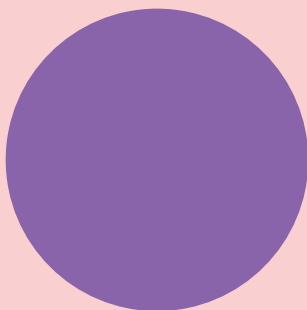


# New Czech Books Autumn 2019



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the Czech Literary Centre

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# Introduction

Dear followers of Czech literature,

It is my pleasure to present the autumn 2019 edition of New Czech Books.

This is a significant year in the history of Czech literature as it saw the largest presentation to date by the Czech Republic at the Leipzig Book Fair in March. Thirty years after the end of totalitarianism and the Velvet Revolution, the fair was attended by 55 writers who showcased their latest work reflecting contemporary Czech life. The 80 or so new translations published in Germany, Austria and Switzerland would not have been possible without the admirable efforts of dozens of Czech-to-German translators and significant support from the Czech Ministry of Culture and the Czech-German Future Fund. According to the "Leipziger Volkszeitung," the Czech Republic made a greater impact than any other country in the fair's recent history! Hopefully this success will be replicated in other book markets.

An important part of this literary phenomenon was newly published books. A number of these were written by authors present at the event in Leipzig whose books have been well received in German translation, such as Radka Denemarková (recent winner of the Magnesia Litera – Book of the Year), Viktorie Hanišová, Petr Hruška and Tereza Semotamová.

These and other authors have come up with interesting themes across all genres – in prose (including historical novels and thrillers), poetry, books for children and young adults, comic books and non-fiction. They take us to different locations in the Czech Republic, but also to the homes of Czech exiles in Western Europe and even to Greenland and China. Some of the more unusual works include a look at hospice care and approaches to the terminally ill as well as a popular-science publication on parasites and men. Jacques Rupnik's essays on Central European history are also outstanding.

I trust our latest edition will provide you with some tips for inspiring reading!

Martin Krafl  
programme coordinator for Leipzig 2019  
and the Czech Year of Culture (DE/AT/CH)  
head of the Czech Literary Centre / CzechLit

# CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

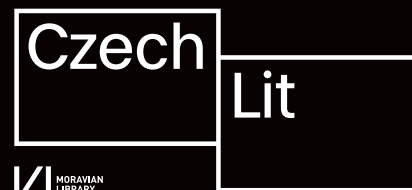
is a state-funded organisation supporting and promoting Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic. The centre is a section of the Moravian Library.

## The Czech Literary Centre:

- Promotes prose, literature for children and young adults, poetry, drama, comics, non-fiction and new forms of literature
- Acts as an information hub for foreign publishers, translators, Czech studies specialists, event organisers and others interested in Czech literature
- Provides grants for authors to attend cultural events abroad
- Cooperates on international literature and translation projects with partner institutions abroad and in the Czech Republic
- Organises residencies for foreign translators, Czech studies specialists and authors
- Runs the bilingual website [czechlit.cz](http://czechlit.cz) with information about books, authors, grants, residencies and Czech literature news
- Cooperates with the network of Czech Centres, which promote Czech culture abroad, as well as with other governmental and non-governmental cultural and non-profit organisations and individuals
- Is involved in the presentation of Czech literature at book fairs abroad in cooperation with its parent institution
- Holds the annual Susanna Roth Award for young translators of Czech literature

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# Literary Fiction

# Tereza Semotamová

## IN THE CUPBOARD

A tragicomedy about a young woman looking for her place in the world and finding refuge in an old cupboard in the middle of a town.

While living abroad, a young sculptor has to contend with an unhappy relationship and the unexplained death of her partner. Returning to her own country is difficult, not least because of her personal crisis: she has no reason to live or even a place to live. However, there is an old cupboard that her respectable sister has left in the courtyard to be thrown out. Having run out of other options, she moves into it. The metaphor of a longed-for

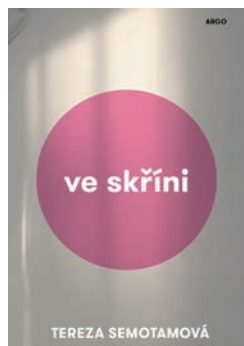
place in the world culminates as her uncomfortable dwelling in the courtyard starts leaking badly. Many things can be blocked out, but not constriction at home or within yourself. The rich and lively use of language and the sense of the absurd, drama and farce, coupled with a strong command of narration, guarantee a high-quality read. This tragicomic story has unexpected depths.

“Semotamová’s first solo work of prose offers much more than just an idiosyncratic protagonist who comments with unmistakable cynicism on the rather cheerless drudgery of human life.”

—*iLiteratura*

“The novel eschews linearity, unity of form and clarity of interpretation, and the author certainly does not offer the reader a helping hand to lead them safely to the end. The book is alive with creative freedom. The author’s authenticity and prowess leave no doubt that she is the one making the rules.”

—*Právo*



Ve skříni  
Argo, 2018, 224 pp

Photo: Richard Klíčník



Tereza Semotamová (1983) studied radio and television dramaturgy and screen-writing at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts (JAMU) in Brno and German language and culture at Masaryk University in Brno. She received her doctorate from JAMU in Brno for her dissertation on German radio plays from the 1950s. She currently devotes her time to translating German literature, journalism and her own writing. She contributes to the Czech-German website for the Goethe Institute in Prague and has written dozens of radio plays for Czech Radio. In 2015 she published her debut novel, *Počong anebo O pinoživosti lidské existence* (Pochong or On the Drudgery of Human Existence), which she wrote with Jakub Vitek. Her novel *Ve skříni* (In the Cupboard) was published in 2018 and was nominated for a Magnesia Litera Award in the prose category.

