

New Czech Books 2025



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Introduction

This October, Czechia will be the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Under a motto inspired by Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*—"CZECHIA – A Country on the Coast"—we aim to present Czech literature and the book industry as a unique current in the global literary ocean. In the meantime, you may already have encountered our books and authors across the German-speaking countries during the Year of Czech Culture. We are excited to present a fresh new haul of last year's compelling titles, soon to be complemented by three new winning manuscripts selected in the *Novel for Frankfurt* competition.

While 2024 brought a wave of remarkable debuts engaging with the themes of the day, 2025 stood out above all for the diversity of literary voices and styles. Dora Kaprálová's Baedeker-styled *Maribor Hypnosis* is a mercurial, witty exploration of Slovenia's second city. Emerging from the left-wing subculture, Radek Wollmann's *Blood Circle Black* dismantles the myth of the "miraculous" postcommunist era and tells the story of an ongoing struggle against far-right violence. In *Beliefs*, Anna Beata Hábllová offers a turbulent, at times darkly humorous story of a single mother who, through a mistake made out of love, finds herself working as a sex worker. Aleš Kauer, founder and editor-in-chief of one of the liveliest Czech queer poetry presses, delivers a Brechtian accusation of today's political hypocrisy interwoven with intimate moments suffused with hope in *The Skull Burns with A Neon Dream*. Branko Jelinek's *Oscar Ed: My Best Friend* is yet another masterfully drawn comic novel starring the generic-faced "actor" Oscar, a surreal epic about the modern everyman in a world where the bizarre becomes the norm. The boldly illustrated children's book *The Elderberry Bush* by Tereza Horváthová & Klára Zahradková, readable from both ends, playfully dissolves the boundaries between fauna, flora, and the human animal with its civilization.

And this is not all! Alongside this brochure, we have published two further booklets offering a broader panorama of recent publications: *Czech Books for Children and Young Adults 2023–2025* and *Czech Comics 2020–2025*.

The year 2026 promises to be exciting for us. We would be delighted if you joined and rode this wave with us.

Martin Krafl
Director of the Czech Literary Centre
Programme Manager GoH CZECHIA FBM 2026

CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

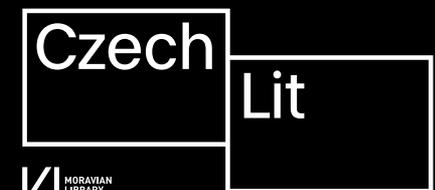
CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre is a state-funded organisation supporting and promoting Czech literature abroad and in Czechia. The centre is a section of the Moravian Library.

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 Czechia
- Organises residencies for foreign translators, Czech studies specialists and authors
- Runs the bilingual website CzechLit.cz with information about books, authors, grants, residencies and Czech literature news
- Cooperates with the network of Czech Centres, which promote Czech culture abroad, as well as with other governmental and non-governmental cultural and non-profit organisations and individuals
- Is involved in the presentation of Czech literature at book fairs abroad in cooperation with its parent institution
- Holds the annual Susanna Roth Award for young translators of Czech literature

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Fiction

Dora Kaprálová

THE MARIBOR HYPNOSIS

A sparkling, fragmentary guide to a foreign city with elements of magical realism, narrated from the perspective of a fly.

Thanks to the publishing house Větrné Mlýny's idea to compile a literary Baedeker, Dora Kaprálová has produced a remarkable and melancholic prose work, weaving together the past and present. The highly fragmentary text is tightly interlinked and meticulously composed. With her sharp observational abilities and linguistic inventiveness, the narrator circles around Maribor and its cultural memory as a common housefly—which is both an object of fascination and the perspective from which the world

is viewed. The love story between a Maribor hypnotist, Svengali, and his girlfriend, the fly-weight Elis, brings elements of magical realism into the novella. As the narrator wanders through the city and encounters its inhabitants, it is as if both nothing and everything is happening. Although she focuses on one Central European location, the atmosphere of the contemporary world, including the omnipresent influence of disinformation, steals into her narrative with sophistication.



Mariborská hypnóza
Větrné mlýny, 2025, 140 pp

Photo: David Konečný, MAC14



Dora Kaprálová (1975) was born in Brno and now lives and works mainly in Berlin. An award-winning author of books for both adults and children, she has also produced radio documentaries and a wide range of reportage. In recent years, she has increasingly collaborated with Czech theatres. Following prose works published by Druhé město (*Berlin Notebook*, *Islands*, *Suffering and Other Genres*, *A Winter Book of Love*) and Baobab (*Mr Nobody and the White Darkness*), her novella *Maribor Hypnosis* was brought out by Větrné Mlýny.

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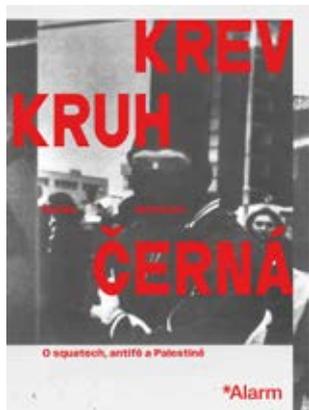
Radek Wollmann

BLOOD CIRCLE BLACK

A raw, yet tender narrative about the 1990s, squats, street fights against racism and hope from the perspective of a left-wing subculture

In this documentary novel, Radek Wollmann returns to the late 1990s, a period that many people today attach vague labels to or reduce to the mere political transformation of the country. Such simplifications are quickly given short shrift in this book. We are given a view of the streets where gangs of neo-Nazi skinheads roam and violence is their way of maintaining a semblance of order in a world slipping away from them. Attacks, harassment and murders form the backdrop to the everyday life into which leftwing subculture steps—not as romanticized outsiders,

but as a group learning to respond by using similar methods. Wollmann portrays demonstrations, concerts, and squats not as heroic chapters of subcultural mythology, but as a brutal struggle to secure a place to live and forge an identity in a period offering few stable points of reference. The book links the violence and ideals of that era with contemporary issues: anti-Romany bigotry, the search for authenticity and questions of integrity. In place of nostalgia, memories of the post-revolutionary fervour are laid bare.



Krev Kruh Černá
Alarm, 2025, 260 pp

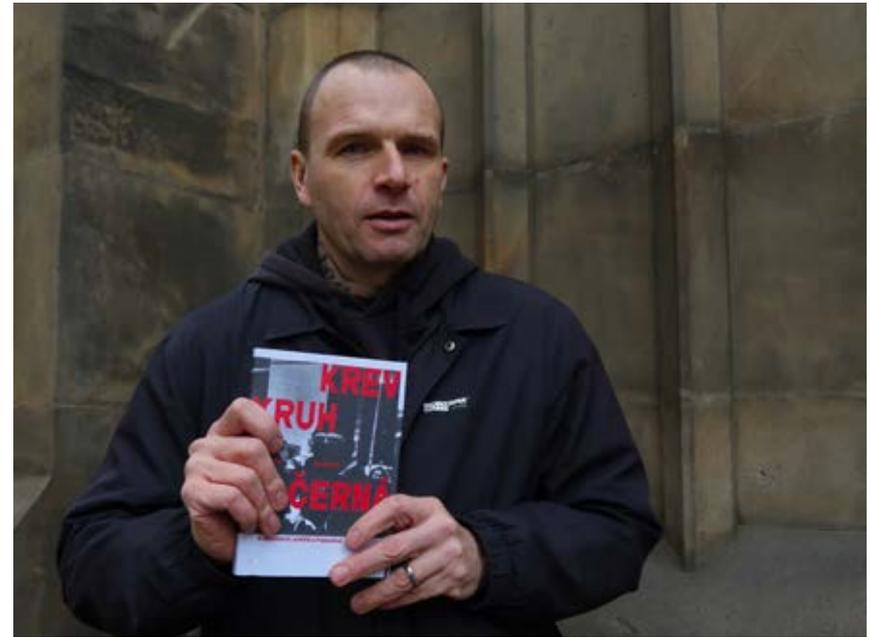


Photo: Alarm

Radek Wollmann's (1978) life story consists of the open meeting places he has helped create over the years. Their formats may change—squats, bars, training cafes, cultural centres—but their purpose remains the same; to create a slightly better and more open world here and now.

