



HOST

**foreign rights catalogue
autumn 2013**



The Host publishing house focuses primarily on high-quality original **Czech prose and prose in translation, poetry, literary theory and educational works on literary subjects**. The principal foci of its specialist publications include history, sociology, linguistics and auteurs of cinema. In the last few years it has greatly expanded its range of fiction in translation and crime fiction and thrillers from Scandinavia.

The roots and interests of Brno-based Host Publishers are linked with the **magazine** of the same name, which first appeared, in *samizdat*, in 1985. On the Czech book market Host now has the profile of a practically unique phenomenon. This is thanks to its well-established editorial series, authors whose names are among the most prestigious and successful in Czech literature and the Host monthly magazine, which reflects on and enriches the Czech literary scene.

Host has introduced to Czech readers the crime novels of **Stieg Larsson, Lars Kepler, Jussi Adler-Olsen, Henning Mankell** and **Åsa Larsson**, which have been quick to occupy the top of the sales charts. Books by Czech authors **Kateřina Tučková, Petra Soukupová** and **Jan Balabán** have also become bestsellers. And the poems of legend of the underground **J. H. Krchovský** continue to be a popular phenomenon. But Host can take pride in more than just its leading role in the sales charts. The content of its catalogue of publications is of remarkably high quality and includes many leading writers from abroad, including Pulitzer Prize winner **Jeffrey Eugenides** (USA), **Daniel Glattauer** (Austria), **Carol Birch** (UK), **Olga Tokarczuk** (Poland), **Muriel Barbery** (France), **Willem Frederik Hermans** (Netherlands) and Czech writers including **Antonín Bajaja, Radka Denemarková, Jiří Hájíček, Jakuba Katalpa** and **Bianca Bellová**. The many Czech poets who publish with Host include **Petr Hruška** and **Radek Malý**. Host provides opportunities for début authors, too, be they poets, prose writers or scholars of literature.

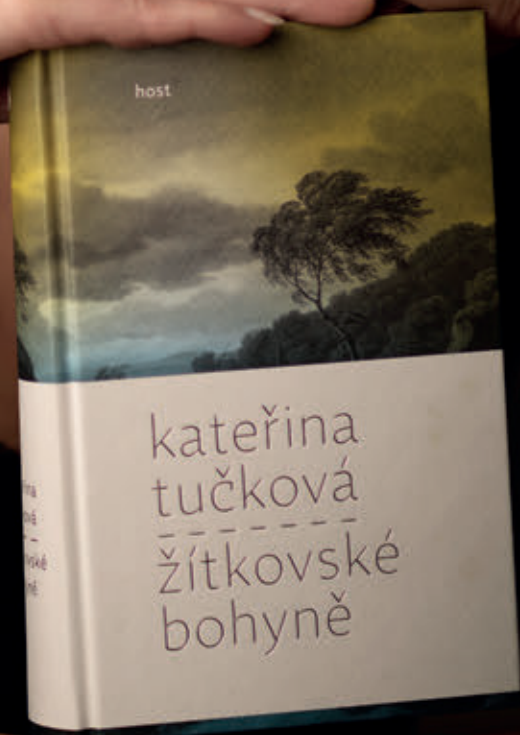
Since 2007 Host's 'court' graphic artist has been **Martin Pecina**, one of the Czech Republic's most distinctive and highly regarded typographers, making books from Host impossible to mistake. Host recently provided a home for the prestigious **Czech Library / Česká knižnice** series of high-quality editions of classic Czech works. Since 2009 Host has published annually a volume entitled **The Best Czech Poetry / Nejlepší české básně**. Host Publishers also holds regular literary events.

Contents

highlighted	4
Kateřina Tučková: The Žitková Goddesses / Žitkovské bohyně; The Expulsion of Gerta Schnirch / Vyhnaní Gerty Schnirch	4
Jiří Hájíček: Fish Blood / Rybí krev; Rustic Baroque / Selský baroko	6
brand-new	8
Jan Němec: A History of Light / Dějiny světla	8
Bianca Bellová: Nothing Happens All Day / Celý den se nic nestane;	
Dead Man / Mrtvý muž	9
Jan Folný: Little Queers / Buzičci	10
Petra Dvořáková: Julie and Words / Julie mezi slovy	11
Michal Sýkora: Blue Shadows / Modré stíny	12
Alena Mornštajnová: Blind Map / Slepá mapa	13
Nela Rywiková: House No. 6 / Dům číslo 6	14
highly recommended	15
Jakuba Katalpa: Germans / Němci	15
Radka Denemarková: Kobold / Kobold; Money from Hitler / Peníze od Hitlera .	16
Petra Soukupová: Marta in the Year of the Alien / Marta v roce vetřelce;	
To Disappear / Zmizet; To the Seaside / K moři.	17
Martin Pecina: Books and Typography / Knihy a typografie	18
selected backlist	19
Luděk Navara: Iron Curtain Stories / Příběhy železné opony; Iron Curtain Stories 2 / Příběhy železné opony 2; New Iron Curtain Stories / Nové příběhy železné opony	19
Antonín Bajaja: On the Beautiful Blue Dřevnice / Na krásné modré Dřevnici .	20
Martin Šmaus: A Chair for Štefan / Židle pro Štefana.	20
Vratislav Maňák: Polythene Clothes / Šaty z igelitu	20
Lidmila Kábrtová: Whom Foxes Drink Up / Koho vypijou lišky	21
Jiří Šimáček: Character / Charakter	21
Stanislav Beran: The Iron-breaking Woman and the Fire Eater / Žena lamželezo a polykač ohně	21
Petr Čichoň: A Silesian Novel / Slezský román	22
Roman Ludva: Forgery / Falzum.	22
Stanislav Komárek: Mandarins / Mandaríni	22
Pavel Gotthard: Meds for the Sad / Léky smutných.	23
Petra Dvořáková: I Am Hunger / Já jsem hlad; Transformed Dreams / Proměněné sny	23

