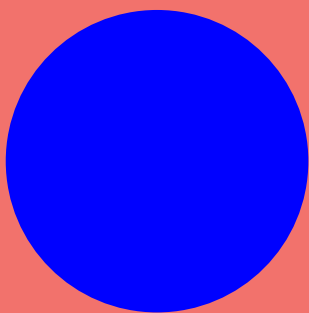


# New Czech Books 2024



Published for promotional purposes by  
the Czech Literary Centre

ISBN 978-80-7051-354-5

# Introduction

Czechia is to be the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October 2026, with the motto inspired by Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*: "CZECHIA – a Country on the Coast". This is a unique opportunity to showcase our literature and book industry on a global scale. Meanwhile, in the autumn of 2025, Czech literature in translation will also have the chance to make an impact at book fairs and festivals, especially in German-speaking countries as part of the Year of Czech Culture. We believe this will also include the books which feature in this catalogue for readers of all nationalities, and it can only be a good sign that there are so many outstanding debut works amongst them.

In her intellectually dense and mature novel, Emma Kausc explores narration as a way of understanding your own story and traumas. In his prose debut, the poet and journalist Jonáš Zbořil distinctively combines the themes of parentage, welfare, and ecological dystopia. There is also a dystopian element in Kristina Hamplová's gripping, dynamic and original debut, whose central motif is the stimulating subject of parrot meat! However, there were also new prose works by some of the stalwarts of Czech literature, such as Bianca Bellová, whose best-known novel *The Lake* has been translated into more than twenty languages; Petr Stančík – the master of literary mystification and genre blending; and David Zábranský, who for the first time has swapped the format of the novel for a biting self-ironic literary diary.

For children and young adults we have highlighted, for instance, Alžběta Dvořáková's new work *Žako and Stopotvorná*, whose illustrator, Magdalena Rutová, received a special mention from the 2024 BolognaRagazzi Award jury for her book *I, Octopus*.

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

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

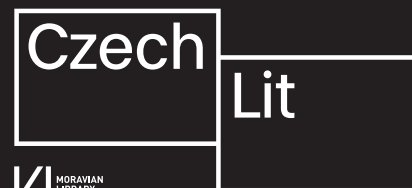
# CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

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

CONTACT US:  
[www.czechlit.cz](http://www.czechlit.cz)  
[info@czechlit.cz](mailto:info@czechlit.cz)



## CONTENTS

### FICTION

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Emma Kausc<br>PLOT DISRUPTION            | 8  |
| Jonáš Zbořil<br>FLORA                    | 10 |
| Miroslav Hlaučo<br>WHITSUN               | 12 |
| Kristina Hamplová<br>LOVER/FIGHTER       | 14 |
| Dorota Ambrožová<br>THE LAST SUMMER      | 16 |
| Iva Hajd Moussa<br>HEAVY SOULS           | 18 |
| David Zábranský<br>JŮ AND HELE           | 20 |
| Ondřej Šanc<br>WALKING THE WIRE          | 22 |
| Bianca Bellová<br>THE INVISIBLE MAN      | 24 |
| Veronika Bálková<br>A TRANSITIONAL PHASE | 26 |
| Petr Stančík<br>INITIATION BY DARKNESS   | 28 |

### POETRY

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Lubomír Tichý<br>LOCALS                     | 32 |
| Iryna Zahladko<br>MAKE-UP TIPS FOR THE SICK | 34 |
| Ivan Wernisch<br>THE WOODEN CAKE HIRE SHOP  | 36 |

### COMICS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Tereza Verecká & Mikuláš Podprocký<br>WINTON WAS NOT ALONE                    | 40 |
| Kata Rina<br>IN THE EYE OF THE FOX  | 46 |
| Jean-Gaspard Páleníček & Václav Šlajch et al.<br>HIKOBAE                      | 52 |
| CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT  |    |
| Alžběta Dvořáková & Magdalena Rutová<br>ŽAKO AND STOPOTVORNA                  | 60 |
| Lucie Ferenzová & Petra Waldauf Slabá<br>THE UNREAL REALITY                   | 64 |
| Ondřej Buddeus & Jindřich Janíček<br>THE BICYCLE. THE TRANSPORT OF THE FUTURE | 68 |
| Ester Stará & Jiří Franta<br>THE ALLIANCE OF THE VALIANT                      | 72 |



Fiction

# Emma Kausc

## PLOT DISRUPTION

An exceptional debut novel which examines estrangement, language, art, ill-fated love, and the role stories play in our lives.

In her debut novel, Emma Kausc explores some of the great literary themes, such as memory, the way in which we tell stories, and the art of writing itself, all against the backdrop of two of the autofictional narrator's failed relationships. Emma the protagonist, a woman in her thirties who navigates the globalized world like a fish in water, has recently buried her mother, while she also has to contend with the mysterious disappearance of her girlfriend, a photographer called Alyona. In addition, Emma is searching for her place in the

world between London, Prague and California, between two relationships, and between festering intellectual reflection and intuition.

In her critically acclaimed book, Emma Kausc poses a number of crucial questions which the reader is at liberty to ponder over, but as her narrative confirms, none of them can be answered with any certainty. It is this, coupled with a refined and sophisticated style, which makes *Plot Disruption* one of the most outstanding Czech novels of recent years.



Narušení děje  
Host, 2024, 285 pp

“The novel has its own order, tempo and strong message. It offers the hope that even those ‘smallest of fictions might protect us from catastrophe.’”

—A2

“The power of the writing literally fills the reader, imposing its rhythm, style and way of thinking.”

—Tvar

Photo: author's archive



Emma Kausc is from Prague. She studied contemporary culture and critical theory at King's College London. In 2018, her poetry collection *Cykly* (Cycles, 2017) was shortlisted for the Jiří Orten Award. *Plot Disruption* is her first book of fiction.

AWARDS:  
Literary Critics Award 2024, prose category

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

English, German and French sample  
translations available

# Jonáš Zbořil

## FLORA

This subtle, impressionistic novella, evoking the contemporary world in crisis, is a distinctive literary contribution to our concept of the Anthropocene.

*Flora* – poet and journalist Jonáš Zbořil's prose debut – is a melancholic dystopia on the margins of existence, interwoven with references, paraphrases, and quotations. In a world where ecological catastrophes are everyday occurrences, a couple in crisis encounter a strange creature while walking through the inner periphery. Sára projects her unfulfilled maternal desires onto the creature, which has fungi growing on it as well as a jumble of cables and wires, and she decides they'll live together in an abandoned area that is being reclaimed by nature. In place of a standard plot,

the author has opted for the power of the imagination, and in original metaphors he links clusters and structural supports with hawthorns and song thrushes to form a poetic, mutated nature. The various acknowledged references, such as Andrei Tarkovsky's sci-fi films, mirror the theme of a form that is grown into, and strengthens the atmosphere of uncertainty from which a new beginning might emerge – or a sudden end.