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English sample translation available

Alexej Sevruk

THE CULMINATION OF SUMMER

Deeply reflective stories with existential and socially critical overtones

The Culmination of Summer is a collection of eleven short stories in which Alexej Sevruk guides the reader through Mikulov, glass atria where workers are hired to sweep leaves, and his native Ukraine. The characters pass through these settings hesitantly, as if uncertain whether they still belong in the world they must inhabit. Sevruk's scenes are precise, stripped of unnecessary sentimentality or self-pity; even in the most difficult moments—whether the COVID pandemic or the war in Ukraine—a sense of self-irony is maintained. In some stories the author experiments with language, as in “The Old Kyiv Legend”, while in others he

returns to the observational style that proved so successful in his previous acclaimed novel, *A European Woman*. The first two-thirds of the collection feature more traditionally structured stories, after which the author becomes more experimental and switches between genres. The book contains something rare today: a language which is alive, rich and unflinching, and a style which reminds us that you need more than just a subject to create literature.



Kulminace léta
Argo, 2025, 160 pp

Photo: Jan Křifikava



Alexej Sevruk (1983) is a poet, novelist, journalist, and translator born in Kyiv, Ukraine. He has lived in the Czech Republic since the age of twelve, having moved there with his parents as part of the government's programme to repatriate Volhynian Czechs and their relatives. He studied Ukrainian and Slavonic studies at Charles University. He has translated the works of Yurii Andrukhovych and Serhiy Zhadan into Czech and Patrik Ouředník's experimental prose *Europeana* into Ukrainian. He was the editor-in-chief of the literary translation monthly *Plav* and has written for several Czech and international journals, magazines, and anthologies.

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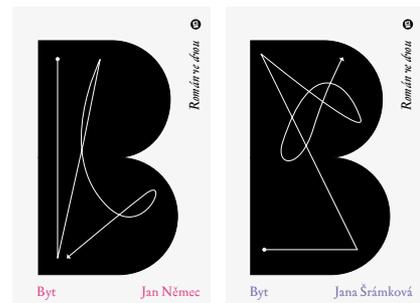
English sample translation available

Jan Němec & Jana Šrámková THE APARTMENT

A fascinating literary experiment about what happens when two people live in the same apartment but never meet each other.

The Apartment by Jana Šrámková and Jan Němec is a novel born from the idea of showing what happens when two different perspectives are not unified by a single, overarching voice. The two narrators, Zuzana and Daniel, share an apartment, yet each of them inhabits it differently and at different times—she during the week, he only at weekends. Their stories begin at opposite ends of the book and collide in the middle. Zuzana processes her grief through metaphors and constant self-examination; her language often falters, as if constantly searching for an audience for her own thoughts. Contrastingly, Daniel observes reality in a restrained, objective manner; for him, the apartment is principally somewhere to rest, sleep and find some quiet refuge. The two perspectives both complement and contrast with one

another, and it is only their alternation which reveals the true shape of the story. The book comes alive in many different forms once the reader realises it can be read in any order and that its individual parts can be interrupted at random. The form of two voices which never come into contact yet mirror one another creates a carefully conceived literary experiment about solitude, the need for self-discovery and the tension between intimate and shared space.



Byt
Host, 2025, 336 pp

“The novel *The Apartment* is not only interesting from a literary perspective, but it is also very accurate from a generational point of view: this is what adulthood often looks like during a period when we are left with the much-vaunted ideal of individual responsibility, yet possess few of the skillsets actually needed to shoulder this burden.”

—*Tvar*

Photo: Jana Plavec



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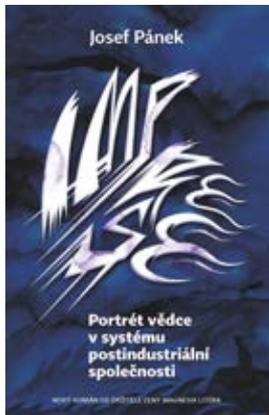
Josef Pánek

PORTRAIT OF A SCIENTIST IN POST-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

A gripping, provocative and darkly ironic manifesto for those disillusioned with the contemporary world of science

Eight years after the successful debut of his novel *Love in the Time of Global Climate Change* (already translated into ten languages), Josef Pánek once again uses the figure of a scientist in his third novel—a scientist who is at odds with the system of impact factors and H-indices. The narrator/protagonist is derailed by a sense of humiliation when a prestigious journal refuses to publish one of his key articles. Subsequently at a conference he eschews the normal academic behaviour and finds himself caught in an endless cycle of drunken escapades, attempting to explain to

random passers-by in Dublin what is wrong with the system which rules over science and pre-programmed academic careers. The chain of absurd situations entertains throughout the novel, while at the same time laying bare not only the fragility of the scientific ego, but also the ridiculous state into which the ostensibly prestigious system of academic conferences and publications has fallen. Rather than expanding the realms of human knowledge, it serves to construct stardom and careers which can, at any moment, suddenly collapse.



Portrét vědce v systému postindustriální společnosti
Argo, 2025, 192 pp

“A brilliant, flowing, angry rant about the state of science, art and the world in general today.”

—Host

Photo: Argo



Josef Pánek (1966) received his masters and PhD in Prague, after which he worked in Norway and Australia before returning to Czechia. He debuted with a collection of short stories entitled *The Opal Digger* (2013). His second book, *Love in the Time of Global Climate Change* (Argo, 2017), won the Magnesia Litera, Czechia’s highest literary honour, in 2018. Argo has also published his novel *To Them, I Am God*, a swirling stream of obsessive thoughts and existential disillusionment, all unfolding in Bergen—a city where it is perpetually gloomy and dark.

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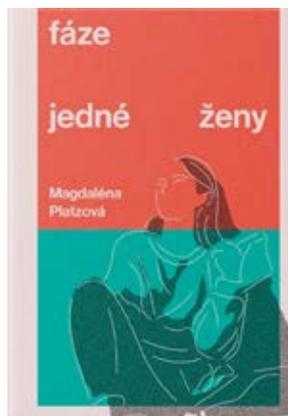
Magdaléna Platzová

THE PHASES OF ONE WOMAN

A balanced collection of short stories, exploring from several perspectives what it means to be a middle-aged woman today

Magdalena Platzová has written several books to date, including novels and short story collections. In her latest collection of short fiction, she explores the theme of women coping with midlife. Although each story focuses on something different and introduces new characters and situations, the reader soon begins to sense they form a single, coherent portrait of a woman during a particular stage in her life. The situations of the characters are revealed through confrontations with

those around them: men and women, the elderly, children, and even the dead. What emerges from these encounters above all is the desire for freedom. The women are either returning or settling somewhere new, searching for a place of their own, where they might have a life beyond the needs and expectations of society. The stories create a unique space of experience, approaching an almost auto-fictional representation of what it means to be a middle-aged woman today.



