

CZECHIA AS GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR  
2026

Press newsletter November 2025

Contemporary Czech literature: Bestselling authors meet new voices / Current trends in the Guest of Honour country



In recent years, Czech literature has presented a colorful mix of themes: in addition to autofiction and historical narratives dealing with topics such as the Sudetenland or the 20th century, genres such as dystopia, new adult, fantasy, and science fiction are becoming increasingly popular, just as they are in German-speaking countries. The depiction of the environment and nature is also gaining in importance: several titles focus on the relationship between humans and space, cities and nature.

New voices such as **Kristína Hamplová** with her coming-of-age novel "Lover/Fighter" and **Jonáš Zbořil** with his dystopia "Flora" are shaping the image of a young generation. At the same time, well-known authors such as **Bianca Bellová**, **Jaroslav Rudiš**, **Pavla Horáková**, and **Lucie Faulerová** continue to enjoy national and international success. Novelist and children's book author **Alena Mornštajnová** became the first Czech author to sell over a million copies of her books in her home country this year. Novelist **Radka Denemarková** is one of the most translated authors and is a frequent guest abroad, not only for readings but also for debates on freedom of expression, artistic freedom, and the position of women in society.

The *Magnesia Litera Prize* in particular plays an important role in contemporary Czech literature: In 2024, **Marek Torčík** won with "Rozložíš paměť" ("Was die Zeit nicht nimmt" is to be published in spring 2026 by Anthea Verlag) – a haunting autofictional exploration of queer identity, violence, and family trauma, which is one of the most important works of recent Czech literature. This year, the prize went to **Miroslav Hlaučo** for "Letnice" ("Pfingsten"), a novel in the spirit of magical realism, enriched with postmodern elements, set in a small mining town at the beginning of the 20th century. In addition, a new award was introduced in 2024: the *Cena literární kritiky*, a critics' prize sponsored by five literary magazines, which is intended to complement the established prizes. The first winner was **Emma Kausc** for her debut novel "Narušení děje" about searching for and finding relationships in the big city.

There is also no shortage of children's books: books for young readers now account for around ten percent of Czech book production. Large publishers such as Albatros, Baobab, and Labyrint are increasingly expanding their programs to include books for young readers, and small independent publishers are also contributing significantly to this success. The trend is toward comics and illustrated nonfiction books that describe difficult topics such as fear, otherness, and mental health, as well as environmental and sustainability issues and other current events. One example is "Kabát a kabelka" by **Marka Miková** with illustrations by **Galina Miklinová**, which humorously tells the story of an old pink handbag and a coat wandering through a deserted Prague during the coronavirus pandemic.

Please contact us if you would like further information, review copies, or if we can arrange interviews for you!

Best wishes

Your Guest of Honour Czechia press team  
Annika Grützner, Nathalie Weber and Mathias Voigt

Events

24.11.2025, 7 pm  
[A German-Czech poetry dialogue with Petr Hruška and Urs Heftrich](#)  
Museum Haus Cajeth, Heidelberg

25.11.2025, 6 pm  
[Petr Hruška and Urs Heftrich – Meeting of two poets](#)  
Das Brechthaus, Augsburg

4.12.2025, 6:30 pm  
[Reading & discussion: Jakub Stanjura – Da war doch nichts](#)  
OrankeBuch, Berlin

5.12.2025, 8 pm  
[Reading & discussion: Jakub Stanjura – Da war doch nichts](#)  
Philipp-Schaeffer-Bibliothek, Berlin-Mitte

10.12.2025, 7 pm  
[Reading & discussion: Matěj Hořava – Pálenka](#)  
Buchhandlung Kubula, München

11.12.2025, 197 pm  
[Reading & discussion: Matěj Hořava – Pálenka](#)  
Donauschwäbisches Zentralmuseum, Ulm

Book tips

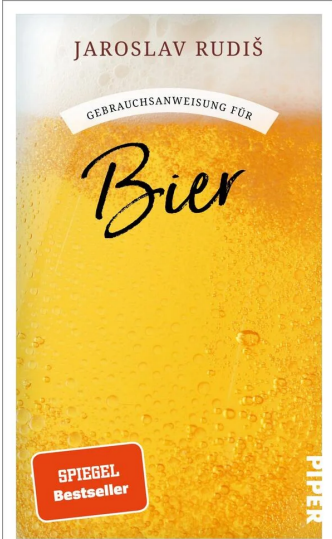
Jirí Kratochvíl: „Fuchs zu Dame“  
(Braumüller Verlag)