Flora  
Paseka, 2024, 168 pp

“The novella *Flora* can be recommended solely on the strength of Zbořil's unique imagination and poetic language.”  
—*iLiteratura*

Photo: Marta Nováková



Jonáš Zbořil (1988) is a writer, poet and journalist. He graduated in Czech and English from Charles University's Faculty of Education. He has headed the cultural section of the *Seznam Zprávy* website since 2022. In 2013 he published the poetry collection *Podolí*, which was nominated for the Jiří Orten Award and the Magnesia Litera Award for Discovery of the Year. In 2022 he published the collection *Nová divočina* (The New Wilderness). His novella *Flora* (2024) is his prose debut.

RIGHTS:  
Paseka publishers  
Pavčina Juračková:  
jurackova@paseka.cz  
www.paseka.cz

English, German and Spanish sample  
translations available

# Miroslav Hlaučo

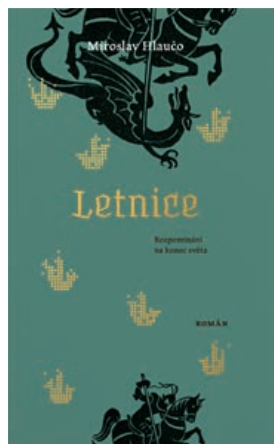
## WHITSUN

This time Odysseus is not returning home to restore an empire but to face the changes which are inevitably coming. And he returns in a novel that displays a unique imagination together with an inventive humour and narrative style.

*Whitsun* is the story of the inhabitants of a city cut off from civilization, where certain physical and social rules do not apply. The people have been living for generations in a magical world they believe to be normal. It is only with the advent of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the development of government that they are forced to abandon these extraordinary customs.

Although set one hundred years ago, this is not a historical novel. The story is more of a universal parable about a turning point in civilization, when instead of the promise of a brighter

future, the new age forces us to relinquish what was good and accept a series of changes for the worse. This serious and topical theme, however, comes in the form of a story which sparkles with linguistic and situational humour, and which sets itself apart with its original ideas and allusions to dozens of literary works. The result is an incredibly sophisticated, playful, as well as intellectually diverse picture of a world forced to renounce miracles and become rational and standardized. It is the literary debut which shows that magical realism also has its place in Central Europe.



Letnice  
Paseka, 2024, 384 pp

“*Whitsun* is a captivating narrative adventure and fairy tale for adults.”  
—*Deník N*

“A novel that won’t fade.”  
—*Respekt*

Photo: Marta Nováková



Miroslav Hlaučo (1967) studied clinical pharmacy in Bratislava, followed by directing at Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and film studies at Charles University. After a short spell in the arts, he has been working for several years in medical research and the development of cellular biotechnology.

RIGHTS:  
Paseka publishers  
Pavla Juračková:  
jurackova@paseka.cz  
www.paseka.cz

English and French sample translations available



# Kristina Hamplová

## LOVER/FIGHTER

A coming-of-age story about street fighting, parrot meat, and growing up in a small town.

Over four chapters in the debut novella *Lover/Fighter* we travel with the narrator through the years 2014, 2019, 2023, and 2031. We move from the nostalgic past of a small town to a dystopian future in Prague, with street brawling lying at the heart of this pacy and entertaining story. The protagonist uses insight and a distinctive lightness to describe the fights she has been involved in, as well as those she has heard about. Both the minor and major brawls are connected by several storylines, which are related to the small town where the narrator

grew up, or a girl named Kendra – the love of her life.

In her first work of prose, Kristina Hamplová proves to be a lively storyteller with a talent for observation, who is not afraid to include references to popular culture or various quirky motifs in her book. The author brings to life the experiences of a girl born in the second half of the 1990s, and reveals how her generation lives and what its concerns are.



Lover/Fighter  
Dokořán, 2024, 152 pp

“One of the most interesting debuts of the year in Czech literature, this can be read as Generation Z’s testimony.”  
—*Respekt*

Photo: Jan Kárník



Kristina Hamplová (1997) is from a small town near Prague. She teaches at a secondary school, writes about music for various media outlets, and hosts the pop-culture podcast *Hitparáda Eso*. Her debut novel *Lover/Fighter* was chosen for the eleventh Susanna Roth Award for beginner translators of Czech literature.

RIGHTS:  
Dokořán publishing  
Jan Kárník:  
jan.karnik@dokoran.cz  
www.dokoran.cz

English, German, French, Bulgarian, Arabic, Croatian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Romanian, Macedonian, Slovak, Slovenian, Taiwanese, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese sample translations available

# Dorota Ambrožová

## THE LAST SUMMER

A confident debut about the troubled adolescence of a girl in search of herself.

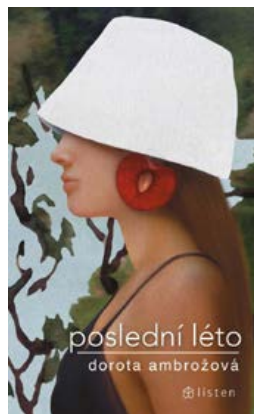
At first sight, the thirty-year-old writer Dorota Ambrožová appears to be tackling a well-worn literary theme with her novella *The Last Summer*. We follow the protagonist Hana between the ages of fifteen and nineteen, a period when she experiences the same things as many other young women. She doesn't see eye to eye with her parents, she is discovering her own sexuality, and she has run-ins with school teachers. Moreover, she is in love with an older man, and although they embark on a relationship, it

holds no future. However, what makes *The Last Summer* different is the way in which Dorota Ambrožová works with these themes. She has discovered a natural and extremely convincing style, which changes as Hana gets older and matures. And most importantly, this debut author has created a very believable protagonist who might act like a cynical girl who doesn't care about anything, but who in fact is affected by many of the situations in this vulnerable period of her life.

Photo: Jan Ambrož



Dorota Ambrožová (1994) studied radio and television dramaturgy and screenwriting at Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in Brno. She has two sons, and she lives and works in Olomouc. *Poslední léto* (The Last Summer, 2024) is her literary debut.



"It's been a long time since we've had such a meticulous and yet unpretentious debut in Czech literature."

—*Czech Television*

Poslední léto  
Listen, 2024, 216 pp

# Iva Hadj Moussa

## HEAVY SOULS

A book written with sensitivity and humour on ageing white men, heavy metal, and the attempt to get back into the saddle once more.

There is an unusual protagonist at the centre of this novel by the popular writer Iva Hadj Moussa. Johan is going on fifty and has had to resign as a driving instructor due to a sex scandal. He now makes a living by cleaning flats and houses. Although it seems he has missed the boat once and for all – in addition to a career in tatters, there is an insurmountable generation gap between him and his adolescent daughter – when he comes across an electric guitar at work he decides to return to his youth, revive

his old heavy-metal band, and make it big as a musician. On the road to this goal, which is destined to fail from the outset, Johan has to face a number of comical situations and scenarios which will test his character. Gradually it dawns on him, however, that this mid-life crisis and dark past might be useful for something other than music. Iva Hadj Moussa describes all of this with humour and insight, but also with a sensitivity and effort to understand the plight of someone many others would ridicule.



Těžké duše  
Host, 2024, 359 pp

“The author is outstanding at describing interpersonal relationships.”

—*Novinky*

“The novel artfully and entertainingly zigzags between different stereotypes.”