Fáze jedné ženy
Paradox, 2025, 166 pp

“*The Phase of a Woman* is a precise and linguistically pure reflection of life stages and states, above all those of female protagonists. And if we allow for the existence of the soul, these short prose pieces offer a glimpse into the souls that inhabit female bodies.”

—*Host*

Photo: Tomáš Cindr



Magdaléna Platzová (1972) graduated in philosophy before working as a journalist and editor (*Literární noviny, Respekt*). She made her literary debut in 2003 and has since published nine books, including the novels *Aaron's Leap* (2006), *The Anarchist* (2014), and *Life after Kafka* (2022), which was nominated for the Magnesia Litera Award. She contributes regularly to Czech Radio and the monthly magazine *Host*. Her prose has been translated into more than ten languages.

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English sample translation available

Eli Beneš

EVERYTHING WILL BE COOL—END OF AN ERA REPORT

Just as Kundera's first novel continues to challenge readers with the question of what the central joke in *The Joke* actually is, Beneš's novel presents a similar challenge by asking which era is coming to an end.

After his successful debut with *A Slight Loss of Solitude*, Eli Beneš based his second novel on more conventional ingredients: the midlife crisis of a man and his journey from a dysfunctional family into the arms of a younger lover; working in the corporate world; artificial intelligence threatening to replace creative human labour; and a novel about writing a novel. From these conventional yet rewarding elements, Beneš has crafted a novel with references to

other works and the plausibility of its narrative, while simultaneously confronting its playful storytelling with the weighty theme of a life unravelling—placing burdens on the protagonist's shoulders which are almost too much to bear. Against these compelling backdrops, a subtle exploration unfolds of a person whose soul is wounded by the dystopian pressures of change, which emerges as the novel's central and original theme. The atmosphere is heightened by a gentle satire and a sense of strangeness, preventing the novel from being read as a straightforward commentary on our present day and instead guiding the reader towards the search for meanings of broader, symbolic significance.



Všechno bude super – Zpráva o konci éry
Argo, 2025, 280 pp

Photo: Václav Mašíndla



Eli Beneš (1976) was born in Prague and studied English and American Studies and Czech Language and Literature at Charles University, where he also later studied Journalism and Media Studies with a specialization in television and radio. He graduated from the *Paidea Project-Incubator* at the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Stockholm and the Ami-Ad programme in Tel Aviv. For fourteen years he was a presenter at Prague's *Radio 1*, where he focused mainly on Czech electronic projects and bands; he was also the owner of a music publishing company and a long-time composer of music for Czech Television and other media. He also occasionally teaches electronic music at the Prague Electronic Music Academy. He has worked in the media, first as an editor-in-chief of several magazines, and later as a publisher. He is currently working for the media house *Seznam.cz*. His debut novel *A Slight Loss of Loneliness* won the prestigious Czech Magnesia Litera Award (Debut of the Year) in 2024.

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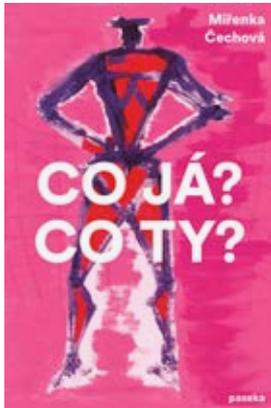
Miřenka Āechov

DEVASTATION

A disturbing story of abuse and hope styled as an audio recorded confession with the pace of a flight

After having won over critics and the public alike in 2020 with her second novel *The Ballerinas*, Miřenka Āechov has produced another novel with a serious and compelling theme: what impact does child abuse have on a person's future? When Laura was fourteen, her mother jumped from a window. Although she survived, Laura, who had no-one else to look after her while her mother remained confined to her bed, ended up in a children's home. She was looked after by the 'aunts', while her new siblings were mainly disabled and Romany children. Someone else came

to the home, however—a thirty-year-old male primary school teacher, who taught at the children's home in his spare time, but who was also scheming to seduce the underage Laura. What might initially appear as an innocent children's romance transforms into a horrific study of manipulation and abuse. Laura narrates all of this with the detachment of a prostitute from a luxurious boudoir, and tells her story—full of revelations, accusations and sharp analyses of social hypocrisy—as an audio recording of her own voice, intended to be heard by the one who caused it all.



Co j? Co ty?
Paseka, 2025, 192 pp



Photo: Barbora Marřiřek

The work of Miřenka Āechov (1982) lies at the intersection of experimental theatre and literature. Her theatre projects include plays based on the authentic stories of unseen women and often engage with pressing social issues. She is the author of the autobiographical styled prose work *The Ballerinas* (Paseka, 2020), which was nominated for the European Union Prize for Literature, as well as the fictional documentary *Miss Amerika* (2018). She has adapted both these works for the stage, earning two Thalia Award nominations for the theatrical productions.

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English sample translation available

Petr Borkovec

CÉCILE AND THE OTHERS

A collection of short stories in which language becomes a site of observation, memory and unease, and where prose and poetry meet in a darker, sensually dense version of everyday life.

With the collection *Cécile and the Others*, Petr Borkovec once again enters the world of prose without abandoning his fundamental terrain: linguistic intensity, observational precision and sensory density. The stories transform seemingly ordinary situations into powerfully visual, existentially charged images. A dead crab on a shore, a half-bleached pigeon, sea waves, ghosts and village legends all appear here on the same level of meaning, without

hierarchy, and all viewed in motion. Borkovec thematizes the very act of observation itself, introspectively, and with an acknowledgement of the vulnerability of the individual gaze and of mystification. The movement between prose and poetry, so characteristic of his work, is pushed even further here—towards language as an autonomous space of experience. The result is a book that compels the reader to struggle through the text and to accept its unease and the darker aesthetic that is integral to it.



Nějaká Cécile a jiné
Fra, 2025, 148 pp

“The author creates the impression that almost everything can be an event, a signal or a message concerning existence.”

—*Respekt*

Photo: Jana Plavec



Petr Borkovec (1970) is a poet, novelist and translator. He has worked as an editor for *Lidové Noviny Publishers*, *Lidové noviny*, *Literární noviny*, and the review *Souvislosti*. From 2005 to 2023 he was the dramaturge and host of the Prague literary café Fra. He writes regular pieces for the radio station Vltava, the magazines *A2* and *Qartál*, and the online literary journal *iLiteratura*. He teaches at the Department of Creative Writing of the Academy of Creative Communication. He is a regular contributor to the review *Listy*. Borkovec made his debut in 1990 with the poetry collection *Silent Table Settings* (Pražská imaginace). His most recent books to date are the prose volume *Cécile and the Others* (Fra) and the children’s book *Dictations* (with Andrea Tachezy; *běžiliška*). The Baobab publishing house is preparing a poetry collection entitled *Little Boats* for publication in 2026. Borkovec has translated Russian poets including Vladislav Khodasevich, Vladimir Nabokov, Yevgeny Rein, Joseph Brodsky, and Yuri Odarchenko. Together with the linguist Matyáš Havrda, he has worked on translations of the ancient tragedians: they have jointly translated Sophocles’ *Oedipus the King*, Aeschylus’ *Oresteia*, Euripides’ *The Bacchae*, and Euripides’ *Medea*. In 2027, a new translation of Sophocles’ *Antigone* will premiere at the National Theatre. Borkovec has published books in Great Britain, Italy, France, Slovenia and Romania, though mainly in Germany and Austria (where almost all of his poetry and prose has been published in German).

