřičník jak stožár* (Exclamation Mark High as a Pole, 2018) and her latest is *Zkouška Sirén* (Siren Test, 2022).

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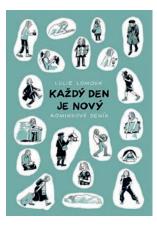
English sample translation available



Lucie Lomová EVERY DAY IS NEW

This comic diary, containing ordinary, funny and touching experiences from one year of the artist's life, won the 2022 Muriel Award for the best graphic novel.

In 2017, Lucie Lomová set a challenging target: to record every day of the year in comics. She also promised to herself she would not retrospectively edit the records. When she began with the diary, she could hardly guess how eventful the year would be. The sequence of the daily, repetitive activities – drawing at home at the table, practising Tai chi, shopping, feeding the birds in the park and doing housework – was disrupted by two significant family events. Her son revealed he is gay and has a boyfriend, and then her mother became seriously ill and doctors were sceptical about the chance of recovery. Apart from being a poignant graphic novel about experiencing everyday life and staying honest with oneself, *Every Day Is New* also shows the immense possibilities of spontaneous writing and drawing. Lucie Lomová is known as the Czech follower of the ligne claire style, and some of her previous graphic novels are very polished. But this time she had to work fast and, as a result, the art is dynamic, expressive and contemporary.



Každý den je nový Labyrint, 2022, 208 pp

RIGHTS: Lucie Lomová: lomovalucie@gmail.com

AWARDS: 2022 Muriel Award – best graphic novel 2022 Czech Academy of Comics Award



Pa', 8.9.

NEMŮŽU SPAT, JE PŮL 3 ASI, BĚTA STALENENI DOMA 2 KAVARNY, VOJTA PRIŠEL PRED CHVILI A JA'SI TEĎ VZPOMNĚLA KE VŠEMU NA DENIK...







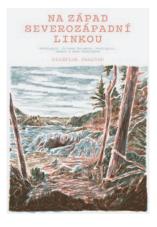


EVERY DAY IS NEW

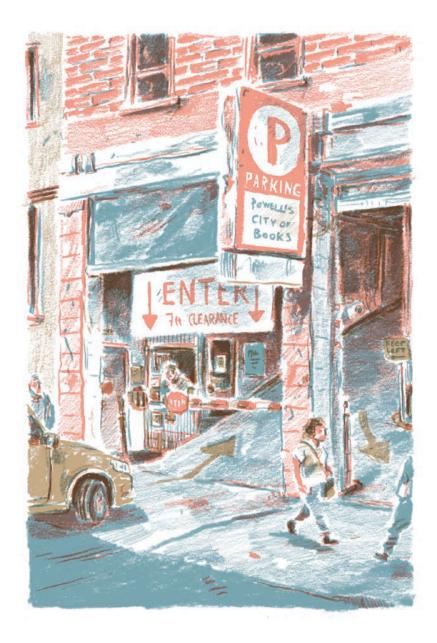
Jindřich Janíček WEST BY NORTHWEST

An artist on his dream journey through America

Jindřich Janíček's travelogue *West by Northwest* recounts and reconstructs his experiences from one big journey to Washington, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and back to Washington again. More than three hundred pages long and full of illustrations, the book captures the small everyday experiences of an artist fascinated and obsessed with the United States (and its specific culture, Americana). The mix of richly illustrated text, detailed maps and comics passages make it an atmospheric and engaging account of what America personifies for Jindřich Janíček and of what this gifted artist and storyteller has always found appealing and terrifying about it. *West by Northwest* is part travel diary, part personal confession and part political commentary.



Na západ severozápadní linkou Paseka, 2022, 320 pp RIGHTS: Paseka publishers Lukáš Růžička: Ruzicka@paseka.cz www.paseka.cz







Kateřina Čupová THE PORRIDGEMAN

What good is a magic porridge pot in this day and age?