Kateřina Tučková

born 1980,
prose writer,
curator, author
of three books
of fiction, No.1
bestselling
contemporary
Czech woman
author



The Žitková Goddesses

Žitkovské bohyně

highlighted · 5

A fascinating tale of the female soul, magic and a part of Czech history kept hidden.

High in the hills of the White Carpathians there lived women with extraordinary gifts, healers who from time immemorial had treated all kinds of affliction and coped with all kinds of difficulty; it was also said that they could see the future. Known as goddesses, they passed their arts from generation to generation. One of the last in the line of goddesses of Žitková, Dora Idesová has not learned these arts. She is a graduate in ethnology and has chosen to write an extensive academic study about the goddesses. In the late 1990s she visits the archives of the Ministry of the Interior in Pardubice, where she discovers a State Security Police file on an enemy of the state – the goddess Surmena, her aunt. Although Dora never became a goddess herself, as she unravels the life stories of the women of Žitková she is surprised to learn that she is an inseparable part of an arcane lore...

film rights sold, theatre rights sold, audio book released · over 65,000 copies sold · on the fiction bestseller list for weeks · awards: Josef Škvorecký Prize 2012, Czech Bestseller Prize 2012, Magnesia Litera – Reader's Award 2013, Czech Book Award – Readers Award 2013 · rights sold to: Poland (Wydawnictwo Afera), Bulgaria (Paradox), Ukraine (Komora), Germany (DVA) and Slovenia (Sanje)

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2012, HARDBACK; 2013, PAPERBACK, 456 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-528-3 / 978-80-7294-858-1

The Expulsion of Gerta Schnirch

Vyhánání Gerty Schnirch



About the fate of one woman in a shattered world, the guilt of Czechs and Germans, whether forgiveness and mutual understanding are possible.

over 20,000 copies sold · awards: Magnesia Litera – Reader's Award 2010 · shortlisted for Josef Škvorecký Prize, Jiří Orten Prize and Magnesia Litera in the Prose category 2010 · foreign editions: Italian (Barbés, 2011) and Hungarian (Kalligram, 2012)

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2009, HARDBACK; 2010, PAPERBACK, 416 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-315-9 / 978-80-7294-413-2

more on www.katerina-tuckova.cz

Jiří Hájíček

born 1967,
novelist, short-
story writer
and journalist,
author of
6 works of
fiction



Fish Blood

highlighted · 7

Rybí krev

The author continues his exploration of the Czech village that we last saw in the prizewinning *Rustic Baroque*.

We find ourselves in southern Bohemia as the 1980s give way to the 1990s. After fifteen years abroad Hana returns in 2008 to a half-flooded village on the banks of the Vltava. Here she grew up. Here she wished to marry and become a teacher at the one-class school. But everything turned out differently. Now she stands alone on the deserted village square. Hana has the courage to look back, to put questions to herself and those who once meant a great deal to her. People over forty wish to put their affairs in order, to draw a line under old issues and sources of pain — this is what Hana tells herself as she meets her father, brother and childhood friends after many years apart from them. ¶ The novel is first and foremost about the disintegration of a family and a village in a completely different set of social circumstances. The theme of the displacement and demolition of a community so that a nuclear power station can take its place is certainly a topical one that needs to be addressed at a time when the future of other villages is under threat — at any place in the world really. ¶ But *Fish Blood* is not any old ‘green novel’; above all it is an absorbing human story of three friends from a small village whom fate has scattered across the world. It is a story with strong echoes of longing for family cohesion, and it is about the power of love and forgiveness.

over 10,000 copies sold · [Finnegan's List 2013](#) · awards: [Magnesia Litera — Book of the Year 2013](#) · rights sold to: [Belarus \(Lohvinau\)](#) and [Macedonia \(Begemot Doel\)](#)

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2012, HARDBACK, 360 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-639-6