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English sample translation available

Anna Beata Hábllová

BELIEFS

A novel about a woman who, trapped by faith, debt and maternal devotion, loses control over her own body and life and painfully searches for the way back to herself.

In the novel *Beliefs*, Anna Beata Hábllová follows the fate of a woman whose life is gradually falling apart under the pressure of her economic situation and the conflict between personal failures and internally adopted dogmas. Without moralizing, the novel offers a sensitive, socially critical view of sex work, while capturing the inner struggle of a woman who wants to escape a violent environment but runs up against

manipulation, obedience and her own inability to resist. Intimate scenes are replaced by the unconventional motif of cooking—recipes become both an escape strategy and an image of inner tension. A surprising political dimension also enters the personal story, along with the motif of faith in transformation, which may be either salvation or illusion.



“This perfectly balanced novel examines the longing for good and the resistance to evil which overwhelms a person to the point where it seems there is no escape. Thanks to its hopeful ending, though, it also offers the reassurance that things can also turn out well.”

—*Deník N*

Víry
Host, 2025, 272 pp



Photo: Ladislav Zedník

Anna Beata Hábllová (born 1983) is a writer, poet, slam poet, as well as an architect and visual artist. She produces paintings which connect architecture, poetry and street art. She has published four poetry collections. In 2017, she released the popular nonfiction book *Cities of Walls*, focusing on the history and interpretation of shopping centres in relation to the city. This was followed by *Non-Places of Cities* (2019), a work on the intersection between scholarly study and fiction, exploring overlooked, transient and bypassed urban spaces. In recent years, she has contributed essays on architecture to Czech Radio, where she also hosted the philosophy podcast *A Complex Age*. In 2022, she published her first novel *The Shift*, which is being translated into six languages.

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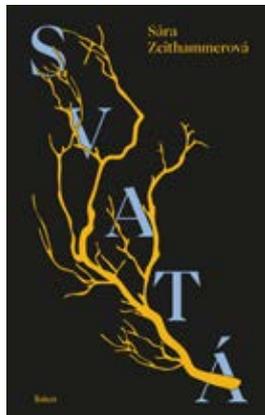
Sára Zeithammerová

THE SAINT

The true story of a Marian miracle in the Czech borderlands reveals the limits of mutual trust and faith, as well as the hardships faced by strong women within the patriarchal society of the late nineteenth century.

Writer and screenwriter Sára Zeithammerová's second novel was inspired by a Marian miracle in Suchý Důl in the Broumov region. In the late nineteenth century, the Virgin Mary was said to have appeared several times to fourteen-year-old Kristina. The author uses this historically documented event to construct a convincing fictional world populated by ambiguous characters. The novel's momentum is driven by an unusually chosen unreliable narrator—Kristina's widowed mother Aloisie. Although she is initially sceptical of her daughter's vision, the crowds of pilgrims streaming into

the village come to her inn's rescue during a time of particular hardship. The two prominent female figures repeatedly come up against the limits of patriarchal society. Conventional yet fresh in its storytelling, the novel rests on the solid foundations of thorough historical research and thoughtful composition. With a creeping sense of unease, the author captures the intense relationship between mother and daughter, the shifting mood within the village community, and the tension between faith as an intimate experience and a source of social pressure.



Svatá
Listen, 2025, 360 pp

“In the terms of its genre, this is one of the very best you are likely to come across in the Czech book market this year.”

—*Novinky.cz*



Photo: Anna Vlach Musilová

Sára Zeithammerová (1997) is a scriptwriter and novelist. She was born in the USA but has spent most of her life in Prague. She graduated in English and Spanish for Intercultural Communication at Charles University, and scriptwriting and dramaturgy at FAMU. She wrote the script for the mini-series *Five Years* (2022), which was nominated for a Czech Lion and the Czech Film Critics' Award. Her first novel, *Stitches* (2022), was shortlisted for the Jiří Orten Award. She regularly contributes to the Czech Short Story series. *The Saint* is her second novel.

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Poetry

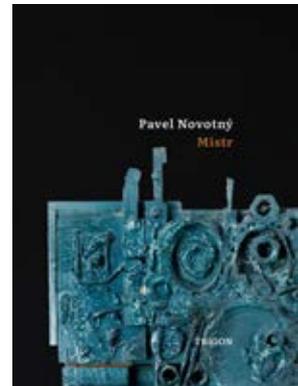
Pavel Novotný

THE MASTER

Novotný carries out an archaeological study of family memory, using lyrical and narrative means to explore the family microcosm he grew up in, and which in many respects also bears witness to Czech lives in the (post-) communist era.

The Master of the title refers to the author's father—a talented painter of whose work almost nothing has survived, just as little of his life has remained in the son's memory (owing to his parents' separation and his father's premature death). In this book, Novotný attempts to reconstruct his father's biography on the basis of testimonies from people who were able to share their lives with him far longer and more intensely than he ever could. Yet this poetic research endeavour repeatedly runs up against the same problem: the unreliability of memory and the inescapable elusiveness of the past.

The Master is a collection of (pseudo) documentary poetry which sets



Mistr
Trigon, 2025, 96 pp

in motion a play of meanings and relationships between reality and fiction, reliable testimony and the haze of recollection. At the same time, it is an intermedial work which, alongside the textual component (the poetry book), includes a sound composition capturing a collage of testimonies by witnesses who provided their accounts of the author's father and enabled him to write the book—and finally, it also has a visual component formed by reproductions of the surviving paintings by Pavel Novotný Sr. In this threefold composition, the fundamental concept of the work is reflected once again: a demonstration of the relativity of human memory and the elusiveness of recollection – and of life itself.

“It is perhaps one of the few books in contemporary Czech literature which teaches us to return to ourselves and profound matters of existence.”

—Host

Photo: Šimon Plíškus



Pavel Novotný (1976) is a poet, translator, German Studies scholar and teacher. He works at the Department of German Language at the Technical University of Liberec. He is the author of numerous poetry collections and cycles (e.g. *Emergency Rules*, *Tramvesty*, *Notes from a Garret*), and also writes prose. He is also the creator of radiophonic compositions for Czech Radio and has received a number of awards (including the 2010 Prix Bohemia Radio, the 2021 Magnesia Litera Award for Poetry, and the 2022 Dresden Poetry Prize). He has translated works by Hans Magnus Enzensberger and Gerhard Rühm into Czech. As a literary scholar, he focuses on so-called acoustic literature, experimental radio drama and phonic poetry.

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Aleš Kauer

THE SKULL BURNS WITH A NEON DREAM

What do the great crises of the contemporary world—of which there have been so many, yet which we try not to see—do to us? Kauer's poetry confronts multiple crises without surrendering to despair.

The poet and visual artist Aleš Kauer has published new poems accompanied by his own illustrations. “How do we grasp this beast / when our words are weaker / than the bones of children under the rubble?” In these extraordinarily expressive poems, we read an indictment of a world in which patriarchal order inexplicably persists and violence against both people and nature reaches its peak. Do we even have the words to describe all these horrors?