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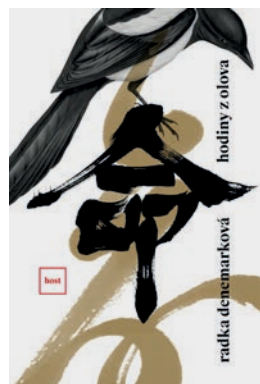
# Radka Denemarková

## HOURS OF LEAD

A monumental novel offering a social critique of the new China and the end of the old Europe.

The old order of Europe is coming to an end, but there is nothing to replace it with yet. This large-scale existential novel, inspired by the author's stay in China, looks at numerous characters of different nationalities and ages: a Czech businessman and his family, a Russian diplomat, a French writer, an American calligraphy student... All of them have gone to China to find some equilibrium. However, they are all too indecisive and unsettled, apathetic and demoralized.

Dramatic turning points occur in their private lives but also in society at large – an hour of lead may last for ages and contemporary China, as an economic miracle and police state in one, may point to what the future holds for us. This novel landed Radka Denemarková her fourth Magnesia Litera Award – this time the highest prize of Book of the Year.



Hodiny z olova  
Host, 2018, 752 pp

“Radka Denemarková’s notes on contemporary China remind us that there are as many versions of China as there are people who write about it, and yet it is still the same country governed by one Party.”

—*Právo*

“It is possible that this novel will be received better abroad than in the Czech Republic, since it contains many sensitive topics and the author even criticizes things we have learned to be proud of.”

—*Vaše literatura*



Photo: Tobias Böhm

Radka Denemarková (1968) is a writer, literary historian, screenwriter, translator of German literature and dramaturg who has won numerous literary awards both in the Czech Republic and abroad. She is the only Czech writer to have been awarded a Magnesia Litera Award in four different categories: prose, journalism, translation and Book of the Year. Her books have been published in more than twenty languages, and her essays and articles have come out in German, English and Chinese. She often appears at international literary festivals and book fairs in Germany, the USA, Spain, Mexico, Switzerland, Austria, France, Colombia and many other countries. She lives in Prague.

AWARDS:  
2019 Magnesia Litera Award – Book of the Year

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# Petr Stančík

## NOCEROS

Another sumptuous stylistic, linguistic and narrative feast from Petr Stančík, this time with Inspector Lavabo in the lead role.

The central character in this “spiritual” detectivesque story is the cynical inspector Libor Lavabo, who is trying to solve the case of twelve incinerated rhinoceroses and one night-watchman at a firm processing rhino horns. However, the investigation gradually expands to encompass Goethe’s secret diary, the battle between the secret societies of Neptunia and Plutonia for control of the world, the crazy Chief Inspector Marhanová and a combined interpretation of Jan Preisler’s paintings.

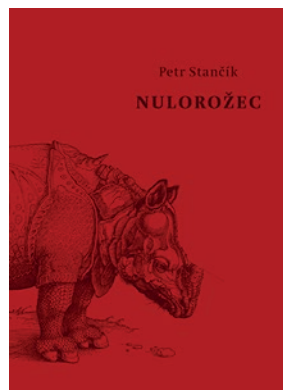
The message will lead Lavabo into the heart of the extinct volcano of Chamber Hill in Western Bohemia. Part detective story, part conspiracy novel, and above all a fun, tongue-in-cheek and witty stylistic feast of wordplay.

“Nowadays novels mainly seem to be written by journalists testing whether this format allows them to express more than a comment or status. And Stančík is the polar opposite to them. With his novel he doesn’t want to say anything about the age or society. He just wants to have fun and entertain.”

—*Respekt*

“The noceros might be a single-horned animal that has lost its horn to poachers. But it is also the nullity in our thinking, which in these confused times is unable to rely on the certainties of yesterday, never mind hope for the future. The author doesn’t solve this problem for us. Why should he? But he relishes showing us where our shoes pinch.”

—*Ego!*



Nulorožec  
Druhé město, 2018, 220 pp

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



Petr Stančík (1968) entered the world of literature under the pseudonym Odillo Stradický ze Strdic, and since 2007 he has been publishing under his own name. His books for adults include the tale of the first Czech superhero *Pérák* (The Spring Man, 2008) and the gastronomic / pornographic / philosophical thriller *Mlýn na mumie* (Mummy Mill, 2014), while those for children include the juvenile horror story *Mrkev ho vcucla pod zem* (A Carrot Sucked Him Underground, 2013) and a series of children’s stories featuring Chrujda the badger. He also wrote the historical monograph *Kaple Božího Těla a Krve a Bratrstvo obruče s kladivem* (The Chapel of the Divine Body and Blood and the Brotherhood of the Hoop and Hammer, 2015) about the destroyed Temple of Solomon in the middle of Prague’s New Town. The novel *Nulorožec* (Noceros, 2018) was nominated for the 2019 Magnesia Litera Award for prose.