—*iLiteratura*

Photo: Radouane Hadj Moussa



Iva Hadj Moussa (1979) studied psychology at Masaryk University in Brno. She is the author of four novels. Apart from writing, she also provides psychotherapy for children and adolescents, and occasionally writes advertising copy and creates humorous illustrations.

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

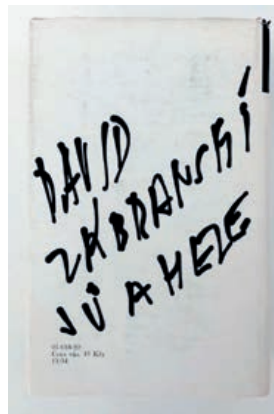
# David Zábranský

## JŮ AND HELE

Without doubt the most (self-)reflective book from the current wave of Czech autofiction.

This diary of a writer, who likes nothing better than provoking liberal intellectuals, encapsulates the everyday life of the Czech middle class, writer's block, despair at Czech literary life, being a new middle-aged parent, the climate crisis, consumerism, superficiality, global conflicts, and life in a partially corrupted and partially uncouth Czechia. Zábranský is able to communicate to readers the authentic details of his everyday life, even the most banal ones, which leads to often

cruelly eloquent descriptions of the pathology of “an almost successful man”, as well as more thoughtful observations on life in Czechia during the pandemic and shortly afterwards. Zábranský is cynical, bratty and conceited, but also intellectual, honest, cheeky, and funny. The mosaic of thoughts and events is held together by the author's style and the knowledge that life is a source of endless awkwardness. Readers can reflect on this with some relief and then apply it to their own lives.



Jů a hele  
Větrné mlýny, 2024, 396 pp

“The diary form certainly suits a writer such as David Zábranský – an intellectual with a tendency towards introspection while at the same time commenting caustically on everything around.”

—*Deník N*

Photo: Lukáš Havlena



David Zábranský (1977) is a prose writer, playwright and columnist, who is known for his, often, controversial and provocative opinions. He graduated in media studies and law and has worked in non-profit and non-governmental organizations. Zábranský has written several successful novels, which have been published in Spanish and Hungarian. His debut, *Slabost pro každou jinou pláž* (A Weakness for Every Other Beach, 2006), won the Magnesia Litera Award for Discovery of the Year. The play, *Herec a truhlář Majer mluví o stavu své domoviny* (Actor and Carpenter Majer Talks about the State of His Homeland, 2016), about the Czech national identity sparked a media debate and was published in German in 2018 by the Berlin-based Neofelis in their anthology of modern Czech drama. His latest novel is *Jů a hele* (Jů and Hele, 2024).

RIGHTS:  
David Zábranský:  
zabranskydavid@gmail.com



# Ondřej Šanc

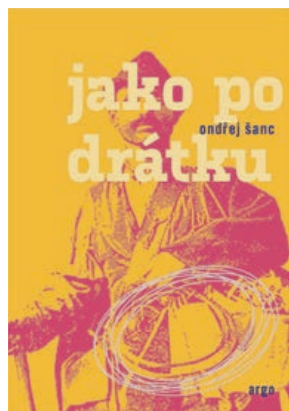
## WALKING THE WIRE

A gripping generational saga that takes the reader through two centuries and across two continents.

The vividly written narrative begins in a remote corner of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and gradually takes us across two centuries and two continents to the recent past.

A poor tinworker's family in the wild Kysuce mountains is supported by the widow Mária, who, on the advice of a worldly uncle, sets out on a long journey in search of a better life. Along with her two children, the

barely eight-year-old Zoltán and his little sister, she heads to Aussig, now Ústí nad Labem, where a new era is dawning. The emerging railway breaks down boundaries between cities and countries, shortens distances, and brings together a mix of people from all corners of the world... And that's just the beginning of the book, which guides the reader through decades of Zoltán's fate and his pursuit for happiness and freedom.



Jako po drátku  
Argo, 2024, 408 pp

“A novel overflowing with the simple joy of storytelling.”

— *Czech Television*

Photo: author's archive



Ondřej Šanc (1979) was born and raised in Ústí nad Labem, surrounded by decaying historic districts, factory walls and constant smoke. Although he studied to become an English and history teacher, he left his studies to pursue his passion for traveling. He has a deep interest in Native American culture and history. After exploring various careers, he now works as a social worker and lives on a farm in the Central Bohemian Highlands. He and his wife have carefully restored this cultural monument and now run a family organic farm there.

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

English sample translation available

# Bianca Bellová

## THE INVISIBLE MAN

A novel for today's world. Full of action, struggle – as well as the knowledge that it's not going to get any better.

Once again, the time-place backdrop of Bellová's prose is vague and uncertain. It could be today, it could be the 1960s, or the 1930s; it could be somewhere in Turkey, Greece, perhaps in Spain – or a different time and place entirely. This uncertainty resonates perfectly with that of the narrator – the main character who one day frees herself from an unhappy marriage and sets out "on the road". She returns to where it all began – her home village – and attempts to find out who she really is and what went wrong with her parents' and grandparents' generations. How

her father, the titular "invisible man", died tragically, and why her mother fell into total silence for thirty years. She compares then and now, confronting the past with the present. All of this within the dramatic, heightened atmosphere of an unnamed war. Despite all of the uncertainty and vagueness, in the end it is clear what the author stands for: for the feminine cause, for feelings, home, offspring, against recurrent human stupidity and ignorance, against the envy and hatred which suffocate a person and their soul.



Neviditelný muž  
Host, 2024, 175 pp

"Bellová is masterful at constructing atmosphere and *The Invisible Man* is a book full of tastes and smells, of carnality."

—Czech Television

"In her new book the author has shown herself to be a focused, refined, and inventive narrator."

—iDNES

Photo: Jan Trnka



Bianca Bellová (1970), who lives in Prague, is a writer, translator and interpreter. She achieved her international breakthrough with the book novel *Jezero* (The Lake, 2016) which won the 2017 Magnesia Litera Award in the Book of the Year category, the 2017 European Union Prize for Literature, and the 2023 EBRD Literature Prize; publication rights for it have been sold to twenty-four countries. 2019 saw the publication of her novel *Mona*, which won the Czech Book Prize. Her latest work is the novel *Neviditelný muž* (The Invisible Man, 2024), whose English edition is forthcoming from Parthian Books in 2026.

RIGHTS SOLD: Denmark (Jensen & Dalgaard), Finland (Kairaamo), Italy (Miraggi), United Kingdom (Parthian)

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

# Veronika Bálková

## A TRANSITIONAL PHASE

In this tense novel, a woman who doesn't know her place in life goes in search of the person who poisoned an eagle.

Veronika Bálková's debut novel is almost like a detective story. The narrator, thirty-three-year-old Kateřina, lives with her grandmother in a village and one day comes across a poisoned eagle while walking her dog. As she has nothing else to do except take her dog for walks, she decides to investigate, and the relationships within the village gradually begin to unravel. In the process she has to contend with her own difficult relationships – with her mother, with a divorcee vet, and with her grandmother. Gradually, we uncover the background of this

seemingly rootless woman. We discover why she wanders around with her dog all day long, why she doesn't have to work, the experiences she went through in the past, and how these have left their mark on her. The sensitive approach to the transitional phase in life, which the protagonist has found herself in, is the book's greatest strength. In addition, it is communicated to the reader in an engaging, attractive, and exciting way. All of this makes Bálková's first book a compelling and thought-provoking novel, which is hard to put down.