In his exploration, the poet works with diverse linguistic registers, cultural references and digital symbol codes, switching between Czech, Slovak, English and Ukrainian. The book stands out for its carefully thought-out composition and tightly unified form. In a fractured world, Aleš Kauer invokes social justice, love and compassion. His poetry is radically anti-war, feminist, and, above all, empathetic.



Lebka hoří neonovým snem
Adolescent, 2025, 48 pp

“In his new book, Aleš Kauer calls for a change in our attitude towards the great crises of the contemporary world: wars, political emptiness, digital cynicism and the consequences of the global patriarchy.”

—*Literary Critics' Award*

Photo: Adolescent



Aleš Kauer (1974) is an artist, poet, performer, founder of the publishing house Adolescent and member of several avant-garde music projects. He is also an organiser of cultural events and the literary-musical festival Kvílení. Kauer has provided graphic and artistic illustrations for numerous books and magazines. His poems and other writings have been published in *Glosolálie*, *Revue Prostor*, *A2*, *Host*, *Tvar*, and others. His poetry has been translated into English, Spanish, Polish, Ukrainian, Slovenian and Hungarian, and has also been published in international literary journals and anthologies. His most recent poetry collections have been published by Adolescent: *WITHOUT/WITHIN* (2014), *Happyend* (2020), and *A Skull Burns with a Neon Dream* (2025). He also publishes diary entries in limited editions, the latest being *Imagine Peace*, which was released in 2023.

RIGHTS:
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Marie Iljašenko

WILD URBAN STORIES

What do animals experience in a world which was not created for them? Can they inhabit our language in the same way they inhabit cities? Their situation is more similar to those of humans than we usually care to admit.

The stories of a jackdaw from the Prague underground, bats in Barcelona, or flowers evacuated ahead of the war in Ukraine. The life of a pheasant, usually hidden from human view, with its creative and political acts. The testimonies of kestrels, rats, magpies, ragwort and other inhabitants of the world, united by the experience of passing through an alien environment. This, roughly speaking, is how we might understand the work of Marie Iljašenko, who invites animals into her poems and lets them speak through their own habits. She shares her words with

them, even though, in a certain sense, it is still her own voice. And cities are similar in this respect. In notes from Barcelona, Cork, Kyiv, Prague and Tokyo, the author thematizes the experience of migration and reflects on the relationship between language, identity, the body and place. In so doing, she shows that the experience and sensitivity of people and animals can meet in the space of language—just as they do in the space of cities—amid constant concealment and doubt, yet with the ever-present possibility of compassion.



Zvířata přicházejí do města
Host, 2025, 96 pp

Photo: Ondřej Lipár



Marie Iljašenko (1983) was born in Kyiv into a Ukrainian–Polish–Czech family. In 1992, she and her parents moved to the Broumov region. To date she has published the poetry collections *Osip Heads South* (Host, 2014), *St. Outdoor* (Host, 2019), and *Wild Urban Stories* (Host, 2025). Her poems have been translated into many languages and nominated for several awards. She is the recipient of the Tom Stoppard Prize for the best essay written in Czech (2023). She works as a publishing editor and translates from Polish and Ukrainian. She lives in Prague with her husband Josef and two cats, Ferenc and Luna.

RIGHTS SOLD: Germany (Anthea Verlag)

RIGHTS:
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Comics

Branko Jelinek

OSKAR ED: MY BEST FRIEND

This brilliantly drawn, cleverly narrated, atmospherically themed struggle against a monstrous and hostile organism is at its heart a personal and intimate story. It has a little Kafka, a lot of Lynch, and perhaps even a touch of Lovecraft.

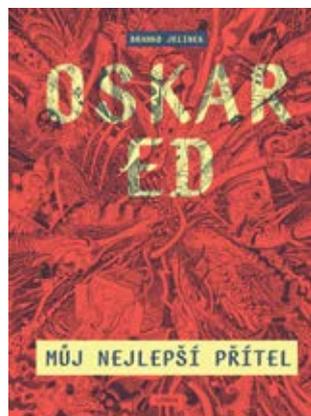
Branko Jelinek's first graphic novel in eight years immediately captivates us with its precise black-and-white line work and meticulous hatching. As we delve deeper, we are drawn in by the refined language of comics and the rhythm of the visual narrative. The story, which begins in the banal setting of a train compartment, quickly transforms into a surreal world where technology intertwines with the organic. Scenes from an office alternate with episodes set in a mysterious hotel; the everyday shifts into a fantastical, hallucinatory dream, and the individual

layers of meaning multiply and mirror one another. The masterfully crafted if ambiguous narration provides an inner narrative whose grandiosity is not only due to the illustrations. The protagonist must struggle against a monstrous organism, but, more importantly, he must face pressing loneliness and burning self-doubt. Although this is Branko Jelinek's third extensive graphic novel featuring his "actor" Oskar Ed, the three works do not form a series; each book is an autonomous, self-contained story.

"*Oskar Ed* is once again graphically exceptional by Czech standards: there are many evocative scenes and tableaux, numerous original fantastical visions, and a wealth of inventive draughtsmanship and compositional ideas."