Rustic Baroque

Selský baroko



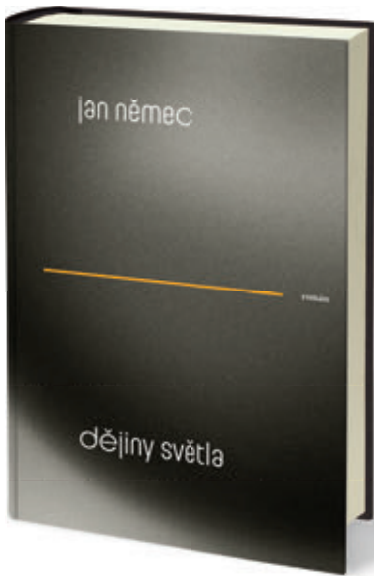
In recent years there have been few works to take as their subject matter our recent past. And perhaps not one of these has taken as its principal theme collectivization in the villages of the 1950s, at least not until Jiří Hájíček's novella *Rustic Baroque*.

awards: [Magnesia Litera in the Prose category 2006](#) · foreign editions: [Hungarian \(Kalligram, 2008\)](#), [Italian \(Centro Full Service, 2010\)](#), [Croatian \(Disput, 2011\)](#) and [English \(Real World Press, 2012\)](#)

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2005, HARDBACK; 2009, PAPERBACK, 176 PP · ISBN 80-7294-164-X / 978-80-7294-300-5

more on www.hajicek.info

A History of Light / Dějiny světla



A novel about the photographer František Drtikol.

Have you ever wondered what a story written by a beam of light would be like? First, the story would be ordinary but the course of events extraordinary; second, its hero would be a photographer, a guardian of light; third, naturally it would be full of shadow. So who was František Drtikol? A dandy from a small mining town, a world-famous photographer whose business went bankrupt, a master of the nude who never had much luck with women, a mystic and a Buddhist who believed in communism; a man whose many contradictions showed outwardly and were synthesized inwardly. The conception of Jan Němec's extensive novel is very unusual for contemporary

Czech prose – fresco-like, it is an artistic and spiritual Bildungsroman that covers over half a century, bringing to life the silver mines of Příbram, Jugendstil Munich and First Republic Bohemianism, with naked models wandering along the lines and light merging unobserved with knowledge...

NOVEL · PUBLISHED OCTOBER 2013, HARDBACK, 480 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-962-5



Jan Němec born 1981, author of three books, graduated in Religious Studies and Sociology from Masaryk University in Brno, where he is now a postgraduate; works as an editor at Host and contributes to the Respekt weekly; nominated for the Jiří Orten Prize for his prose debut *Game for Four Hands / Hra pro čtyři ruce* (2009)

Bianca Bellová

brand-new · 9

Nothing Happens All Day / Celý den se nic nestane



A summer's day after a storm, probably in Prague, this year or next. Two women, Lola and Marta, daughter and mother, are carrying a heavy load, taking it in turns to lean on the other for support. Then they go their separate ways. Lola is sweet sixteen, but she doesn't feel very sweet. Marta has the feeling that her life will end when her flirting days are over. Both suffer by the absence of someone who has disappeared from their lives, whom they are still waiting for. Esterházy! ¶ In the hotel where Marta works a funeral party is in preparation. The kitchen smells of frying garlic bread. In the honeymoon suite an Indian bride is going crazy and mixing fried eggs with orange juice... Will we have gathered enough clues by evening to allow us to reconstruct the disappearance of the missing person? And who the heck was Esterházy?

NOVELLA · PUBLISHED OCTOBER 2013, HARDBACK, 144 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-965-6

Dead Man / Mrtvý muž



The second book by Bianca Bellová is a monologue, a woman's recapitulation of her life. The banality and drabness of childhood in the Sixties and Seventies is pervaded by secret family dramas that the narrator must confront — her grandfather's murder by the communists, or her grandmother's open hatred of the regime. And all the strands are heading for an unexpected unravelling...

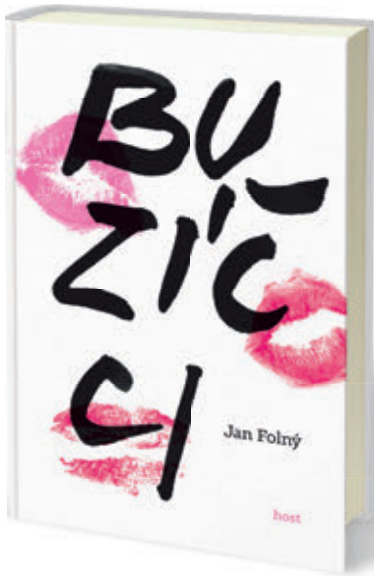
rights sold to: Austria (Braumüller Literaturverlag)

NOVELLA · PUBLISHED 2011, HARDBACK, 112 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-495-8



Bianca Bellová born 1970, author of three books, graduate of the University of Economics in Prague; currently works as a translator and interpreter from English; her debut work *A Sentimental Novel / Sentimentální román* appeared in 2009

Little Queers / Buzíčci



These days a man kissing a man or two women walking hand in hand are sights that give about as much offence as someone wearing socks with sandals. Which is all well and good. Writers don't have to be proactive in showing that gays and lesbians are 'the same as other people', nor is there any need for ostentation in their depiction of various 'deviations'. In short, the mere fact of homosexuality no longer serves as the basis of a story. ¶ In the collection of short stories *Little Queers* Jan Folný shows that he is well aware of this. The volume's title – poised as it is between irony and compassion – is indicative of the author's attitude to his 'heroes'. The characters paraded in these interrelated stories include a frustrated family man who meets a young Vietnamese in a gay bar,

a famous singer who misses his class reunion, a professional footballer in love, and an elderly man preparing to move to a rest home. Folný is able to switch convincingly between genres and narrative styles, thus proving that in the Czech Republic this theme has at last moved out of the ghetto and become literature worthy of the description.