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English and German sample translations available



# Alena Mornštajnová

## YEARS OF SILENCE

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

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

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

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

—Právo

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

—A2



Tiché roky  
Host, 2019, 296 pp



Photo: Vojtěch Vík

Alena Mornštajnová (1963) studied English and Czech at Ostrava University. She made her debut in 2013 with the novel *Slepá mapa* (Blind Map), and her second novel *Hotýlek* (The Little Hotel) came out in 2015. It was primarily due to her third novel, *Hana*, from 2017 that Alena Mornštajnová became one of the most popular contemporary Czech writers. *Hana* has been translated into more than ten languages (including English, German and Italian) and has won numerous awards: among others, it received the 2018 Czech Book Award and became the 2017 Book of the Year on the website Databáze knih (Database of Books). Her latest novel *Tiché roky* (Years of Silence, 2019) went to the top of the national bestseller list immediately after publication. In total, more than 130,000 copies of the author's books have been sold in the Czech Republic. Alena Mornštajnová lives in Valašské Meziříčí.

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English and German sample translations available

# A. Gravensteen

## GLACIAL MOTION

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

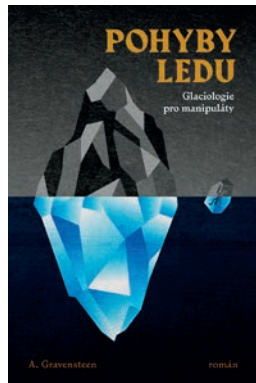
Although the story begins with an encounter between a mysterious girl in black – a microbiologist called Klára – and a young journalist called Rosli – a man prone to drink – in the Prague Botanical Garden in Trója, the main character of this novel is a Greenlandic glacier. When a new greenhouse is opened,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

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

Photo: Vojta Sedláček



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



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

—Petr A. Bílek, literary historian and theorist

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

—*iLiteratura*

Pohyby ledu  
Paseka, 2019, 416 pp

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English sample translation available

# Viktorie Hanišová

## RECONSTRUCTION

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

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

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

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

—*Týden*

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

—*MF DNES*



Rekonstrukce  
Host, 2019, 311 pp

Photo: Vojtěch Vlk



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

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# Markéta Brousková

## AN UNWANTED WITNESS

Uncompromising – as only memories of life in exile in Germany can be.

This novelistic memoir by literary historian Markéta Brousková provides a detailed account of the life of the Czech exiles who arrived in Western Europe in the 1970s and 1980s with idyllic notions about life there and returned after the revolution with similarly unrealistic expectations.

This harsh, unkind and almost sarcastic depiction presents a blasphemous image of the life of Czech exiles and Czech provincialism in a circle of people who might be expected to exhibit more noble characteristics. A book of memories, a book of defiance, a book of stories.

“In her reminiscences the author returns to the years spent within a heterogeneous group of Czech exiles. She offers stories and anecdotes about successful and unsuccessful careers, obstacles and unexpected turning points in life.”

—*iLiteratura*

“Markéta Brousková’s novelistic memoir cuts like a machete... Both her husbands taught at universities and moved within exile circles. Brousková settles accounts with them through fragmentary and associative memories to produce sceptical, ironic, almost blasphemous images. We should harbour no illusions about anything or anyone.”

—*Respekt*



Nežádoucí svědek  
Torst, 2019, 116 pp



Photo: Peter Schomanek

Markéta Brousková (1941–2019) was a novelist and literary historian. She studied at Charles University’s Faculty of Arts. She emigrated to Stuttgart in 1969 and then to West Berlin, where she worked at the Freie Universität. In 1995 she brought out the novel *České taroky* (Czech Tarot Cards), in which she looks at her own roots and the fate of her German Jewish family, and in 2019 her memoirs *Nežádoucí svědek* (An Unwanted Witness).

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English sample translation available

Poetry



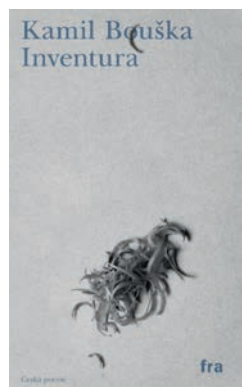
# Kamil Bouška

## INVENTORY

What is human and what is now inhuman? An inventory of the most important things that still make us human.

What is humanity and what is it founded upon? The uncompromising, dark descent into the most rank recesses of the human psyche in the collection *Inventory* does not show the reader the bright side of the planet's intelligent inhabitants: the inventory of our existence works out very unfavourably for the poor accountant. Here humanity and its future is given up as a lost cause. Hearts are eaten

alive, the word darling has a strangely repulsive ring to it, children live off human flesh, and relationships are consumed in a similar manner – each verse is dedicated to monstrosity and perversion. Despite all of this, at the very end of the collection the tiniest of spaces remains for love. The language of the poetry is just as earthy – there is nothing pretty about it. Prettiness is left up to the reader.



“Bouška communicates all of the anxiety and tension of his age and gives it a fascinating form, just as Samuel Beckett did in his day: convincing, mature, uncompromising, at times almost cruel, farcical and solipsistic.”

—Magnesia Litera Award jury

“Bouška's imagery evolves from lyrically abstract verse and takes on a form that is far more specific and colloquial but also disgusted, where we find no sympathy for the human race.”

—iLiteratura

*Inventura*,  
Fra, 2018, 76 pp

Photo: Jana Plavec



Kamil Bouška (1979) is a poet, researcher at the Institute of Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Science and Arts. He graduated in religious studies from Pardubice University. Together with Petr Řehák and Adam Borzič, he is a member of the poetry group Fantasia. His poems formed part of a joint collection named after the group (2008), and he occasionally makes public appearances alongside the other members. He is one of the core authors of Fra publishing house. His solo debut was the collection *Oheň po slavnosti* (A Fire After a Party, 2011), which was nominated for the Magnesia Litera Award for Poetry and for Discovery of the Year. In 2015 he published his second collection of poetry, *Hemisféry* (Hemispheres, 2015), which was followed by *Inventura* (Inventory, 2018), nominated for the Magnesia Litera Award for Poetry. He lives and works in Prague.