—*iLiteratura*

RIGHTS:
Trystero publishers
Martin Svoboda
trystero@trystero.cz
www.trystero.cz



Oskar Ed: Můj nejlepší přítel
Lipník, 2025, 360 pp



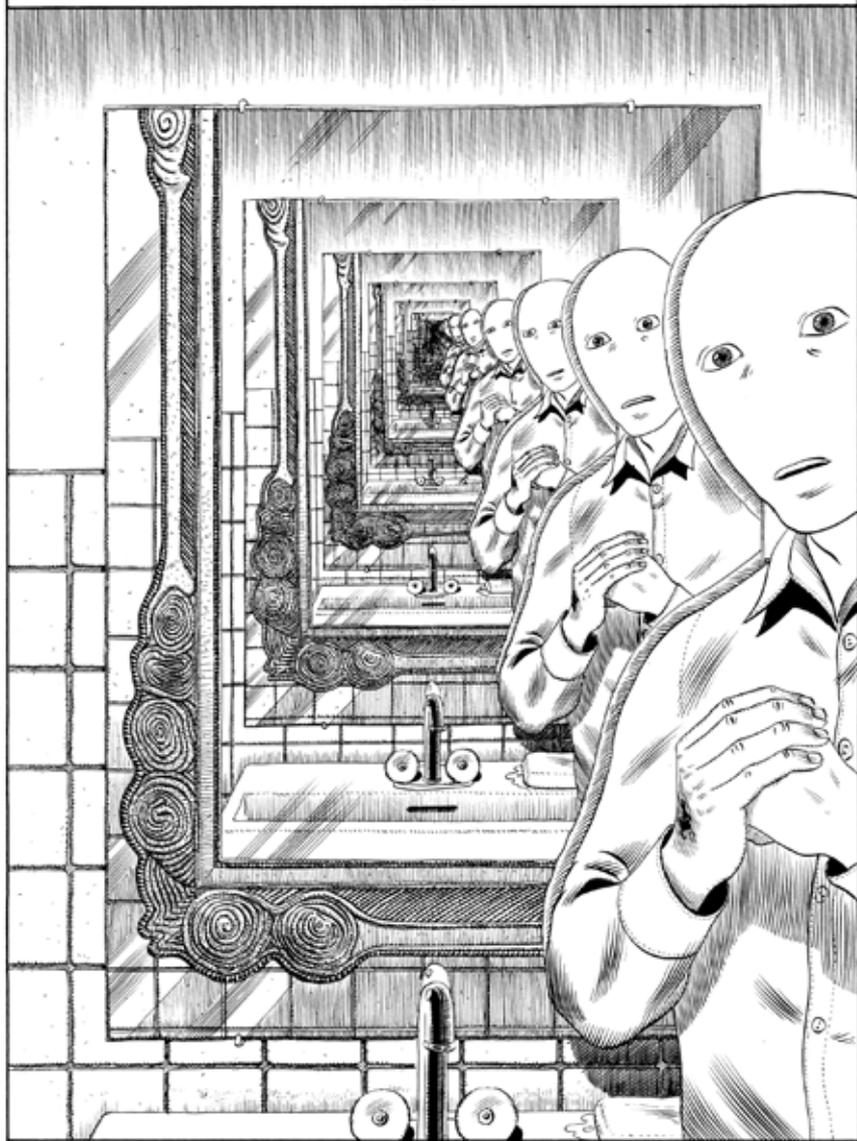


OSKAR ED: MY BEST FRIEND



OSKAR ED: MY BEST FRIEND

NEUMĚL JSEM POPSAT TEN DOZEM, KTERÝ MĚ ÚPLNĚ OVLÁDL. TAKOVÝ TEN POCIT, KDY VÁS ZAMRAŽÍ VE OHVĚLI, KDYŽ NAJEDNOU NEJSTE V MÍSTNOSTI SAMI.



MĚL JSEM NUTKANÍ ROZHLÉDNOUT SE, HLEDAT POJVĚDOMĚ ULOŽENÍ O VLASTNÍM BEZPEČÍ. NEDOKÁZAL JSEM SI HO ALE NAVODIT A TO MĚ DĚSILLO.

OSKAR ED: MY BEST FRIEND

OSKAR ED: MY BEST FRIEND



Kateřina Illnerov

WITH LOVE, G.

Have you ever held a postcard you longed to step into? Thanks to the love of her granddaughter, the ageing protagonist is able to do just that.

A slightly nostalgic fondness for sending postcards from summer holidays lies at the heart of this charming intergenerational story about the power of family, love and the imagination. The enticing landscape postcards from places visited by the eponymous G. (the granddaughter) during her holiday travels become, for her ageing grandmother, a gateway to adventurous journeys. One of them experiences them first-hand, the other from the apparent calm of a living-room armchair. Together they gradually find themselves on

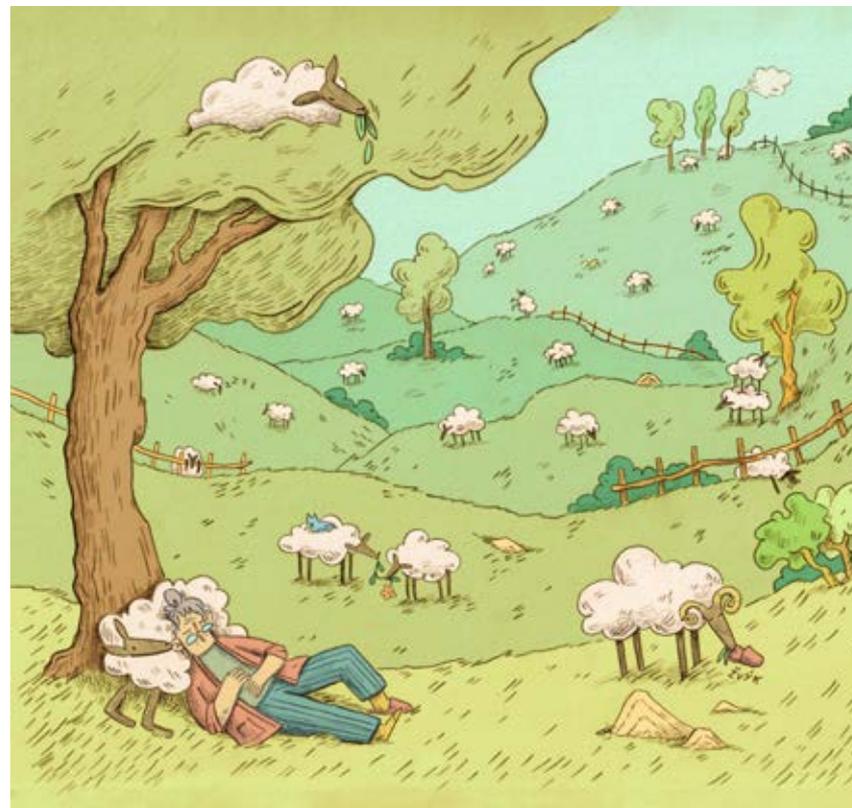
sheep-filled pastures, in dark forests perfect for mushroom foraging, on icy mountain peaks, and by sulphurous springs. One of the great hopes of the young Czech comics scene, Kateřina Illnerov received the Muriel Award in 2024 for Best Student Comics for this work which was originally her graduation project. The poetic narrative, drifting along in drowsy summer enchantment, is perfectly matched by a playful stylization, rich yet subdued colours, and an inventive, loose approach to panel grids and page composition.



S lskou V.
Host, 2025, 72 pp

AWARDS:
Muriel Comics Award 2024
Lustr Festival 2025 – Winner of Audience Award

RIGHTS:
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WITHLOVE, G.



WITHLOVE, G.



WITHLOVE, G.



WITHLOVE, G.

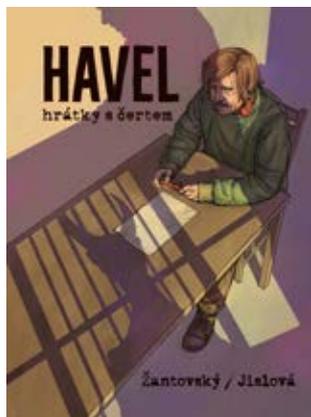


Štěpánka Jislová & Michael Žantovský HAVEL: PLAYING WITH THE DEVIL

An ambitious portrayal of a turbulent period in the life of the dissident (and later president) Václav Havel, looking at his Faustian pact with the regime and his difficulty in coming to terms with a sense of failure.

This is not the first time Václav Havel has appeared as a character in Czech comics, nor is this the first comic to explore a particular period of his life. On this occasion, however, the writer Michael Žantovský—also Havel's friend and later biographer—has chosen a period which, despite all the objectively dramatic external events (surveillance, persecution and imprisonment), was experienced above all as an intensely subjective inner struggle. After writing a letter

to President Husák and following the publication of *Charter 77*, Havel was subjected to gruelling interrogations and repeated house searches. He eventually ended up in pre-trial detention, charged with subversion of the republic and damaging its reputation abroad. It is at this point he made a decision for which he would later reproach himself. Štěpánka Jislová, one of the most prominent and widely translated creators of contemporary Czech comics, frames this essentially documentary drama—which demands the greatest possible accuracy in depicting historical figures—with a markedly stylized prologue and epilogue drawn from Havel's childhood, thereby strengthening the overall resonance of the story.