Photo: Barbora Balek



Veronika Bálková studied law and lives in České Budějovice. Her first novel, *Přechodné období* (A Transitional Phase, 2024), is also set in southern Bohemia.



"The author understands how to write good dialogues and is able to capture the different emotional states of the heroine, including her apathy."

— *Czech Television*

Přechodné období  
Paseka, 2024, 288 pp

RIGHTS:  
Paseka publishers  
Pavla Juračková:  
jurackova@paseka.cz  
www.paseka.cz



# Petr Stančík

## INITIATION BY DARKNESS

In his new novel, one of the most entertaining and eccentric Czech writers has reached the pinnacle of divine madness and narrative opulence.

Petr Stančík has made a name for himself in Czech literature through his narratively ingenious, delightful and carefully constructed books. The author employs the techniques of the detective or mystery novel, which he then deconstructs or subverts. Stančík's latest novel also starts off with a search. The main character, Planet, has been sent to find treasure

in a dystopian Prague, which is ruled over by Artificial Thought and the "dustmen". However, this serves more as a backdrop for various narrative ideas, word games, and descriptions of bizarre culinary experiences. Although the novel touches on current themes, such as the reception of queer people, it is principally a celebration of storytelling and literary games.



Zasvěcení temnotou  
Druhé město, 2024, 190 pp

Photo: David Konečný



Petr Stančík (1968) entered the world of literature under the pseudonym Odillo Stradický ze Strdic; since 2007 he has been publishing under his real name. His work for adult readers includes the tale of the first Czech superhero *Pérák* (The Spring Man, 2008) and the gastronomic/pornographic/philosophical thriller *Mlýn na mumie* (Mummy Mill, 2014), for which he was awarded the 2015 Magnesia Litera Award. His books for children include the juvenile horror story *Mrkev ho vucila pod zem* (A Carrot Sucked Him Underground, 2013) and a series of tales about Chrujda the Badger. He also wrote the historical monograph *Kaple Božího Těla a Krve a Bratrstvo obruče s kladivem* (The Chapel of the Body and Blood of Christ and the Brotherhood of the Hoop and Hammer, 2015) about the defunct Temple of Solomon in the centre of Prague's Old Town. His most recent novel is *Zasvěcení temnotou* (Initiation by Darkness, 2024).

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

English and German sample translations available

Poetry

# Lubomír Tichý

## LOCALS

What form does a memory take when it's written by a twenty-year-old poet?

We first begin to take stock of our lives when we realize we are ageing and attempt to give voice to this. In Lubomír Tichý's debut poetry collection, the twenty-year-old poet consciously looks back for the first time at what was, and for the first time captures in his own words all that has gone before in order to prevent it from becoming irretrievably lost. He wanders the landscape of the Polabí region where he lives, offering a personal take on how to live and survive in a small town. Paradoxically, this traditional approach appeals to each new generation, and each one attempts to express the loss of time in their own words. And so we are met with surprise and wonder, which are an inseparable part of poetry, in the same way as we admire the author's

attention to detail as he sets out to find all that has passed.

At the same time, Lubomír Tichý is neither a nostalgic nor an eclectic poet. He is just a shy, introverted narrator, playing with nostalgia without losing the perspective of a twenty-year-old. The most important thing about the collection is its ability to communicate to different generations. The poet doesn't turn his back on the technology which is so essential to the younger generation, but he avoids getting caught in the trap of oversimplification. From the outset he wants to engage in a far-reaching dialogue – which is a miracle constructed of small-scale records of material reality.



“A pared-back, authentic collection of poems.”

—*iLiteratura*

Mistní  
Fra, 2024, 76 pp

Photo: Jana Plavec



Lubomír Tichý (2003) is a student of Czech studies at Charles University's Faculty of Arts. His poems have appeared in online as well as printed journals. He writes reviews and reflections on poetry and prose. In 2023, he was nominated for the Václav Burian Award for poetry. He lives in Rozběřice and in Prague.

RIGHTS:  
Fra publishing  
Tomáš Popek:  
tomaspoppek@moleskine.cz

# Iryna Zahladko

## MAKE-UP TIPS FOR THE SICK

Poems emerging from the fury at personal suffering compounded by the suffering in war-torn Ukraine.

The Czech-Ukrainian poet Iryna Zahladko records her life-changing experience in a poetic language which alternates between an urgent diary record and a stylized account of disintegration and violence. “Above the collar bone a cover bubbles, alongside it, under my skin, I touch a plastic pipe – an underground tunnel full of people sleeping.” The author engages in the most intimate record of the body’s processes while undergoing treatment for cancer, tirelessly observing and noting down the experience of internal exile in a world where supposedly

“nothing is happening”. She thoughtfully works with the language of institutions, the media, marketing, and with different languages in general. Her poetry consciously demands that harsh realities be addressed, though even here there exist simple human desires, even here the taste of good food is important. Life goes on, even though time does not flow in war or illness, as the poet relates with a repeated, urgent refrain. Poetry which is strongly expressive as well as objectively austere, drawing on cross-cultural experiences.



Jak se líčit v nemoci  
Bílý vígvam, 2024, 88 pp

“One of 2024’s most outstanding achievements in Czech poetry.”  
—*Tvar*

Photo: Tereza Škoullová



Iryna Zahladko (1986) is a Czech-Ukrainian poet, translator, and a graduate in theoretical physics. She has been living in Prague since 2019 and has published two books in Ukrainian, a collection of poems in Polish, and the poetry collection *Tváření* (Shaping, 2023) in Czech. She has published her work in numerous journals, edited zines, organized festivals, curated exhibitions, slams and performances, and collaborated with various writers across the Czech and Ukrainian art scene.

AWARDS:  
Literary Critics Award 2024, poetry category

RIGHTS:  
Iryna Zahladko:  
iryna.zahladko@gmail.com

# Ivan Wernisch

## THE WOODEN CAKE HIRE SHOP

A cabinet of curiosities. A collection of invitations to imaginary worlds. Immersive poems which have to be actively delved into and completed. What in fact are we reading? Poetry which above all else wants to pose this very question.