Víťa has a clear idea: he will use his magic porridge pot to become a superhero and fight crime as Porridgeman! However, the sleepy Czech village he lives in is all out of crime, and he and his two friends begin to despair. There might be more to the village than it seems, though. A secret has been lurking beneath the surface for years – one that surpasses all ordinary crime. For children and adults alike, this new graphic novel by Kateřina Čupová attractively combines seemingly incompatible genres: traditional storytelling is enhanced by superhero motifs, rural satire and Japanese influence. This book is a feast for readers, whether they like porridge or not.

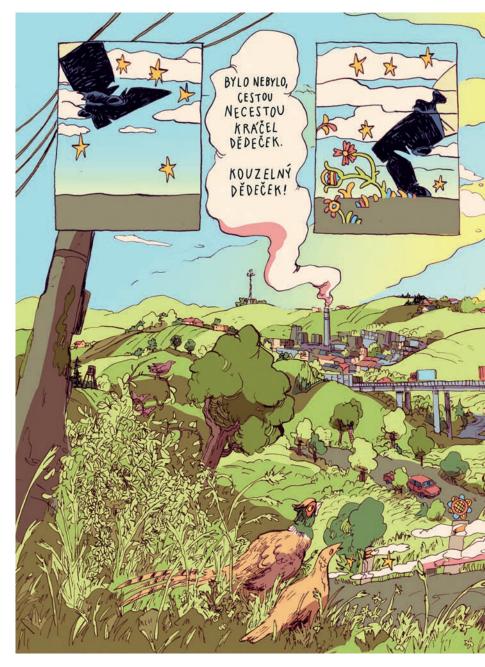


Hrnečku, vař! Argo, 2022, 208 pp AWARDS: 2022 Muriel Award – best comics for children

RIGHTS SOLD: France (Glenát)

RIGHTS: Argo publishers Veronika Chaloupková: veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz www.argo.cz





THE PORRIDGEMAN



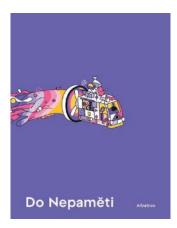
Children's and Young Adult

Tomáš Končinský & Daniel Špaček INTO TIME IMMEMORIAL

This colourful book about forgetting and remembering poses the fundamental question of where the experiences of early child-hood disappear to.

While in the award-winning *Typo* and skim (2016), the creators jokingly discussed with children the impact of entropy on the things around us, in their new book they are showing them what goes on inside the head. Fifthyear Jasmína bravely saves the memory of her cousin Jáchym, which someone stole from him the night after his second birthday party in the belief that such a small child would never remember it anyway. Does the villain intend to bargain with his haul like the Men in Grey that Momo fought in Michael

Age: 10+



Do Nepaměti Albatros, 2022, 256 pp

Ende's fantasy novel of the same name? Jasmína's picaresque expedition into the landscape of Time Immemorial is flanked by lavish pop art backdrops of cerebral operations and institutions that would like to process their prey - and perhaps unravel the mystery of the body's most important organ, at times so vulnerable and at other times so insightfully protective. The playful story will bring small children closer not only to scientific ideas about déjà vu or unconscious archetypes, but will also wittily point to "memories of the future" or evoke William Blake's "The Tyger", urging you not to let your ego become completely civilized. After all, memories - and especially those of innocent toddlers - cannot be stolen from us, because it is only thanks to them that every one of us is unique.

RIGHTS: Albatros Media Tomáš Jodas: foreignsales@albatrosmedia.cz www.albatrosmedia.eu





INTO TIME IMMEMORIAL







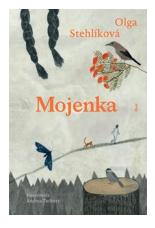
Olga Stehlíková & Andrea Tachezy MOJENKA

An emotionally rich story of a contemporary ten-year-old girl: about adventure, a conscious bond with nature and a family affected by illness.