SHORT STORIES · PUBLISHED AUGUST 2013, HARDBACK, 256 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-964-9



Jan Folný born 1977, author of two works of prose fiction, graduate of the Faculty of Education in Plzeň; his novella *Push/Pull / Od sebe/k sobě* (2010) draws on his experiences during a three-year stay in Ireland; currently lives and works in London

Julie and Words / Julie mezi slovy



Ten-year-old Julie doesn't have things easy. She (like many other children) has recently lived through the divorce of her parents; together with her younger sister she is trying to get used to her father's new partner and her children. ¶ The situation is further complicated by the fact the disintegration of the original family unit is accompanied by a move from Prague, an environment of shopping malls, selective-entry schools and other amenities of urban life, to an ordinary village where her fellow pupils at the small school have little idea about anything. Against the background of little Julie's story the reader is acquainted with a veritable dictionary of terms from the adult world that often and inadvertently penetrate the world of children and may well be a source of worry as well as

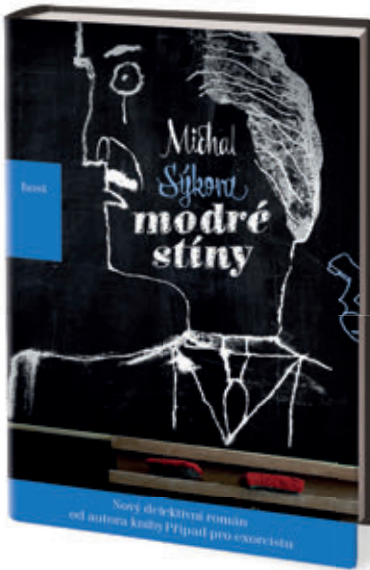
humour. ¶ The child reader encounters interpretations of words including 'divorce', 'sex' and 'cyberbullying' and terms such as 'disability', 'dental hygiene' and 'credit card'. Young Julie herself inducts us also into a world of words that are strictly forbidden to children. By playful, gentle means Julie urges the reader to reflect on the meaning and use of words. ¶ *Julie and Words* touches on themes (e.g., divorce of parents, family breakdown, the forming of wider emotional ties to include parents' new partners and their children) that are frequent in children's literature but rarely fully grasped. It helps readers to come to terms with one of childhood's most painful experiences. ¶ The book is illustrated by a leading Slovak artist.

CHILDREN'S BOOK · PUBLISHED OCTOBER 2013, HARDBACK, 125 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-966-3

ILLUSTRATED BY KATARINA GASKO



Petra Dvořáková born 1977, author of three books; works as a journalist, copywriter and manager; came to public attention with her first book *Transformed Dreams / Proměněné sny*, which won a Magnesia Litera prize for Journalism in 2007; in 2009 she published her second book *I Am Hunger / Já jsem hlad*, with the subtitle *About a struggle with anorexia nervosa, a search, a journey and a return to the feminine soul* (see the page 23)

Blue Shadows / Modré stíny

One November morning a cleaning lady finds Assoc. Prof. Ondřej Chalupa dead in his study. He has been shot. Is there a connection between the murder and long-running efforts to dismiss the university's bursar for strange machinations concerning the renovation of a historical university building? Why did the murderer take the risk of shooting in the building? Who serves to gain from the death of a peculiar but honourable academic? ¶ The novel's protagonists are Olomouc police commissioner Marie Výrová and her younger colleagues Pavel Edelweiss and Kristýna Horová. The leads in an investigation that at first appears to be a common-or-garden case of embezzlement at local level gradually pulls the heroes and villains into a quagmire of unscrupulous opportunism, cronyism and corruption

that reaches to the highest echelons of politics. In the end shadows in the human mind and hidden stories from the past almost break up the team of investigators. How will the likeable and sanguine, albeit rather ordinary Commissioner Výrová tackle the situation? ¶ Sýkora's detective novels operate on multiple levels. They respect the most fundamental rules of the game — they are thrilling, entertaining, and they keep the reader guessing the identity of the killer to the very last moment. The author's ability to bring together tension, love-related entanglements and humour makes *Blue Shadows* a novel which will please even those who are not usually drawn to the thriller.