Ivan Wernisch's body of work ranks among the most important in postwar Czech poetry and is continually being developed and enriched by the author with remarkable persistence and passion. This is also the case when the poet reaches for one of his favourite creative techniques – grouping together previously published poems into new contexts and relationships, where they suddenly take on a new meaning. And this also applies to *The Wooden Cake Hire Shop*. As in Wernisch's previous collections, it is less about what is being referred to in the poem and more about the language

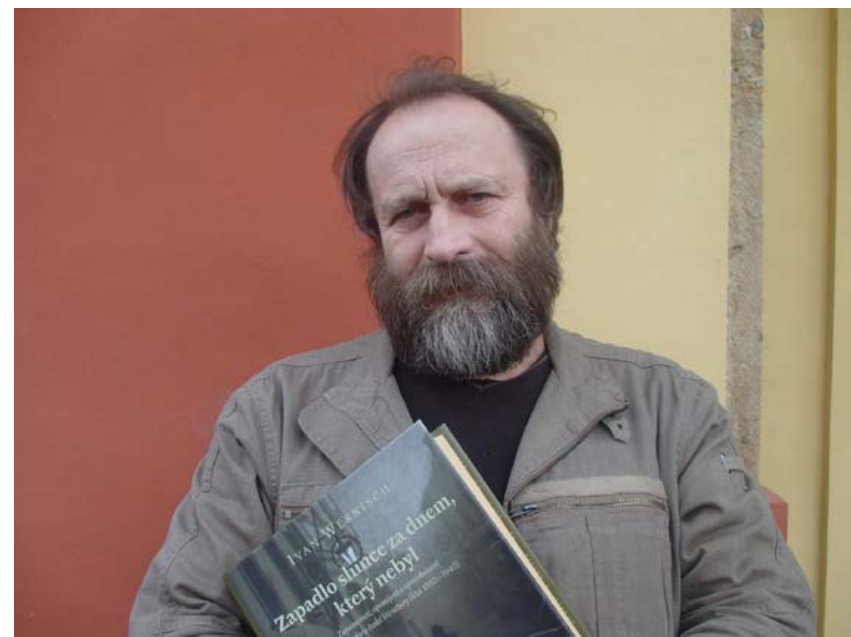
itself, its power to win over the reader and take them to worlds created solely from words.

When creating these charmingly archaic microcosms, Wernisch draws on his exceptional ability to evoke moods and sensory experiences. The texts cover a wide range of genres, from lyrical miniatures to old-time ditties, to poems in prose that often have the form of an unreliably narrated farcical micro-story – or even more frequently the fragment of one – whose mysterious incompleteness challenges the reader to creatively finish it, and gradually draws them into his vortex of imagination. Playing with the reader is in fact the essence of this poetry.



Půjčovna dřevěných dortů  
Malvern, 2024, 90 pp

Photo: Barbora Sládečková



Ivan Wernisch (1942) is a poet, writer, journalist and translator. He studied at the Ceramics Industry College in Karlovy Vary. He began publishing his poems in magazines while he was a student. Due to his involvement in the events of the Prague Spring in 1968, he was banned as an author during the harsh Normalisation period which followed and his works only came out in samizdat or in exile. His texts were set to music by the legendary underground band The Plastic People of the Universe. He has written more than 30 poetry collections. As an editor he has compiled several important anthologies of “forgotten, neglected and despised” poets. Ivan Wernisch has been awarded the Jaroslav Seifert Prize (1992), the State Prize for Literature (2012), the Magnesia Litera (2013) and the Franz Kafka Award (2018). His work has been translated into many languages including English, French and Polish. He himself translates from German, French, Italian, Flemish, Russian and Latin.



# Comics

# Tereza Verecká & Mikuláš Podprocký WINTON WAS NOT ALONE

This extremely readable international drama recounts true historical events without resorting to the usual clichés of comics biographies, and offers an exciting story with masterful narration and unusual drawings.

The story of Nicholas Winton, who saved 669 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, is well known – at least in its outlines – and is usually presented in terms of his heroism and admiration at what he achieved. Tereza Verecká's story in no way seeks to undermine Winton's heroism, but she presents it without pathos, and most importantly, she shines light on the diverse background of those who helped him and who normally remain in the shadow of "the legend of Winton the rescuer". Based on his memoirs, his story is then compared with the perspective of

Doreen Warriner, which reveals that behind every great man is a woman (though not nearly as famous despite being hugely influential). The reader will probably need some time to get used to Podprocký's drawing style in relation to the theme of the comic book, but it is well worth it as it is sophisticated, dynamic, and makes great use of strong visual metaphors as well as subtle expressions and symbols. Although the graphic novel takes a serious look at a profound and difficult subject, humorous moments and ironic hyperbole also organically blend in.



Winton nebyl sám  
Art by Mikuláš Podprocký  
Argo, 2024, 224 pp

AWARDS:  
Muriel Award 2024, categories Best Comic Book,  
Best Art, Best Script

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







WINTON WAS NOT ALONE

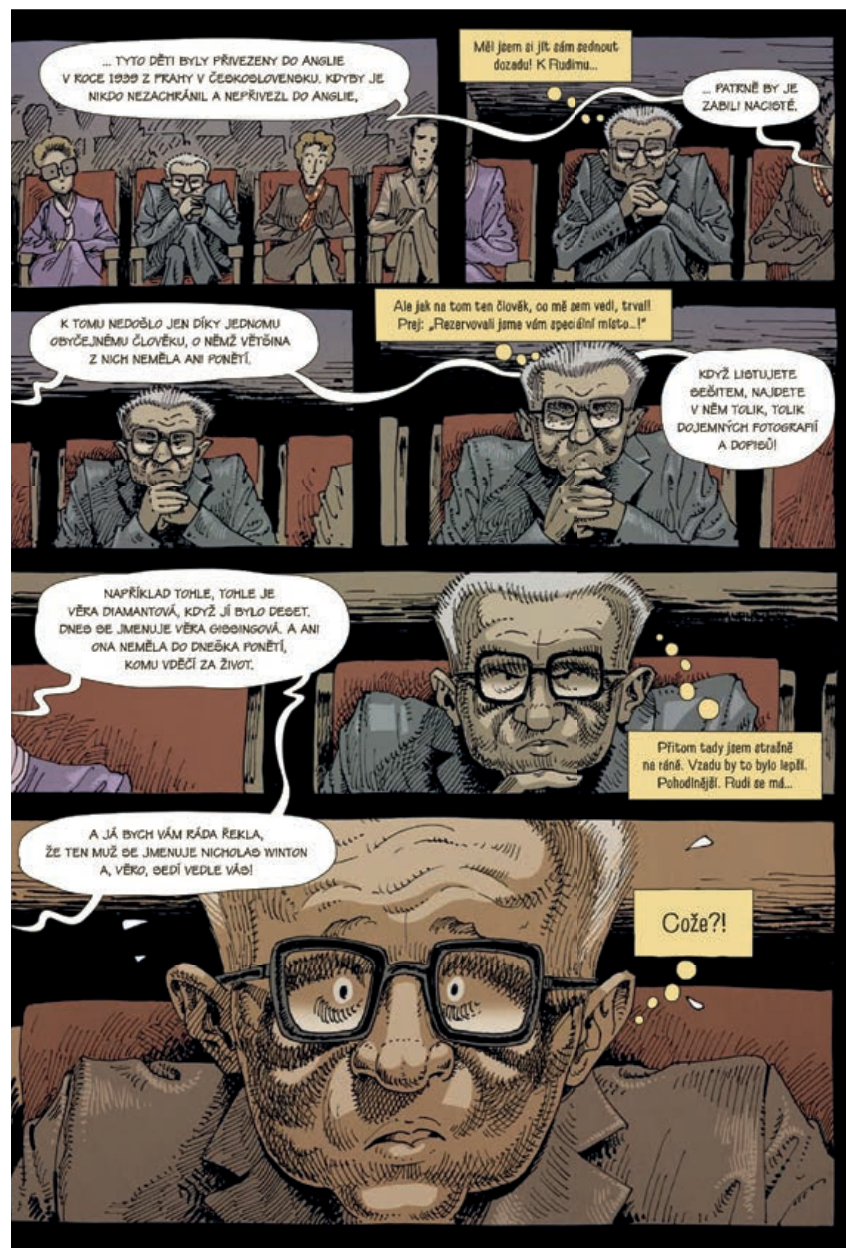


WINTON WAS NOT ALONE





WINTON WAS NOT ALONE



WINTON WAS NOT ALONE



# Kata Rina

## IN THE EYE OF THE FOX

An assured comics debut inspired by the myths and legends of ancient Japan.