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English sample translation available

# Wanda Heinrichová

## THE NEEDLE DESCENDS

Fantastical, eerie, mysterious and penetrating poems, whose needles descend right into the reader's core.

The poems / stories in the spiky collection *The Needle Descends* draw on world literature and several European languages including Czech, German and Slovak. The speaker/observer, who takes the form of a precise pathologist, an insane woman with a strange deadly disease and a charming child who likes

playing with insects, produces poetry with richly imaginative, vivid images which are razor-sharp despite not building up to a neat conclusion, and at the same time are mysterious, fantastical and compellingly odd.



*Jehla sestupuje*  
Fra, 2018, 80 pp

“Picturesque and bizarre, but not pleasant – in fact, even the illustrations in the collection, reproductions from an educational book for children by Heinrich Hoffman, help to conjure up a quite terrifying world. Horror-like curiosities – just like Heinrichová’s poetic stories.”

— *Česká televize*

Photo: Jana Plavec



Wanda Heinrichová (1968) is a poet, translator and German teacher. She studied medicine for a few semesters but eventually graduated in German language and culture from Charles University. From February 2010 to December 2013 she edited the review section of the literary fortnightly magazine *Tvar*. In 2011 she published the poetry collection *Nalomenou* (Cracked). Together with Ivan Wernisch she edited the anthology *Nejlepší české básně 2013* (The Best Czech Poetry of 2013). Her poems have been translated into English, French, Italian and German. An anthology of her poetry was published in France with the title *Suis-je bien couverte?* (2017) in a translation by Petr Král. Her latest poetry collection is the book *Jehla sestupuje* (The Needle Descends, 2018).

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# Petr Hruška

## NOWHERE IT IS SAID

A collection of poetry where existential images of people today mingle with messages from ancient times.

This unsettled, fragmentary collection divided into five sections is an image of the restless, incomplete and disconnected nature of a confused and lost world. The central section is the eponymous seven-part poem filled with scraps of speech, announcements and appeals. The composition of the collection is based on the recurring motif of moving, putting down and lifting objects, as well as on the motifs of everyday endeavours – the painful and laborious effort to force oneself on a little further – which are so characteristic of Hruška's poetic.

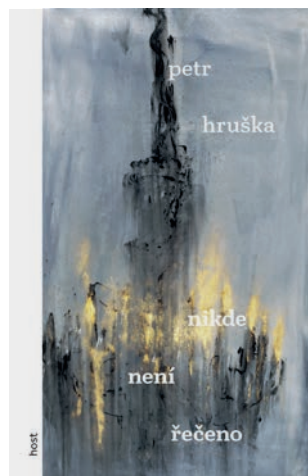
Surprisingly, however, there is a new motif in Hruška's latest collection: an allusion to obscure fragments of ancient clay tablets in an integrated series of nine poems entitled "Hliněná tabulka" (The Clay Tablet). The missing passages in them are destroyed, broken, illegible, fragmentary, unfinished, damaged... It's just as well that filling in the gaps in stories is second nature to humans and that incompleteness has its appeal.

"One of the key themes in Hruška's new collection is finding oneself. Those who inhabit his poems are constantly finding themselves in a typically Hruška-esque state of anxiety in unexpected situations and in various places, suddenly deprived of a sense of stability."

—*Ostravan*

"Hruška has rapidly matured in his sensitivity to the ambiguity and uncertainty of today's world. The poems in this new collection are not the result of a poetic epiphany, as was customary for the poet, but are built up in layers from snippets and glimpses of ordinary life and 'commonplace' everyday conflicts, which are then reflected upon using images."

—*Deník N*



Nikde není řečeno  
Host, 2019, 96 pp



Photo: Ondřej Lipár

Petr Hruška (1964) is a leading Czech poet and literary scholar. He was born and lives in Ostrava, where he regularly organises reading nights in the Les absinth club. He works for the Czech Literature Institute of the Academy of Sciences as an expert in post-1945 Czech poetry. He taught Czech literature in turns at Masaryk University in Brno and at the University of Ostrava. He is the author of many collections of poems published since 1995. In 1998, he was awarded the Czech-German Dresden Lyrics Prize and in 2009 the Jan Skácel Prize, which once every three years is awarded to the author of an outstanding Czech work of poetry which builds on the best tradition and spirit of Moravian poetry. In 2013, he won the highest Czech literary award, the State Prize for Literature, for his collection *Darmata* (Petty Tragedies, 2012). 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.



Children's and  
Young Adult

# René Nekuda STORYWORKS

A truly interactive book, allowing readers to “generate” their own story all by themselves from the components provided.

*Storyworks*, from the creators of the popular children's magazine *Raketa*, enables children to create their own story from the 12 million possible combinations of figures, objects and situations that can be drawn out of the “story generator.” The aim is to develop children's imagination and creative potential while pushing the boundaries of fantasy. At the same time, it helps to develop the reader's literacy.

Sixty games and tasks are divided into four levels according to the ability and age of the reader/creator. Each level has been illustrated by a different illustrator. The book can also be used creatively by writing, drawing and pasting things onto it.