DETECTIVE NOVEL · PUBLISHED MAY 2013, HARDBACK, 420 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-888-8



Michal Sýkora born 1971, the author of a two-volume monograph on Vladimir Nabokov and two other works of literary scholarship, the author of the detective novel *A Case for an Exorcist / Případ pro exorcistu* (2012)

Alena Mornštajnová

Blind Map / Slepá mapa

brand–new · 13



Anna, Alžběta, Anežka. Three women, three generations, one family and many twists of fate, traumas and secrets. ¶ The story begins before the First World War, when Anna, the narrator’s grandmother, leaves home with her intended Antonín for a town in the borderlands of northern Bohemia, in the face of opposition from her parents. It is as though the first letter of their names is an expression of the hope that they will start a new life there. At the same time the name symbolizes what we cannot choose for ourselves – a given family legacy that we bear always, in spite of our best efforts to change it. And also fate, whose tests we can do little to influence. ¶ A new beginning suddenly turns into a battle for survival when Antonín is injured at the front and Anna is stricken by tuberculosis. A quarter-

century later there is a new beginning for their daughter Alžběta, who is forced to flee from the German army as it occupies the borderlands. And after half a century the hand of fate – this time in the form of an officer of the secret police – reaches for Anežka, the narrator. ¶ The dramatic tension in the lives of three women determined to start anew, their powerlessness in the face of history, their own ‘genetic code’ and fate – all this the narrator recounts with understanding, a provocative detachment and a sense of self-deprecation. It is in this light that we might understand the novel’s last sentence: “Now it’s up to me ...” ¶ Without doubt Alena Mornštajnová has succeeded in writing a spellbinding novel that works on many levels. It follows not only the lives of its three heroines but those of many other characters, too. It would seem that this novel will be a revelation comparable with *All This Belongs to Me* by Petra Hůlová, now a Czech writer of international renown.

NOVEL · PUBLISHED MAY 2013, HARDBACK, 400 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-887-1



Alena Mornštajnová born 1963, works as a teacher of English and translator; the fictional saga *Blind Map* is her first book

Nela Rywíková

House No. 6 / Dům číslo 6

brand-new · 14



The story of four neighbours whose search for a seemingly simple way of life leads them to a crime. ¶ This novel takes the reader to the outskirts of a city and a dilapidated house in the middle of an erstwhile factory site, surrounded by the high furnaces of Vítkovice Ironworks. The run-down, rusting and crumbling production halls are reflected in the difficult lives of the people who live in the house. ¶ The protagonists all have in common a past spent in a factory cage, an inability to change their lives for the better and an inability to imagine themselves architects of their own destiny. Together they vegetate behind the concrete-panel walls, out of sight of other people and beyond the interest of the authorities. Their silent watching makes them witnesses to,

and eventually participants in a crime. Anyone who wishes to tear them away from the comfort of their order becomes a threat to them. And to remove an inconvenient person is a simple matter...

DETECTIVE NOVEL · PUBLISHED MAY 2013, HARDBACK, 280 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-683-9

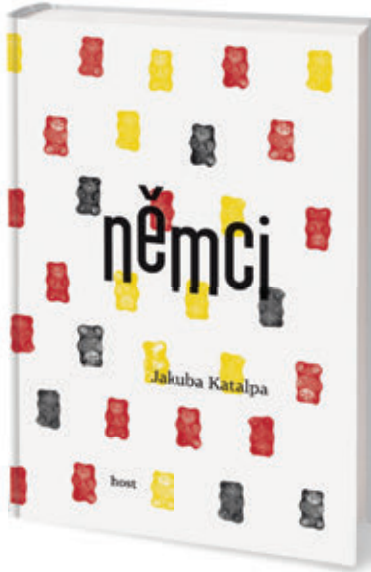


Nela Rywíková born 1979, studied Conservation and Restoration at Brno's College of Art and Crafts (VOŠR), she now works in the production office of a publishing house; *House No. 6* is her first book

Jakuba Katalpa

Germans / Němci

highly recommended · 15



The Geography of Loss / Geografie ztráty

In 1987 a package arrives in the Mahler household. It is the last in a long line of packages that the family have received from West Germany since the end of the Forties, sent by Klára Rissmann to her son Konrad. But none of the Mahlers have ever spoken of Grandma Klára, and when Konrad dies many questions remain unanswered. Klára's granddaughter takes it upon herself to find her grandmother in order to reach an understanding of her family's past and uncover its traumas. Jakuba Katalpa's new novel takes us to the Hinterbergen of the first half of the 20th century and a middle-class family enduring hardships caused by the First and then the Second World War and afflicted by human passions and weaknesses.

In the early Forties the young adult Klára finds herself in a small village in the Sudetenland, where she comes up against the mistrust and prejudices of local people. ¶ The world of the main heroine, initially so promising, straightforward and carefree, takes knock after knock. Rose-tinted glasses are replaced by disillusionment. The reader is confronted with a question: After so many years, is it really possible to get at the truth? ¶ The author's fine language is in stark contrast with the coarse depiction of milestones in the lives of those close to Klára, making the theme of loss — which dominates the novel in many variations — more conspicuous still.

awards: Czech Book Award 2013 · shortlisted for Magnesia Litera in the Prose category 2013 · rights sold to: Slovenia (Police Dubove)

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2012, HARDBACK, 424 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-682-2



Jakuba Katalpa born 1979, prose writer, author of three books of fiction; the novella *Is Soil to Be Eaten? / Je hlína k snědku?* shortlisted for Magnesia Litera in the Newcomer of the Year category 2007; the novel *The Bitter Sea / Hořké moře* shortlisted for the Jiří Orten Prize 2009