A visit to the family shop selling old kimonos doesn't promise any great adventures, but the life of young Suzu will probably never be the same again. Her grandmother falls ill and has to be taken to hospital, leaving our protagonist on her own in an empty shop with all of her fears, worries, and insecurities. When she hears a strange sound, Suzu goes to look for its source and discovers it is coming from a strange fox mask. She brings it closer to her face to get a better look and enters a fantasy world inspired by Japanese legends, filled with mythical foxes and temple ceremonies. The medicine which could cure her grandmother doesn't exist in our world, but might it be found in the ghostly realm behind the mask?

And who knows, perhaps alongside the urgent help for her grandmother, Suzu might even learn something important about herself.

In her first book, the illustrator and comics writer Kata Rina has created a poetic story filled with the atmosphere of the legends and stories from the land of the rising sun. Traditional kimonos encounter modern inspiration from the world of popular culture, all of which plays out in loose full-page compositions that are pleasing to the eye and abound in subdued yet opulent shades of magenta and golden brown. A minimalist style of narration alternates with a wordless comics trip to the borders of the imagination. The original shorter version of the comics won the Japanese International Manga Award in 2022.

RIGHTS:  
Labyrinth publishers  
Petra Nováková:  
petra@labyrinth.net  
www.labyrinth.net



V oku lišky  
Labyrinth, 2024, 104 pp







IN THE EYE OF THE FOX



IN THE EYE OF THE FOX





IN THE EYE OF THE FOX



IN THE EYE OF THE FOX

# Jean-Gaspard Páleníček & Václav Šlajch et al. HIKOBAE

Fifteen short stories set in contemporary Japan that share an interest in different forms of traditions, legends, crafts, and ways of thinking.

These comics, which contain elements of sociological research, reportage, personal accounts, local legends and visual poetry, are mainly based on real interviews with Japanese residents, historical witnesses and artisans, and therefore avoid the simplifying kitsch of clichés and advertising slogans. Although the traditions passed down over decades and centuries might give meaning to modern existence, they can just as easily bind and stifle it. You might find fulfilment from following a family craft, but it might also suffocate you.

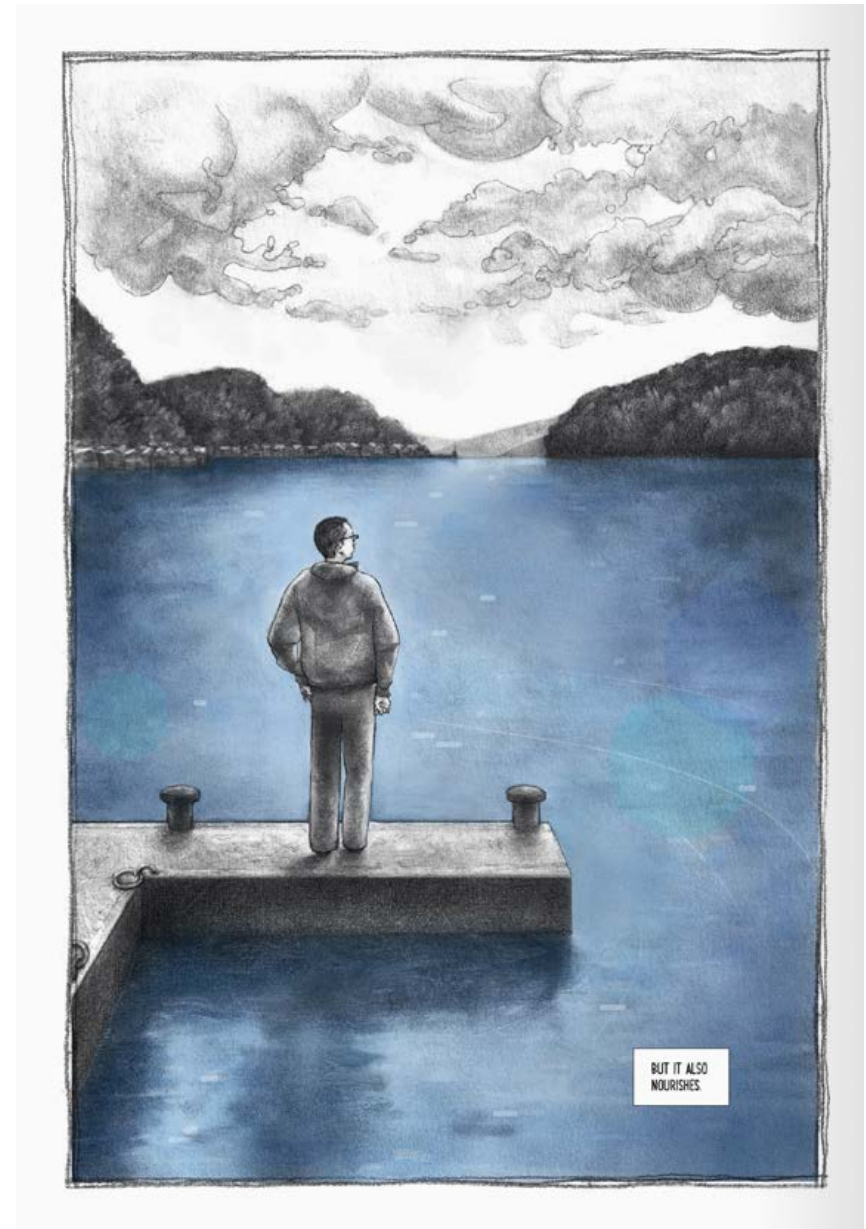
The Japanese word Hikobae refers to something that is tentatively starting to grow from something which is dead. This comics collection, based on texts by the Czech-French poet Jean-Gaspard Páleníček, was created by students from the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art of the West Bohemian University in Pilsen, under the guidance of the comics writer and illustrator Václav Šlajch, and loosely follows on from an earlier project entitled Iogi, which was published in Czech, Japanese, English and Polish, and picked up a number of awards both in Czechia and abroad.