Age: 6+



Příběhostroj  
Illustrated by Aneta Františka Holasová, Tereza Lukešová, Johana Švejdíková and Marie Urbánková  
Labyrint, 2019, 140 pp

“*Storyworks*, or the story generator, opens up a world of endless possibilities for children and adults. This innovative book develops the reader's literacy, creativity, imagination and ability to tell a story. Writing, pasting and drawing in the book are all permitted.”

—City-Dog

“*Storyworks* is not a ‘disposable’ book as such; instead it is a beautifully illustrated workbook, a set of tasks and stimulating questions, challenges and surprises.”

—iLiteratura

Photo: Labyrint



René Nekuda (1986) is an editor, journalist and creative-writing teacher. He studied at the Literary Academy in Prague and at Chapman University in Los Angeles. He gives lectures on his travels, writes short stories and plays, and is involved in voluntary activities. He is the author of the bestseller *Kreativní zápisník* (The Creative Notebook, 2017) and is also behind the Hakuna Matata project, a collection of stories by beginner authors from the Czech Republic, Belgium and Spain.

RIGHTS:  
Labyrint publishers  
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joachim.dvorak@seznam.cz  
www.labyrint.net/stranka/21/english

# Jiří Dvořák

## WHERE WE LIVE

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

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

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

Photo: Baobab



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

Age 9+



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

—Most Beautiful Czech Books jury

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

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

RIGHTS:  
Baobab publishers  
gplusg@gplusg.cz

# Bára Dočkalová

## THE SECRET OF PEBBLE MOUNTAIN

An exciting and colourful book for young readers which links elements of fantasy with everyday life.

It's the start of the holidays and a difficult test awaits the two youngest members of a group of children: tough girl Krisa, who secretly misses her absent dad, and the submissive, insecure Titch. Will they finally become part of "The Gang"? Can they keep a secret? During an adventurous journey through an unknown land to the magic Pebble Mountain, they even come face to face with themselves.

With the help of newly discovered friends from this fantastical realm, the two child heroes not only overcome the strange creatures threatening the kingdom, but also their own problems. This inventive, contemporary, complex and thrilling fantasy story about a rough group of children develops into a narrative with a deep philosophical message.

Age: 9+



Tajemství Oblázkové hory  
Illustrated by Petra Josefina Stibitzová  
Labyrint, 2018, 250 pp

"A story which seems to have absorbed the major themes from all of the children's literary classics and made use of them for its own ends, imperceptibly moulding them into a foundation to support and reinforce its structure."

—*Tvar*

"In her promising debut, Dočkalová narrates a colourful story which contains emotion and excitement, blurring the boundaries between the world of humans and animals."

—Magnesia Litera Award jury



Photo: Labyrint

Bára Dočkalová (1977) teaches English didactics at Charles University's Faculty of Education and runs an English theatre for children. She writes plays and songs. She completed the story *Oblázková země* (Pebble Country) when she was just eleven. She lost the original manuscript when moving house but returned to the theme years later. *Tajemství Oblázkové hory* (The Secret of Pebble Mountain, 2018) is her first book.

Petra Josefina Stibitzová (1988) studied illustration and graphics at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. She illustrates children's books, creates comics and is a regular contributor to the *Raketa* magazine for children. When she's not drawing, she goes on trips (with her sketchbook).

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# Robin Král, Petr Svobodný WATCH OUT, DOCTOR ABOUT! A HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN SEVEN DAYS

An entertaining and visually arresting history of medicine, healing and therapy from the emergence of the first civilizations to the present day.

A narrative-led encyclopaedia focusing on the history of approaches to ailments and diseases and the ways they have been treated through the ages – a history of medicine in seven days. It compares the methods of the past with those of today, taking the reader back to the origins of surgery, the development

of anaesthesia, the invention of the blood transfusion and the discovery of vaccinations and antibiotics. This richly illustrated book offers an insight into the medical profession through individual topics, surveying its development from prehistoric times to the present.

Age: 10+



Pozor, doktor!: Dějiny medicíny v sedmi dnech  
Illustrated by Nikola Logosová  
Graphic design by Zuzana Lednická  
Béžiliška, 2019, 96 pp

From left: Z. Lednická, F. Havlůj, P. Svobodný, N. Logosová, R. Král  
Photo: Richard Klíčník



Robin Král (1981) studied aesthetics at Charles University's Faculty of Arts and screenwriting at the college of the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory, where he now teaches. His focus is poetry for very young children. He encourages the world of children's aspirations and fantasies in the series *Šimon chce být krotitelem* (Simon Wants to Be a Lion Tamer) and *Z Kroměříže do Paříže* (From Kroměříž to Paris, both 2011). For the poetic and technical sample book of poetic forms *Vynálezárium* (House of Inventions, 2015) he received a Magnesia Litera Award in the category of books for children and young adults.

Petr Svobodný (1958) is a researcher at the Institute of History and Archive of Charles University. He specializes in the history of higher education, in particular medicine and health. He is the chair of the Society of the History of Science and Technology and is the author of the monograph *Dějiny lékařství v českých zemích* (A History of Medicine in the Czech Lands, 2004) and the educational book *Pražské špitály a nemocnice* (Prague Hospitals and Clinics, 1999).

Zuzana Lednická (1974) graduated in toy design and technology at the Secondary Professional School of Applied Arts, and in graphic design at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. She co-owns Studio Najbrt and is the recipient of numerous design awards.