Radka Denemarková

Kobold / Kobold

highly recommended · 16



Kobold (A Surfeit of Tenderness and A Surfeit of People) is two novels in one. ¶ Two stories in one book as two elements — water and a fire that recasts what we see. Or two streams that come together as one. It is a book about the forms assumed by unconquerable love and sophisticated violence; about how human existence is pre-determined by the family into which one is born; about the ideology in which we steep ourselves; about a society whose decay spreads from the inside out, to the edges, to the ‘weaker’, to the sensitive. The sufferings of its characters are sicknesses of our time. And it seems that Kobolds are a source of these sufferings.

foreign editions: Slovenian (Modrijan, 2013)

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2011, HARDBACK, 328 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-506-1

Money from Hitler / Peníze od Hitlera



The girl Gita leaves the concentration camp to the realisation that in fact there is nowhere for her to return to, and that the oppression and savagery of the holocaust are far from over. For Gita, living is no longer a question of right or wrong. It is purely a question of survival. The elderly Gita Lauschmanová wishes to exact justice as her life draws to its close.

successful theatre adaptation in Švandovo divadlo (2010-2012) · awards: Magnesia Litera in the Prose category 2007; Usedom Prize for Literature 2011, Germany; Georg Dehio Buch Prize 2012, Germany · foreign editions: Polish (ATUT, 2009), Hungarian (Európa, 2009),

German (Random House/DVA, 2009, 2011), English (Canadian Scholars' Press/Women's Press, 2009), Slovenian (Modrijan, 2010) and Italian (Keller Editore, 2012) · rights sold to: Bulgaria (Elias Canetti)

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2006, HARDBACK; 2009, 2012, PAPERBACK, 248 PP · ISBN 80-7294-185-2 / 978-80-7294-309-8



Radka Denemarková born 1968, novelist, dramatist, TV screenplay writer, translator, essayist, teacher of creative writing, author of three books of fiction; she is the only Czech writer who has received a Magnesia Litera prize three times (in different categories — for prose, non-fiction and translation)

Marta in the Year of the Alien / Marta v roce vetřelce



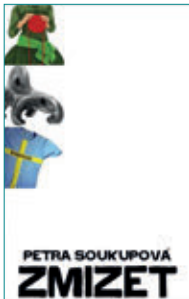
Marta's parents think that she's clever and could make something of herself, particularly if she goes to university and works hard at her studies. Her younger sister thinks she's a stuck-up airhead... But this book isn't about how others see Marta — it's Marta's own diary.

over 10,000 copies sold

NOVEL (DIARY) · PUBLISHED 2011, HARDBACK, 320 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-521-4

ILLUSTRATED BY NIKOLA HOŘENÍ

To Disappear / Zmizet



The author has chosen to style the child as hero. In all the stories the heroes are trying to cope with family trauma which distances them from their loved ones and forces them to search for their own identity and place within the family.

over 20,000 copies sold · awards: Magnesia Litera — Book of the Year 2010 · foreign edition: Polish (Afera, 2012) · rights sold to: Italy (H2O), Romania (Editura Allfa) and Bulgaria (ALJA)

TRIPTYCH OF SHORT STORIES · PUBLISHED 2009, HARDBACK; 2011, PAPERBACK, 344 PP
ISBN 978-80-7294-317-3

To the Seaside / K moři



At the centre of the narrative of this debut are the life stories of a number of characters: people who are formally interconnected within the family but are very distant from one another in human terms. Their stories cross fully and authentically but once: on a more or less accidental holiday trip to the seaside.

over 10,000 copies sold · award: Jiří Orten Prize 2008 · foreign editions: Slovenian (Sanje, 2012) · rights sold to: Croatia (Meandar)

NOVELLA · PUBLISHED 2007, PAPERBACK, 204 PP · ISBN 978-80-7291-234-3



Petra Soukupová born 1982, prose writer, script writer, author of three books of fiction

Martin Pecina

highly recommended · 18

Books and Typography / Knihy a typografie



Second, extended edition of a book by a leading Czech graphic artist and commentator ¶ This book, which addresses the process of book creation from the perspective of the book designer — is a contribution to a practically non-existent ‘genre’. It contains essays on reading, bibliophily, the book and libraries and serves as a useful guide to book design for fiction, poetry and specialist literature. Its chapters deal with factors that books designed by professionals usually conceal from the reader. The author considers legibility, composition, the combining of text and illustration, choice of materials and small details of the typographer’s craft that have a substantial influence on how a text is perceived. ¶ This second edition has ninety pages of new content, including an extensive section on diacritics, an anatomy of fonts and a glossary. Part of the book was

adapted for a Czech Radio broadcast.

awards: Most beautiful book of the 21st autumn book fair in Havlíčkův Brod 2011, Exit Design (Faculty of Art and Design, Jan Evangelista Purkyně University) 2012, Outstanding Student Design 2012, Best Graduation Projects of 2011 (2+3D Magazine’s Choice), Most Beautiful Czech Books 2012 (3rd place for printing) and European Design Awards 2013 (2nd place for book layout)