RIGHTS SOLD:  
UK (Kulturalis), Japan (Kulturalis)

RIGHTS:  
Kateřina Siegl:  
katerinas@kulturalis.com

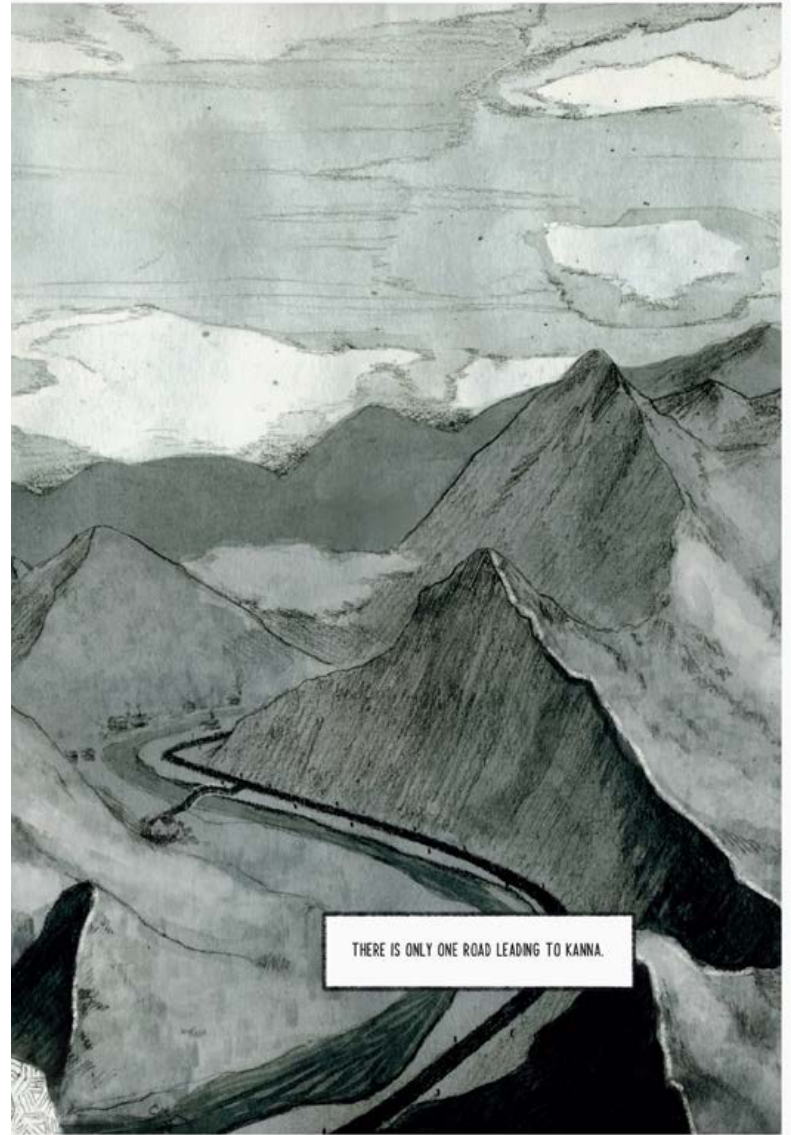
Hikobae  
K-A-V-K-A, 2024, 264 pp





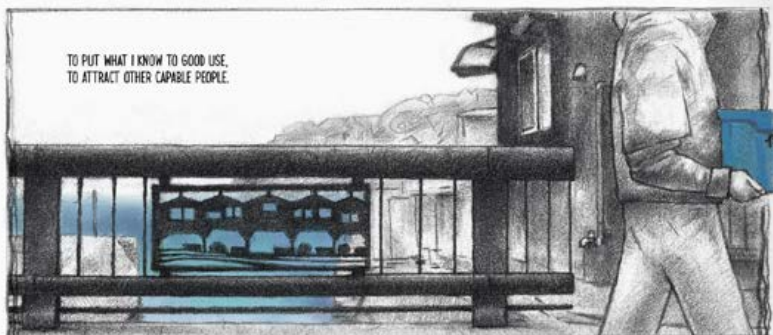
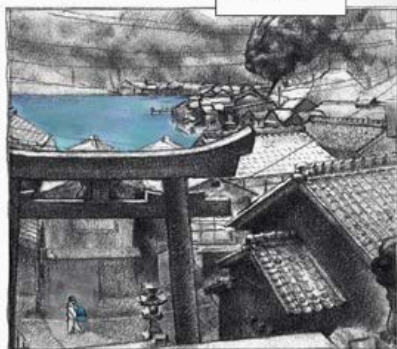
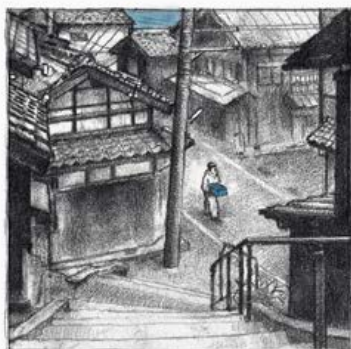
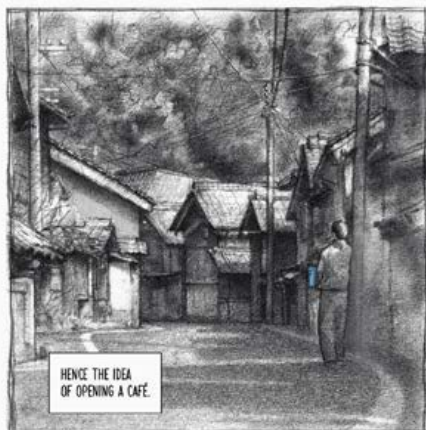


HIKOBAE

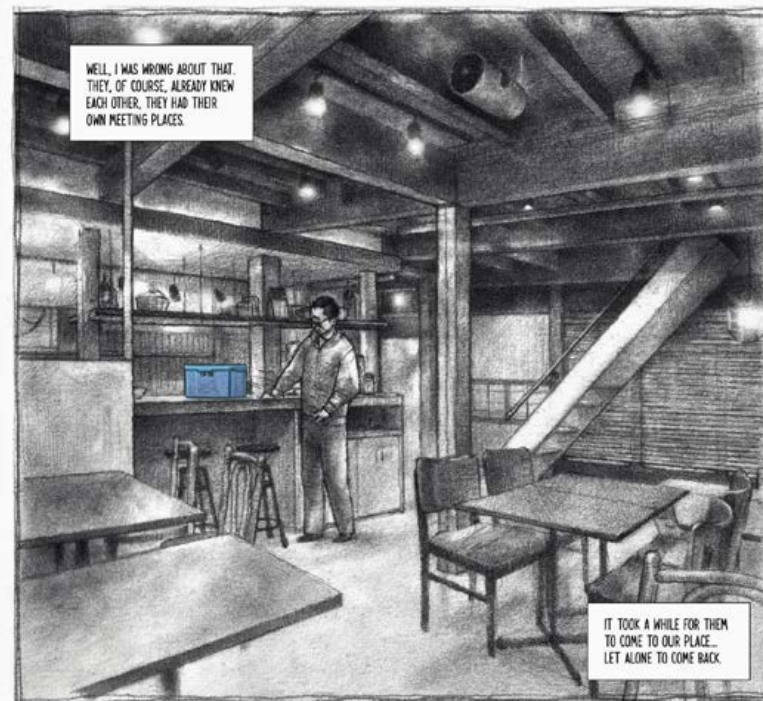


HIKOBAE





HIKOBABE



HIKOBABE

Children's and  
Young Adult



# Alžběta Dvořáková & Magdalena Rutová ŽAKO AND STOPOTVORNÁ

An animal fairy tale or forest fantasy? The mysteriously named *Žako and Stopotvorná* borrows essential ingredients from both these genres.