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

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WATCH OUT, DOCTOR ABOUT! A HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN SEVEN DAYS



WATCH OUT, DOCTOR ABOUT! A HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN SEVEN DAYS

# Comics



# Ondřej Kavalír, Vojtěch Mašek, Karel Osoha

## THE RETURN OF THE KING OF THE ŠUMAVA, PART 1: ON THE LINE

Nothing is more adventurous than real-life human stories – the brave people smuggler known as the King of the Šumava in an excellent cartoon adaptation.

The first part of a planned comic-book trilogy inspired by David Jan Žák's best-seller *Návrat Krále Šumavy* (The Return of the King of the Šumava) from 2012. This biographical novel about the people smuggler who outsmarted the security services has been adapted into a fast-paced detective-style comic book. Although the King of Šumava, Josef Hasil, originally wore the uniform of the National Security Corps and guarded the border, following the "Victorious February" of 1948 he went over to the other side.

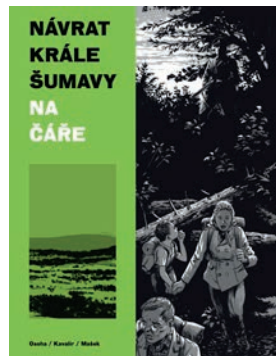
As well as the dramatic events behind the creation of the Iron Curtain and a setting in the Czech "Wild West" of the Šumava border region – a world of border guards, agents and people smugglers, interrogations, remote forest locations and penal camps – this is also a story of enduring human values, bravery and betrayal, and bonds between people. But here the heroes are human – not cardboard cut-outs. Their weaknesses make them more relatable to the reader.

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

—*Respekt*

"The trio of authors tell the story in contemporary comic-book language, but at the same time in an appealingly sober way."

—*iLiteratura*



Návrat Krále Šumavy I. / Na čáře  
Illustrated by Karel Osoha  
Labyrint, 2018, 160 pp

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



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

Vojtěch Mašek (1977) is a comics writer and artist, author of film screenplays and theatre plays. The film *Křižáček* (Little Crusader, 2017), which he co-wrote received the main award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Along with Markéta Hajscká and Máša Bořkovcová, he created the triptych *O příběhu* (2010), commenting on the fate of Czech and Slovak Roma. Mašek is also the author of the internet hit *Recykliteratura*, which builds on the avant-garde tradition of associative montages using photographs and texts found in books and magazines.

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

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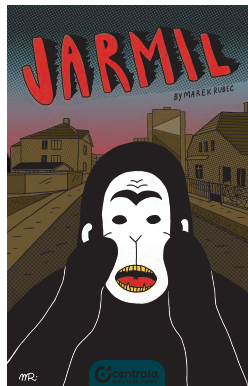
# Marek Rubec

## JARMIL

A unique view of contemporary provincial life that entirely dispenses with words.

Beer, pizza and selfies are not enough to liven up the north-Bohemian town in Marek Rubec's small-scale, non-textual but by no means silent comic-book *Jarmil*. The place remains stagnant in a paradoxical way: everything here is either in a constant headlong rush or locked into a continual wait for any kind of change. Jarmil the monkey surveys all of this without words.

This cartoon analysis of consumerism and the endless cycle of the everyday in a small Czech town – where life revolves around new goods in the supermarket and the desire for a new tattoo, and all energies are concentrated into the anticipation of something different – is a unique probe into today's world.



Jarmil  
Centrala, 2018, 52 pp

“In the spirit of old cartoons, Rubec relates the tales of Jarmil the monkey without words, using only pictures.”  
—*Deník.cz*



Photo: Veronika Brocknerová

Marek Rubec (1979) is a graphic artist, comic-book writer and animator. He comes from Litoměřice and studied art education and basic social science at the University of Hradec Králové and animation at Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín. The main focus of his work is comics and illustrations as well as animated films. Together with Pavel Kosatík he created the graphic novel *1942, Jak v Londýně vymysleli atentát na Heydricha* (1942: How the assassination of Heydrich was devised in London) from the cycle *Češi* (Czechs, 2014). The comic book *Jarmil* was brought out by the Polish publishing house Centrala, which operates in the UK and the Czech Republic. Rubec also created a Google Doodle to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the legendary Czech comics *Rychlé šípy* (Rapid Arrows), won the competition at the 2017 Frame Prague Comics Art Festival and was also behind the visuals for the festival. His work is characterized by the exceptional variability of his artistic style, which makes it impossible to identify superficial unifying traits. In terms of content, he gravitates towards dark comedy and absurd humour.

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JARMIL



JARMIL

# Genre Fiction



# Iva Procházková

## UNCOMPROMISINGLY

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

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

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



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

—iLiteratura

Nekompromisně  
Paseka, 2019, 376 pp

Photo: Agáta Dolejší



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

RIGHTS:  
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English sample translation available

# Miloš Urban CARLSBAD

A gripping, suspenseful and terrifying murder mystery.

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

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



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

—*Vaše literatura*

KAR  
Argo, 2019, 350 pp

Photo: Jan Křikava



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

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English and German sample translations available

# Martin Goffa

## PRIMARY TRUST: POINT OF VIEW

The 10<sup>th</sup> part of the series with the detective Syrový, a firm favourite with fans of Czech detective stories.