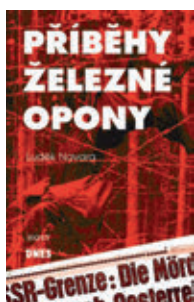
ESSAYS · PUBLISHED 2011, 2012, HARDBACK, 312 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-393-7 / 978-80-7294-813-0



Martin Pecina born 1982, one of the Czech Republic’s most distinctive and highly regarded typographers

more on www.book-design.eu

Iron Curtain Stories / Příběhy železné opony



Freedom Train. Death Wall. How Men Were Changing into Frogs. The Slovak Icarus. And, in fact, the *Iron Curtain*, too... In today's context the titles of the chapters and sub-chapters of this book sound rather like the names of surrealist poems. Yet in their own time, between 1948 and 1989, they referred to a very topical and often tragic reality.

Foreign editions: German (Attenkofer, Zeitungsgruppe Straubinger Tagblatt, 2006)

SHORT STORIES (NON-FICTION) · PUBLISHED (IN CO-OPERATION WITH DNES) 2004,
PAPERBACK, 204 PP · ISBN 80-7294-135-6

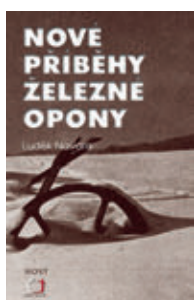
Iron Curtain Stories 2 / Příběhy železné opony 2



To coincide with publication, Czech Television showed a series of documentary films under the same name. The stories' protagonists are from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from otherwise unknown (thus for history, nameless) young people to distinguished politicians and soldiers. Their fates intersect but once, at one of life's crossroads – in the attempt to break through the strictly and mercilessly guarded borders of former communist Czechoslovakia to the world of freedom.

SHORT STORIES (NON-FICTION) · PUBLISHED (IN CO-OPERATION WITH DNES) 2006,
PAPERBACK, 260 PP · ISBN 80-7294-201-8

New Iron Curtain Stories / Nové příběhy železné opony



“This new Navara book, too, is better read as a collection of thrilling stories than testimony on a recent past which left the stage with barely a whimper. The stories themselves are fabulous and no author could ever make them up... The stories of people who refused to put up with things.” (Jaroslav Hutka, singer and journalist)

SHORT STORIES (NON-FICTION) · PUBLISHED (IN CO-OPERATION WITH CZECH TV) 2007,
PAPERBACK, 244 PP · ISBN 80-7294-257-2



Luděk Navara born 1964, author or co-author of eight non-fiction books, journalist, script writer and historian; awards: Karel Havlíček Borovský Journalists' Prize 2008 and Antonín Švehla Prize 2010

over 20,000 copies of these three books sold

Antonín Bajaja

selected backlist · 20

On the Beautiful Blue Dřevnice / Na krásné modré Dřevnici



The author (b. 1942) might have called his latest novel *The End of the Good Old Days in Zlín* or *A Moravian Amarcord*. It is a memoir of a childhood that began with so much promise shortly after the war, when the people of Zlín welcomed their liberators with bread and salt, there was merrymaking and the execution of a “Nazi” on the football field, and the “bourgeoisie” believed the republic of Masaryk and the prosperity of Baťa would return.

awards: State Prize for Literature 2010 • rights sold to: Russia (Globus) and Great Britain (Jantar)

NOVEL • PUBLISHED 2009, HARDBACK, 376 PP • ISBN 978-80-7294-329-6

Martin Šmaus

A Chair for Štefan / Židle pro Štefana



The narrator of the second novel by Martin Šmaus (b. 1965) is a typical non-hero. He lives in a functional family, he has a well-paid job and he spends his leisure time climbing the rocks or drinking beer in pubs. Then, behind the fence of his house Jehovah’s Witnesses appear...

NOVEL • PUBLISHED 2008, HARDBACK, 176 PP • ISBN 978-80-7294-280-0

Vratislav Maňák

Polythene Clothes / Šaty z igelitu



The literary début of Vratislav Maňák (b. 1988) offers thirteen variations on human loneliness, mostly arising out of mundane situations: Kristýna is preparing for her wedding day, Jindřich is going over his late wife’s estate... But matters of real importance are present in what is left unsaid and what is concealed.

award: Jiří Orten Prize 2012

SHORT STORIES • PUBLISHED 2011, HARDBACK, 160 PP • ISBN 978-80-7294-562-7

Lidmila Kábrtová

selected backlist · 21

Whom Foxes Drink Up / Koho vypijou lišky



Débutante Lidmila Kábrtová (b. 1971) has come up with an original work of prose in which every word counts. In order to say everything important, are fifty words a lot or a little? Little El lives in 1970s Czechoslovakia. The violence in her parents' relationship is a part of her childhood that marks but holds no surprises for her. Each chapter comprises fifty words exactly, is a self-contained story, and places another stone in the mosaic of the book as a whole.