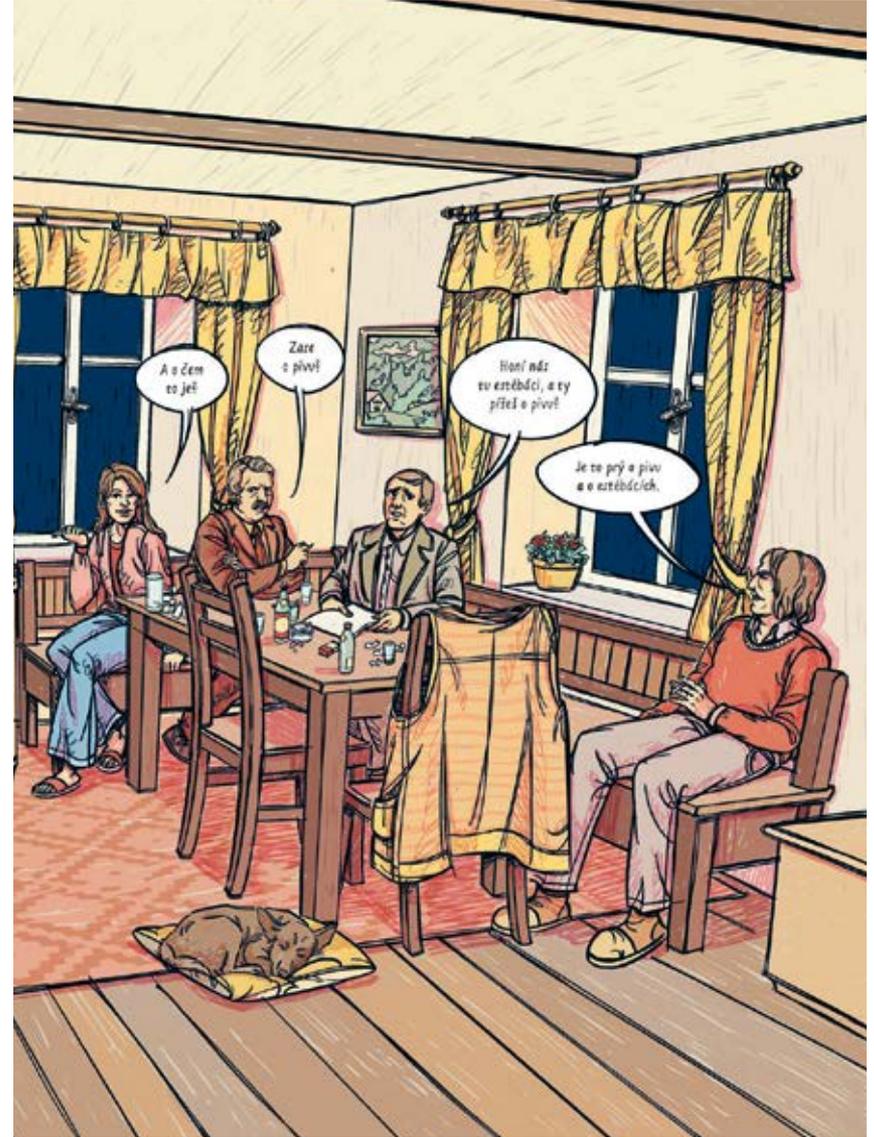
Havel: hrátky s čertem
Argo, 2025, 144 pp

RIGHTS:
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www.argo.cz/foreign-rights





HAVEL: PLAYING WITH THE DEVIL



HAVEL: PLAYING WITH THE DEVIL



HAVEL: PLAYING WITH THE DEVIL



HAVEL: PLAYING WITH THE DEVIL

Children's and
Young Adult

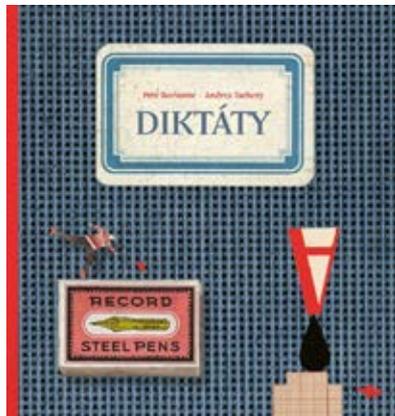
Petr Borkovec & Andrea Tachezy DICTATIONS

A celebration of chance, unexpected discoveries, and spontaneous ideas in a thoughtfully composed collection of original poetry and visual art

Inspiration for the poetry collection *Dictations* was drawn from two sources: artist Andrea Tachezy created assemblages of miscellaneous found items, such as shards and metal fragments, dry leaves, boxes or stones, and added drawings to complete and enhance them. Poet Petr Borkovec's attention was caught by an exercise book of dictations and spelling exercises belonging to an eight-year-old schoolchild from Polana in Poland, not far from the Ukrainian border, which is actually something he personally found in the house he used

to live in. He was fascinated by the unexpected confrontation of distant, originally entirely unconnected things and words in both the images and the exercise book. His imagination was unleashed by visual and sound sensations, inviting experimentation and resulting in new avant-garde, even Dadaist, wordplay. Playful, mischievous, short and longer poems, rhymed or prose, contain allusions to tricky sentences in school grammar lessons and Astrid Lindgren's *The Six Bullerby Children* series. All the poems have subtle links to a total of twenty three-dimensional collages, which are separately captioned to explain how the images were created. The book's layout resembles a school exercise book—there are handwriting exercises inside the front cover and a piece of blue blotting paper, bearing a poem called Blotting Paper, has been inserted.

Age: 11+



Diktáty
Illustrations by Andrea Tachezy
Běžilíška, 2025, 54 pp

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Tomáš Jodas
foreignsales@albatrosmedia.cz
www.albatrosmedia.eu

PRVNÍ JARNÍ DEN

Slepší vylézali z hlíny,
hlemýžďům sbíhaly se sliny,
kdo ležel ve dne, nemusel být líný

(možná byl přes noc v těžké práci:
snad hliďač, lékař, stevard v spacích
vagonech nebo paparazzi?)

a do jezírka s sedemodým kamenem
svítlo první jarní slunce – ne, že ne!

Jenomže, jako kdyby práskl bič,
zařoukal vítr – světlo bylo pryč!
Hlemýžďe přešla chuť, slepší syč-

eli, že „slunce se zblížnilo,
vždyť jste to viděli –
proměnilo se v othačenou miskul!“

Vtom zase, jako kdyby práskl bič,
zařičel vítr – mraky byly pryč!
A do jezírka tak jakoby nic
zasvítlo slunce – stál jsem blížko

a viděl slepšče, jak vylézají z hlíny,
i to, že šnekům sbíhají se sliny,
a to, že kvete první křen,
růžový, modrý, žlutý, červený.

Byl zkrátka první jarní den,
den-blázen, ztřeštěný a praštěný.



DIKTÁTY Z KADEŘNICTVÍ

Vlasy se kroutily pod křesly,
Dámy si sedaly pod fény.
Pánům se kníry krátily.
Zastříhovaly se oříny.
Barvy se vlasům měnily.
Kadeřnice se chechtaly,
Nůžky se nezastavily.
Dámy si přály novinky
a mluvily a mluvily...

Anebo jinak:

Dámy se kroutily pod křesly,
Kníry si přály oříny.
Vlasy se chechtaly pod fény.
Nůžky mluvily.
Zastříhovaly se novinky.
Dámy se nezastavily.
Kadeřnice si sedaly.
Barvy mluvily.
Krátíl se den a měnil čas,
až pánům nezbyl ani vlas!

Anebo ještě jinak.