Detektiv Miko Syrový finds himself in his trickiest situation to date: his closest colleague and friend is arrested and Syrový has to stand up for him and for himself. Is the evidence simply incontrovertible or does it actually reveal the truth? Who has a skeleton from the past lurking in their closet and how does a mysterious phone call from an unknown man fit into the

picture? Another instalment in the detective series by this author who served with the Czech police force for 15 years and writes under a pseudonym, has once again become a best-seller. This is the tenth book by Goffa to feature Detektiv Mikuláš Syrový since 2013, when the first part of the series came out.



Primární důvěra. Úhel pohledu  
Mladá fronta, 2019, 208 pp

“Detective Miko Syrový is no superman: he’s a regular, straight-talking guy. The sequel to the book *Primary Trust* is just as good as the first part, and has an ending which leaves the way open for another sequel.”

—*Databáze knih*

Photo: Tomáš Škoda



Martin Goffa (1973) is a crime writer and former police officer. He joined the Czech police force in the mid-1990s, started out as a policeman on the beat and spent the vast majority of his career as a detective with the crime squad. He left the force after fifteen years and is now an entrepreneur and writer. He is the author of the successful detective series featuring Detective Mikuláš Syrový (10 parts), which includes *Vykoupení* (Redemption, 2018) and *Primární důvěra. Úhel pohledu* (Primary Trust: Point of View, 2019), the “torn novel” *Rémi* (2018) and the crime thriller *Vánoční zpověď* (Christmas Confession, 2015). He lives in Prague and writes under a pseudonym.

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Non-fiction



# Martin Rychlík

## A HISTORY OF HAIR: HAIRSTYLES, BEARDS, BODY HAIR AND LOOKING AFTER THEM

An interdisciplinary overview of the hair that covers our heads and bodies in terms of its social, aesthetic and cultural significance.

Hair – not just as a “crowning glory,” but rather as a social signal and cultural phenomenon. Our hair sends messages about our gender, sexual maturity, age, social status and world view. This interdisciplinary study of the styling of hair and beards and the wearing of wigs examines their

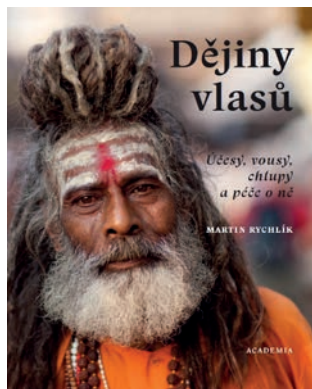
significance in a biological, historical and cultural context. It draws on literary, archaeological, anthropological, scientific and visual sources to look at global cultures from the pre-literary age, through ancient times and the modern era, to the present.

“Based on research into a commendable number of sources, *A History of Hair* takes an engaging look at the hair on our heads and bodies and the complex and often confusing tangle of connotations it has acquired during the history of human civilization.”

—*Lidové noviny*

“It would be unfair to make out that the average reader will just flick through this book to look at the pictures and pick out juicy titbits from various times and places in the world, as Rychlík is a captivating narrator with a witty style that is unusual in Czech scientific writing.”

—*Heroine*



Dějiny vlasů: Účesy, vousy, chlupy a péče o ně  
Academia, 2018, 364 pp

Photo: Dagmar Vyháňková



Martin Rychlík (1977) studied ethnology as well as history and the theory of culture at Charles University. In 2009 he spent a year at the University of Tokyo (communication science). From 2000 to 2006 he worked as a writer at the Czech Press Office (ČTK), then as an editor and reporter at the weekly Euro (2006–2010). After 2010 he worked for the news website *Česká pošta* and since 2013 he has been writing for the newspaper *Lidové noviny* about science, research and higher education.

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# Jacques Rupnik

## CENTRAL EUROPE IS LIKE A BIRD WITH ITS EYES AT THE BACK OF ITS HEAD

In this book of essays, the world-famous political scientist looks at Central European historical events.

From the establishment of Czechoslovakia to contemporary attitudes to migration and the European Union – such is the historical scope of Jacques Rupnik's examination of Czech political history in a Central European context. The oldest text is from 1974 and the most recent from 2018. The volume includes a number of texts previously published by Rupnik, often

in other languages. The reflections and lectures are analytical, with a detached view and a firm grasp of context. The author has grouped his contributions into three sections: National Identity and Nationalism, Czech Society and Communism, Czech Transformation and European Integration.



Střední Evropa je jako pták s očima vzadu  
Novela bohémica, 2018, 430 pp

“Rupnik’s book deals with many issues in Central European and Czech history, but the trickiest is finding an answer to the most topical question: Why have the Central European demons returned?”

—*Právo*

“All the essays are written in a highly literate and yet – despite the fact that their author is a renowned academic – very readable way.”

—*Česká televize*

Photo: Tomáš Vodňanský



Jacques Rupnik (1950) is a political scientist, historian and journalist specializing in Central and Eastern Europe. He studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and at Harvard University. He is the author of several books about Eastern Europe and European integration. He worked with the dissident and Czech exile community up until the end of the 1980s. From 1982 he was a professor at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris. From 1974 to 1975 he was a researcher at Harvard University’s Russian Research Center and from 1977 to 1982 he worked as an expert on Eastern Europe for the BBC World Service. From 1999 to 2000 he was a member of the Independent International Commission for Kosovo. From 1990 to 1992 he worked as an advisor to President Václav Havel. He is currently a professor at the College of Europe in Bruges and director of research at the Fondation des Sciences Politiques in Paris.