SHORT STORIES · PUBLISHED 2013, HARDBACK, 200 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-890-1

Jiří Šimáček

Character / Charakter



Jiří Šimáček (b. 1967) is the author of *Keen Girls / Snaživky* (2009), which was nominated for the Josef Škvorecký Prize. The plot of his second book revolves around a house of rented apartments in the centre of Brno, where the paths of the house's owner and the youngest tenant rarely cross – until the peace of their separate universes is disturbed by a third-rate con man. The lives of the three protagonists intersect in a story that is an ironic but never frivolous meditation on guilt, redemption and second chances.

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2012, HARDBACK, 248 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-665-5

ILLUSTRATED BY JIŘÍ FRANTA

Stanislav Beran

The Iron-breaking Woman and the Fire Eater /

Žena lámželezo a polykač ohně



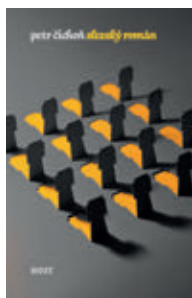
Stanislav Beran (b. 1977) has followed up the short novel *Days of Clay / Hliněné dny* with a collection of short stories, the genre in which his writing is at its strongest, as he proved with his successful début work *When You Die, No One'll Want to Touch Your Breasts / Až umřeš, nikdo už ti nebude chtít sahat na prsa*. Is it possible to do a crossword puzzle while you are waiting for your child to die? Whom is the taxi driver taking to the grammar school? Does a tattoo have a soul? So many questions that are so difficult to answer...

SHORT STORIES · PUBLISHED 2013, HARDBACK, 216 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-889-5

Petr Čichoň

selected backlist · 22

A Silesian Novel / Slezský román



The first work of prose by Petr Čichoň (b. 1969), poet and architect. Martin Klučka, the main hero, is writing a dissertation on the architecture of Nazi Germany. A mysterious girl called Martina tells him about Hans Kammler, chief architect of the SS, who was last sighted in Prague at the end of the war and of whom there is no further record. As Martin and Martina investigate what became of Kammler, they are drawn into many adventures.

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2011, HARDBACK, 294 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-522-1

Roman Ludva

Forgery / Falzum

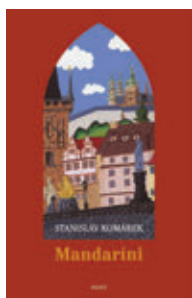


Roman Ludva (b. 1966) is a writer of prose, scripts and columns; he is the author of five novels. *Forgery* presents five longer detective stories from the world of art. A number of murders are connected by motive and also their central characters – two detectives. Step by step they penetrate the world of art and artists – a world of lies, intrigue and crime – and in so doing get to know each other better. And each has his secrets...

SHORT STORIES · PUBLISHED 2012, HARDBACK, 416 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-589-4

Stanislav Komárek

Mandarins / Mandaríni



The main character – the sinologist Jindřich Krottenbacher – lives out the epoch-making year 1989 and the post-revolutionary era up to 2001. With this unsettled period in the background, the author interlaces the thrilling and in patches both fanciful and ambiguous plot, in which make-believe is extremely difficult to distinguish from reality. As with this author's two earlier distinguished novels, this is about the nature of fate, the fragility of human plans and life's ambitions in general. Stanislav Komárek (b. 1958) is a novelist, essayist, columnist and poet.

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2007, HARDBACK, 356 PP · ISBN 978-80-7291-247-3

Pavel Gotthard

selected backlist · 23

Meds for the Sad / Léky smutných



Pavel Gotthard (b. 1987) is a doctoral student at Brno's Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts (JAMU). He works as a scriptwriter. His first book draws on his activities as a performer and organizer of live-action role-play (LARP) and his enthusiasm for fantasy fiction. The book's heroes wear heavy, platform-soled boots, black coats and clothes reminiscent of the 19th century. They live in strange fantasy worlds that protect them from their environment and which no one else understands...

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2013, HARDBACK, 199 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-667-9

Petra Dvořáková

I Am Hunger / Já jsem hlad



About a struggle with anorexia nervosa, a search, a journey and a return to the feminine soul. This layered, autobiographical narrative addresses complex family ties and traumas, a fumbling quest for love, and the search for refuge in an alternative relationship that has scandalous overtones. It shows a connection between the development of anorexia and a child's serious illness and sometimes successful attempts at finding a fixed point in faith in God.

NON-FICTION · PUBLISHED 2009, 2013, PAPERBACK, 144 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-318-0
PHOTOGRAPHY VĚRA STUCHELOVÁ

Petra Dvořáková

Transformed Dreams / Proměněné sny



Ten conversations on illusion and disillusion that faith brings. These are powerful confessions by people who are searching for faith, losing it, fighting for it and often against it... and quite often fighting with themselves. Each story could form the basis of a powerful novel. How can it be that the work of novelist is being done by perceptive journalists? — Jiří Trávníček

NON-FICTION · PUBLISHED 2006, 2013, PAPERBACK, 164 PP · ISBN 80-7294-187-9,
PHOTOGRAPHY PETR FRANCÁN



Contact details

Host — vydavatelství, s. r. o.
Radlas 5
602 00 Brno
Czech Republic

www.hostbrno.cz

foreign rights:
Dana Blatná
tel.: +420 608 748 157
email: blatna@hostbrno.cz