První diktáty z knihy "Kadeřnictví" © 1972-2010, nakladatelství ve jméně ÚJOP, Hradec Králové, s.r.o. - 40. letáček se školním publikumem (přesměřováno)



DICTIONATIONS

PSANÍ

*Cirkusové koně nechodí po poli.
Kovbojové chytali byky lajy.
Mladí muži byvojí bužílov.*

Nemám čas na psaní,
naštěstí dneska lije.
Píšu ti zdaleka,
až z Austrálie.

Práce je hrozná moc –
všude mám mozoly.
Už nejsem s cirkusem,
pracuju na poli.

Koně mám. Ale vš –
jiskřička mi chybl!
Teď sedám ryžku.
Říkám jí Cherry Queen.

Jak žijete? Chodíte
s klukama něšdy na led?
Tady se hokej hraje
na trávě. Ale

Já na to nemám čas,
jsem pořád na poli.
Už musím s psaním končit,
přestalo mrholit.

Měj se. A pozdravuj
Jirku a Tonika,
Františka, Annu, Jamu,
druhého Tonika.

Učební materiálu je tvořený dílky, které je možné použít i samostatně. Pro účely tvorby učebního materiálu byla vyrobena tato učebnice. Všechny práva jsou vyhrazena. Učebnice je určena pro užití v rámci školního vyučování. Všechny práva jsou vyhrazena. Učebnice je určena pro užití v rámci školního vyučování. Všechny práva jsou vyhrazena.

DICTIONATIONS



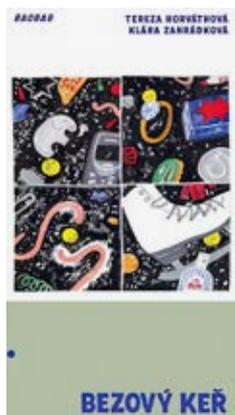
Tereza Horváthová & Klára Zahrádková THE ELDERBERRY BUSH

A slender book with two beginnings, offering a dual variation of the same story, which refers to the cycle of life. The dominant illustrations and restrained use of text convey a message for readers of any age.

This charming little book is full of surprises: it has the unusually small format of a pocket diary, and the reader soon finds that it is a double book: the story can be read from both ends, which meet in the middle on a folded, double-sided page with a panoramic illustration. One part of the story tells the tale of an elderberry seed that dropped from the beak of a white fledgling bird, while the other part depicts the adventures of

the bird itself. The narrative gently portrays the passage of time and the cycle of life, encourages readers to be observant, and highlights the role of random chance in our world. The text is brief: no more than four lines of simple sentences in capital letters are concentrated on the lower half of the page. The book is characterised by a stylistic purity, which is emphasised by the composition, colour and technique of Klára Zahrádková's illustrations. The images cleverly underpin the story's details; readers big and small will love coming back to this book again and again.

Age: 7+



Bezový keř
Illustrations by Klára Zahrádková
Baobab, 2025, 80 pp

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baobabooks@gmail.com
www.baobab-books.net/en



**NAJEDNOU SE ODNĚKUD VYNOŘIL
STRAŠLIVÝ NETVOR, NEPOZOROVANĚ SE
PŘIPLÍŽIL A POPADL PTÁČÁTKO DO ZUBŮ.
TO ZAČALO HLASITĚ NAŘÍKAT.**



ČASTO TAKÉ POZOROVAL OBLOHU, JAKO BY NA NĚCO ČEKAL. JEDNOHO DNE BYLO OKNO OTEVŘENÉ. FRNK!

THE ELDERBERRY BUSH



THE ELDERBERRY BUSH

NĚKOLIK MĚSÍCŮ ŽILO NALEPENÉ NA STAROU ŽEHLIČKU, PAK SE PŘICHYTILO NA ZREZLÝ PRSTÝNEK A NAKONEC MU DĚLALY SPOLEČNOST DVĚ ŽÍŽALY.

Klára Dvořáková & Linda Marková THE HERRMANN GIRL

Family memoir literature—a sensitive remembrance of the Shoah and the heroism of ordinary people, intended for the youngest readers, the generation of great-grandchildren.

The true war-time story of Eva Hermannová is told from the perspective of the stuffed toy rabbit that the heroine got for her fourth birthday. The little girl grew up in a harmonious family, her father was the co-owner of a department store in Opava and her mother was an Austrian opera singer, before darkness began to fall over her childhood and adolescence—she was transported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp as a *mischling* in 1943. The author recounts her heartbreaking

Age: 7+



Herrmannovic holka
Illustrations by Linda Marková
Pikola, 2025, 48 pp

time in Theresienstadt with deep comprehension and sensitivity towards child readers. She also focuses on the world-famous production of the opera *Brundibár*, which the children staged in the camp's oppressive conditions. Evička, known as Eva as she grew older, returned home at the age of sixteen, and as an adult became the artistic director of opera at Prague's National Theatre, and had a family of her own. Linda Marková's illustrations fittingly alternate cheerful and darker tones, documenting the narrative by Klára Dvořáková, one of the central heroine's grandchildren. The author was also involved in publishing her grandmother's memoirs, which came out in 2020 with the title *The Last Herrmann Girl – The Road to Theresienstadt (Poslední Herrmannovic holka. Cesta do Terezína)* aimed at adult readers.

RIGHTS:
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www.euromedia.cz





THE HERRMANN GIRL



THE HERRMANN GIRL

Marek Toman & Jiří Franta INSPECTOR MOL AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING MANUSCRIPT

Humour, unexpected twists, and a love of books—the essential ingredients for a successful parody of a classic noir detective story, aimed at more experienced readers.

During a reading, the adored writer Gréta Grande announces that the manuscript of her new novel is missing—and thousands of her fans are almost overcome with despair. Fortunately Tomáš is at the scene of the crime. The guise of an ordinary guy from a housing estate, who never finished school and doesn't really know what to do with himself, hides an experienced and weather-beaten private investigator, the hardboiled

Age: 13+

Inspector Mol. He brings his intuition to bear in his search for the lost novel, stumbles into some extremely dodgy business and interrogates a whole range of suspects. The case becomes more complicated and he can no longer trust anyone... Was it really a coincidence that Mol's flatmate, Momma Jane, was also present on the fateful evening in the library? Toman's new young adult novel, like the author's previous books, playfully reinterprets popular genre tropes (hardboiled crime fiction, in this instance), with the lovingly imitated and parodied noir ambience accentuated by Jiří Franta's dynamic, expressive illustrations.



Inspektor Mol a případ ztraceného rukopisu
Illustrations by Jiří Franta
Albatros, 2025, 176 pp

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INSPECTOR MOL AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING MANUSCRIPT



INSPECTOR MOL AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING MANUSCRIPT

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

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

CONTACT PERSON:
Eliška Boumová, Ministry of Culture Czech Republic
Eliška.Boumova@mk.gov.cz
+420 257 085 221

For more information visit:
<https://mk.gov.cz/en/literature-and-libraries-en-1123>



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, accommodation, promotion, interpreting and moderation costs.

Authors can request support for appearance fees and travel expenses. 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)

- The author will be reimbursed 100% of the granted support after the event on the basis of the final report and copies of travel documents specified.

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 and documentation.

APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR 2026 AND 2027:

- 31st May 2026 (for the period from 1st September 2026 to 15th December 2026)
- 31st October 2026 (for the period from 1st January 2027 to 31st August 2027)

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

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

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

The Moravian Library

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

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