AWARDS:  
2019 Magnesia Litera Award – Journalism

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# Aleš Palán, Marie Svatošová DON'T BE AFRAID TO GO HOME: MARIE SVATOŠOVÁ IN CONVERSATION WITH ALEŠ PALÁN

A dialogue between an award-winning Czech writer, journalist and the founder of hospice care about her life, spiritual journey and attitudes to the terminally ill.

When most people in the Czech Republic hear the term “hospice and palliative care,” there is one name that comes to mind: Marie Svatošová, the doctor who pioneered care for the dying in this country at a time when death was a taboo subject. In his latest book of discussions with interesting personalities, the journalist and writer Aleš Palán examines milestones in the life of Marie Svatošová, the founder of the first Czech hospice. He traces her personal, spiritual and professional

journey, her perception of Christianity and help in providing end-of-life care, and the values she is guided by. Aleš Palán is an excellent interviewer and Marie Svatošová replies as simply and plainly as possible. What is it like to inhabit the all-powerful white coat? Is euthanasia acceptable? How to deal with a bleak diagnosis and what meaning does it have? This book of interviews with the famous doctor includes black-and-white and colour photographs.

“This interview in book form with the doyenne of compassionate care for the dying is sure to have a lasting impact on you.”

—*iLiteratura*

“In many hospices you find the quote: ‘Our goal is to fill days with life, not life with days.’ The author of this statement, Marie Svatošová, has managed to fill her whole life with life. And not just life, but also purpose and selfless care.”

—*Český bratr*



Neboj se vrátit domů: Marie Svatošová v rozhovoru s Alešem Palánem  
Kalich, 2018, 270 pp

Marie Svatošová (left) and Aleš Palán. Photo: František Pizák



Aleš Palán (1965) is a novelist, journalist and author of more than forty books, half of which are interviews in book form. He has won several literary awards.

Marie Svatošová (1942) is a Czech doctor, writer and founder of the hospice movement in the Czech Republic. In 1995 she was behind the creation of the first Czech hospice in Červený Kostelec. She has helped to set up a number of other Bohemian and Moravian hospices by providing assistance and advice. She tirelessly travels around the Czech Republic lecturing and continues to promote the idea of hospices. Her books such as *Až k prolití krve* (Until Blood is Spilled, 2005) and *Hospice a umění doprovázet* (Hospices and the Art of End-of-Life Care, 2011) have become bestsellers. Marie Svatošová has been awarded several state honours.

# Jan Votýpka, Iva Kolářová, Petr Horák et al. OF PARASITES AND MEN

An engrossing popular-science read on a topic people are particularly squeamish about, seen from the viewpoint of many scientific and other disciplines.

Lice, pinworms, roundworms, toxoplasma? A book about one of nature's favourite lifestyles and means of survival: parasitism. Who is lurking in the host's body – i.e. your body – and in your pet's body and the bodies of the animals you eat? Are you afraid? This book presents various parasites

from many perspectives: medical, veterinary, biological, historical and even artistic. It shows the benefit and harm they represent. This entertaining and educational book has been written in a clear and humorous way by leading Czech parasitologists.

“One of the book's aims is to tackle the various myths and half-truths surrounding parasites. They are presented in a more positive light by the chapter Parasites as our Allies, which shows that parasites are not necessarily just disgusting pests but can also be useful – for example, in medicine.”

—*iLiteratura*

“Prominent Czech parasitologists led by Jan Votýpka do not just present the world of parasites as a gory spectacle, but also as evidence of the incredible diversity of life forms on earth. This remarkable book takes a serious look at an important topic which is normally avoided by the general public – and it does so in a very accessible and entertaining way.”

—Magnesia Litera Award jury



O parazitech a lidech  
Triton, 2018, 348 pp



Jan Votýpka. Photo: David Modrý

Jan Votýpka (1972) is a parasitologist who specializes in research into parasites and other pathogens transmitted by bloodsucking insects. He has also examined the biodiversity of parasites in a variety of locations in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East. The synergy of his teaching and research work led him to popularizing science. As a result, he has taken an active role in popularizing biology and is the co-organizer of the Biological Olympics – a competition organised by the Ministry of Education.

Petr Horák (1965) is parasitologist who specializes in the functional morphology, systematics and life cycle of helminths. He contributed towards the discovery of a new European neuropathogenic schistosoma, which is now being intensively studied as a model organism.

Iva Kolářová (1978) is a parasitologist. She studied parasitology at Charles University, where she currently works as a lecturer specializing in the medical entomology and immunology of parasitic infections.

AWARDS:  
2019 Magnesia Litera Award – Educational Literature

RIGHTS:  
Triton publishing  
Lenka Svobodová:  
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www.tridistri.cz

# 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

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

CONTACT PERSON:  
Radim Kopáč, Ministry of Culture Czech Republic  
radim.kopac@mkr.cz  
+420 257 085 221

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



MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
CZECH REPUBLIC

# Travel grants

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

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

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

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

## PAYMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

# Residencies for translators and Czech studies specialists

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

## THE RESIDENT RECEIVES

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

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

## REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

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



# The Moravian Library

The presentation of Czech book culture at book fairs abroad has a long tradition. The Moravian Library, one of the leading Czech heritage institutions, has been in charge of coordinating the Ministry of Culture's national expositions since 2014. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, authorities of Czech literary culture and Czech Centres abroad, the Moravian Library focuses not only on presenting major publishing houses but also on small publishers and printers. Significant Czech literary awards and their winners, along with a selection of current fiction and non-fiction are presented within the 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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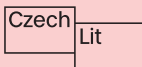
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