A top spy from Czechoslovakia and a top spy from the USSR meet during their dangerous mission abroad in the hostile capitalist West. The Czech spy has a promising career ahead of him in the secret service, but the spy from the USSR has a special secret: originally a fox, she was transformed into a beautiful woman by scientists at the Institute for Experimental Human Medicine under Stalin's personal paternal supervision and trained for her special mission. After a breakneck escape—half James Bond parody, half grotesquely escalating road movie à la Pulp Fiction—the two flee to America... until their secret service past catches up with them. The Russian attack on Ukraine and the ongoing war give the novel a bitter current outlook. It aptly and pointedly recalls the peculiarities and absurdities of the former socialist systems behind the Iron Curtain and exposes the relentless logic and cruelty of absurd autocracies.

You can find further information on the book [here](#).

Jaroslav Rudiš: „Gebrauchsanweisung für Bier“  
(Piper Verlag)



Beer is not just a drink. Beer is a cultural asset that has brought us together for centuries. Bestselling author Jaroslav Rudiš, who comes from the beer paradise of Bohemia and even has a beer named after him in his hometown, pays tribute to the golden barley juice, one of our absolute favorite drinks.

From Altbier to non-alcoholic beer to Zwickel – Rudiš tries them all. He visits monasteries and breweries, beer gardens and pubs. He travels to Pilsen, Budweis, and Bamberg, to the holy beer triangle of Central Europe, but also to Belgium and Ireland, Italy, and even Iceland. Along the way, he meets passionate beer drinkers and beer storytellers, hop farmers, brewers, and beer sommeliers, among whom there are many women today.

A travel book about the most beautiful beer locations in Europe, captivating and full of stories and history told by beer. And a wonderful gift for anyone who loves beer and brews it themselves.

You can find further information on the book [here](#).

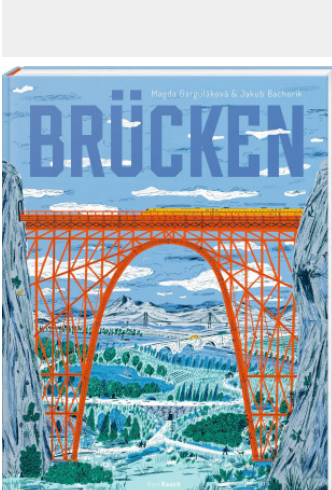
Martin Sichinger: „Aktion Klapsmühle“  
(Ohetaler-Verlag)



This Bohemian Forest novel provides insight into life under the thumb of communism: freedom of expression is curtailed, and those who do not conform end up in prison or the loony bin. July 1984: Marie escapes from the psychiatric clinic in Dobřany to return, at least for a while, to her home in the solitude of the Bohemian Forest. At the same time, Sergeant Sejkora is assigned to look into an almost forgotten case. This case concerns the last "free" farmer in the Winterberg district, who works in the lonely area. What secrets will they uncover and what injustices will their meeting bring to mind?

You can find further information on the book [here](#).

Magda Garguláková: „Brücken“  
(Karl Rauch Verlag, illustrations by Jakub Bachorík, translated by Mirko Kraetsch)



Bridges are a remarkable invention that shortens distances, connects worlds, and offers spectacular views. Some span a deep valley, many a rushing river or a busy road, and some cross a wide stretch of sea. Bridges have been around for centuries and are part of our lives, used by people, cars, trains, animals, and water. From historic stone arches to spectacular modern masterpieces, some are many kilometers long or at dizzying heights, others are world-famous. People have been building bridges ever since a tree fell across a river.

Why do we need bridges? What techniques are used and how can I build a bridge myself? Which are the most famous or strangest, the latest inventions? How have they changed throughout history?

You can find further information on the book [here](#).

About the Guest of Honour

Czechia is the Guest of Honour of the Frankfurt Book Fair 2026. The Guest of Honour appearance is being organised by the Moravian Library in Brno and its Czech Literature Centre section. It is being financed by public funds from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and is implemented with the support of PPF Foundation. Partner of the Year of Czech Culture and Guest of Honour is Deutsch-Tschechischer Zukunftsfonds / Česko-německý fond budoucnosti. The Frankfurt Book Fair, which will take place from October 7 to 11, 2026, is the world's largest trade fair for publishing. The Guest of Honour presents its literature and culture at the fair, in the city of Frankfurt, and at many other locations in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Czechia's Guest of Honour appearance is themed "Czechia – A Country on the Coast."

<https://czechia2026.com>

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