Mojenka is a ten-year-old schoolgirl and single child, growing up near Prague. Above all she loves nature – not just the garden and forest surrounding the home where she lives with her parents – but she also has a fondness for exotic humpback whales and dolphins. Her love for animals was instilled in her by her mother, a naturalist who lectures at university, and who taught Mojenka from a young age to recognize and protect nature, and to be courageous and self-sufficient too. Mojenka makes good use of all of these characteristics

when one autumn day her mother has to go for an operation and since then has been fighting cancer. The poet and writer Olga Stehlíková looks at this sensitive topic with incredible empathy - thanks to the character of the father there is still some humour and the girl's knowledge is used for gentle, illustrated explanations (the mother's illness is compared to galls on the leaves of trees). The narrative switches between a description of the moments shared with her mother and Mojenka's adventurous trips to the forest, the breeding kennels and school. With their breadth of motifs, Andrea Tachezy's fragile, dreamlike illustrations highlight the turbulent world of an adolescent girl.

Age: 9+



Mojenka Host, 2022, 180 pp

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









MOJENKA

Marek Toman & Jan Trakal NOŽIČKA AND WOHRYZEK

A book examining themes such as the national identity, emancipation of women, tramping history and literary tradition with remarkable ease.

Nestling in the book's title are the names of the two characters. The first of them, Benjamin Wohryzek, returns from the US to Prague with his father under the pretext of looking for potter's clay on the banks of the Vltava River. They are assisted by Laura Nožičková, an extremely curious and charming journalist who keeps a witty reporter's notebook. Behind the scenes of the First Czechoslovak Republic, there is a funny and linguistically varied story in which three important writers associated with Prague appear in unusual guises: Jaroslav Hašek, Karel Čapek and Franz Kafka. In the end, it all turns into a more complex narrative concerning espionage back in the times of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and all sorts of things emerge from the old expatriate community in America. Jan Trakal's angular drawings and sketches enhance the entire story for readers of all ages.

Age: 6+



Nožička a Wohryzek Baobab, 2022, 256 pp RIGHTS: Baobab publishers: baobabooks@gmail.com www.baobab-books.net/en









František Tichý & Stanislav Setinský RECRUIT 244

A chillingly realistic YA sci-fi dystopia from a world of war, environmental destruction and migration

Fourteen-year-old Jony spends his time like most of the other "juniors": in the safety of a Europe which is cut off from the rest of the world by a massive wall; he goes to a school where the teaching is done mostly using virtual reality, and in his free time he browses online games. He lets his life be run by the System, which knows what is best for everyone, what they should eat, drink, experience and feel. But then things begin to happen which force him to take off his rose-tinted digital spectacles. The teacher František Tichý has moved away from the

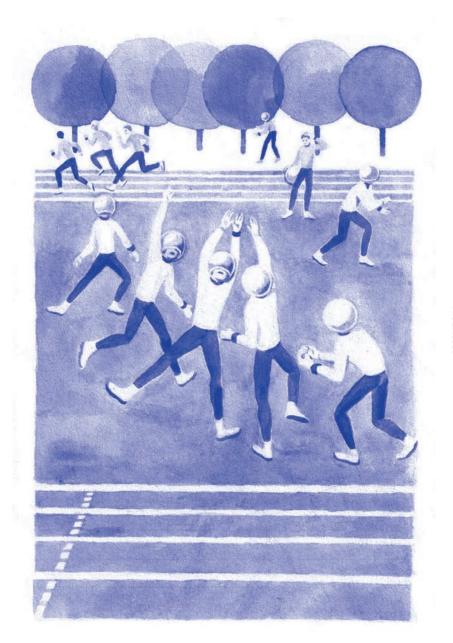
Age: 13+



Rekrut 244 Baobab, 2022, 326 pp Terezín Ghetto of his previous books (Transport to Eternity, 2017, Magnesia Litera Award; The Labyrinth of Endless *Encounters*, 2020), and in this final book of his loose trilogy he ventures forth to a dystopian world in the near future where freedom and individuality are completely subservient to the dictates of the Orwellian state machinery and the System. This gripping story manages to pose complex questions about the relationship between individual freedom and personal responsibility, and the limits and dangers of "enhancing" technologies. What impresses the most is the detailed worldbuilding of a believable future, elegantly captured in Stanislav Setinský's illustrations, and a hypermodern language which Tichý imbues with Anglicisms both existing and invented by the author.