The vixen Stopotvorná leaves behind russet tracks, but which she expertly brushes away with her bushy tail, while the parrot Žako is eventually able to speak on behalf of all the human and animal characters in this thrilling tale. The chance encounter of a vixen and a parrot occurs in the home of the vet who rescued them – and who is rewarded with a new friendship with a kind waitress. Without giving away all the details of their adventures, we can disclose that they travel on a water lily to a place teeming with rich flora and fauna, where the

Mighty Tree grows, whose seeds accentuate certain characteristics for better or for worse. The other animal protagonists include a pack of wolves, a capybara, and a prairie dog. One of the main roles, though, is played by the vixen's lost sister, Matylda, who Stopotvorná has a competition with to see who has the better sense of smell. There are full-page illustrations, surprisingly drawn in brightly coloured markers with details in brilliant orange, which also appear in the distinctive front cover.

Age: 6+



Žako a Stopotvorná  
Art by Magdalena Rutová  
Baobab, 2024, 120 pp

RIGHTS:  
Baobab publishers:  
baobabooks@gmail.com  
[www.baobab-books.net/en](http://www.baobab-books.net/en)







ŽAKO AND STOPOTVORNÁ

**Protože se zrovna nikdo nedíval,  
od jednoho stolu ke druhému tančila.**



ŽAKO AND STOPOTVORNÁ

**Jak tomu rozumět?**



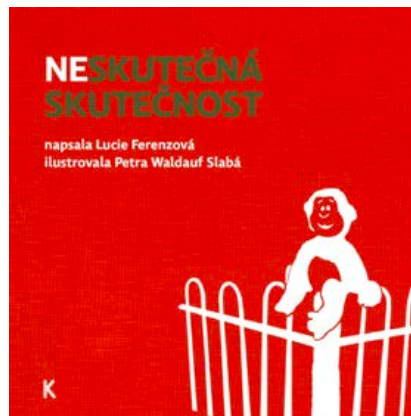
# Lucie Ferenzová & Petra Waldauf Slabá THE UNREAL REALITY

Most things in the world have a rational explanation, but what if that was by chance? This collection of seven short stories contains plots which are often unbelievable and fantastic, though anchored within everyday reality.

A mysterious metal object fished from a fountain reveals to Kryštof an image of humanity's future. Lada and Milada go out on a nocturnal adventure with pictures they have painted and which have come to life, while Jenda miraculously finds his toy monkey that had been lost for months. The protagonists of these stories written by the dramaturge and director, Lucie Ferenzová, are children

looking at the world from a unique perspective. Although all of the stories in the collection end up having a rational explanation, we are left with the feeling we have encountered something magical long after each story has ended. The author thus impressively captures how a child's imagination works, which is further complemented by Petra Waldauf Slabá's original illustrations.

Age: 5+



Nesktečná skutečnost  
Art by Petra Waldauf Slabá  
Knižní stezka k dětem, 2024, 72 pp

RIGHTS:  
Knižní stezka k dětem:  
info@kniznistezka.cz  
www.ccdk.cz







THE UNREAL REALITY



THE UNREAL REALITY

# Ondřej Buddeus & Jindřich Janíček THE BICYCLE. THE TRANSPORT OF THE FUTURE

"The bicycle is a symbol of freedom and a healthy, considerate life." This statement is upheld with distinctive authenticity by the poet Ondřej Buddeus and leading Czech artist Jindřich Janíček in their joint non-fiction work.

Janíček's technically detailed but also playful illustrations are a first-class complement to the refreshing, confident text, which systematically explains the phenomenon of the bicycle. The first section of the book, *The Bicycle as a Thing*, shows how the bicycle operates as a means of transport by explaining its origins,

Age: 5+

its position today, and what it is good for. The second part, *The Bicycle and the Body*, looks at the physical and emotional effect that riding a bike has on people, and the third and final section places the bicycle within a wider social context under the heading *Landscape, the City and the World*. The descriptive, encyclopaedic passages are interspersed with lighter episodes (such as the classification of bike trips on an ice-cream scale) and unmistakable colour illustrations, which clearly show that the bicycle is, quite simply, a lifestyle.



Kolo: dopravní prostředek budoucnosti  
Art by Jindřich Janíček  
Paseka, 2024, 120 pp

RIGHTS:  
Karl Rauch Verlag  
Dr. Hans-Gerd Koch:  
koch@karl-rauch-verlag.de  
www.karl-rauch-verlag.de







THE BICYCLE. THE TRANSPORT OF THE FUTURE



THE BICYCLE. THE TRANSPORT OF THE FUTURE

**NENÍ KOLO  
VLASTNĚ KŮŇ?**



# Ester Stará & Jiří Franta

## THE ALLIANCE OF THE VALIANT

An imaginative variation on the increasingly popular *isekai* genre, where two worlds collide – the real and the virtual – in a pleasing combination of prose and comics.

The main character Tomáš is obsessed with a computer game called The Alliance of the Valiant. Life in the virtual world, filled with monsters to be vanquished, treasure to be discovered, and secrets to be revealed, is so much easier than life in our world, where he has to go to school and face annoying schoolmates who bully him. At one particularly difficult point, the virtual and real worlds unexpectedly connect

and suddenly everything is different – Tomáš will face daunting challenges that will reveal what is truly important, what you have to fight for, and how you should behave responsibly towards others. Ester Stará's exciting story avoids moralizing and has a fresh, contemporary feeling in its style, which is helped by the dynamic, videogame-comics visuals by Jiří Franta, spread out over multi-panel page-sized compositions.

Age: 10+



Aliance Udatných  
Art by Jiří Franta  
Nakladatelství 65. pole, 2024, 192 pp

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







THE ALLIANCE OF THE VALIANT



THE ALLIANCE OF THE VALIANT

# 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:  
Eliška Boumová, Ministry of Culture Czech Republic  
Eliska.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, meal allowances, accommodation, promotion, interpreting and moderation costs. The subsidy can cover up to 70% of total costs for the event.

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

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

## PAYMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

## APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR 2025 AND 2026:

- **31<sup>st</sup> May 2025** (for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025)
- **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025** (for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026)

# 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 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.

Moravian Library  
Kounicova 65a  
601 87 Brno  
Czech Republic

[www.mzk.cz](http://www.mzk.cz)  
[mzk@mzk.cz](mailto:mzk@mzk.cz)



Published for promotional purposes  
by the Czech Literary Centre

Editorial consultants:

Fiction: Petr A. Bílek, Kateřina Čopjaková, Kryštof Eder,  
Michal Jareš, Eva Klíčová, Radim Kopáček

Poetry: Michal Jareš, Karel Piorecký, Jitka Bret Srbová

Comics: Martin Foret, Pavel Kořínek

Children's and Young Adult: Kamila Drahoňovská,  
Jana Čeňková, Jitka Nešporová

ISBN 978-80-7051-354-5

Czech Literary Centre

[www.czechlit.cz](http://www.czechlit.cz)

[info@czechlit.cz](mailto:info@czechlit.cz)

+420 770 134 755

Facebook: CzechLit – České literární centrum

Twitter: @czechlit1



MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
CZECH REPUBLIC



MORAVIAN  
LIBRARY



  
Czechia 26