RIGHTS: Baobab publishers: baobabooks@gmail.com www.baobab-books.net/en





RECRUIT 244



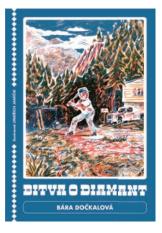
RECRUIT 244

Bára Dočkalová & Jindřich Janíček THE BATTLE OF THE DIAMOND

A fast-paced, sports-infused adventure about baseball, fair play and the dream of success

The word diamond is also used for a baseball field – and it is this diamond which children from two remote American mountain villages fight over at the end of an adventure story written by the English studies scholar Bára Dočkalová, originally as a script for a school play. The prose adaptation was successful not only in terms of its composition but in particular from the psychological perspective of the characters and the emphasis on the values held by the main character, eleven-year-old Luke: he is courageous and goes his own way. Even though

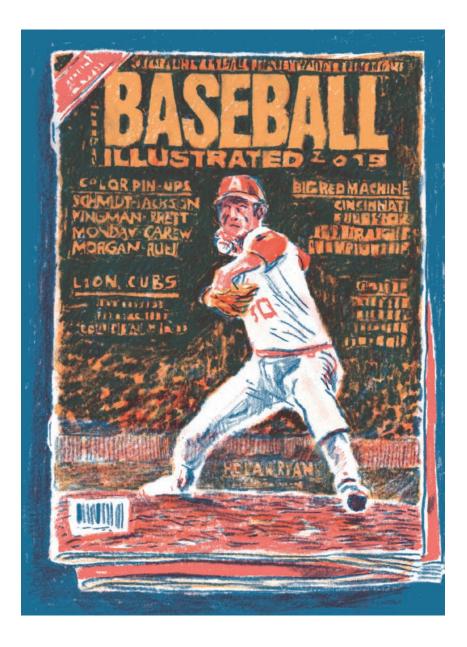
Age: 11+



Bitva o diamant Labyrint, 2022, 224 pp

he has a minor physical handicap he trains with determination and dreams that one day he will move up from the home team to the high-school select from a nearby town. A chance meeting with a professional baseball player not only changes the lives of several village boys but it also affects a long-standing feud between the neighbouring communities. At first Luke has to contend with great disappointment before being faced with the challenge of his life. This dynamic sports-themed story appeals to both boys and girls; the exciting story is made even more vivid by the introduction to each chapter with detailed drawings by Jindřich Janíček, a popular, award-winning book designer, comics illustrator and recipient of the Czech Grand Design.

RIGHTS: Labyrint publishers Joachim Dvořák: labyrint@labyrint.net www.labyrint.net/stranka/21/english



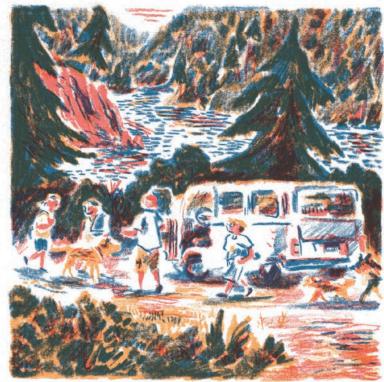












THE BATTLE OF THE DIAMOND

Grants for publishing Czech literature abroad

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

BOOKS

Publishers can apply for funding for:

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

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

EXCERPTS

Publishers, agents and translators can apply for funding for:

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

MAGAZINES

Magazines can apply for funding for:

• translation costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing) of an issue where at least 50% of the total content is dedicated to original Czech literature

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

- <u>15th May</u> for books and excerpts to be published in the same year as the application is submitted
- <u>15th November</u> 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 radim.kopac@mkcr.cz +420 257 085 221



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

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 FOR 2023 AND 2024:

- <u>31st May 2023</u> (for the period from 1st September 2023 to 15th December 2023)
- <u>31st October 2023</u> (for the period from 1st January 2024 to 31st August 2024)

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.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

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

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

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.

Moravian Library Kounicova 65a 601 87 Brno Czech Republic

www.mzk.cz mzk@mzk.cz



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