

Host focuses primarily on high-quality contemporary Czech prose and on prose in translation, as well as on thrillers, children's literature, poetry, non-fiction and specialist literature.

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, David Lagercrantz, Lars Kepler, Jussi Adler-Olsen, Peter May, Henning Mankell and Asa 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 Jan Němec. 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.

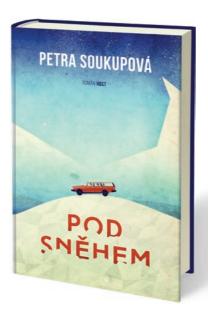
Host recently provided a home for the prestigious Czech Library / Česká knižnice series of high-quality editions of classic Czech works. Since 2009 Host has published annually a volume entitled The Best Czech Poetry / Nejlepší české básně. Host Publishers also holds regular literary events.

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## Petra Soukupová Under the Snow / Pod sněhem



The latest book (and first novel) by one of today's most distinguished Czech female authors was a best-selling title for many weeks; more than 10,000 copies sold.

A seemingly common situation: one winter day three sisters get into a car and head for their parents' place, where they will celebrate their father's birthday. Blanka and her two daughters, a baby and a dog, Olina, her son and an iPad, Kristýna with a hangover. In the overfilled car too are their life stories, memories of childhood, unfulfilled dreams and frustrations; only a few miles into the drive the atmosphere grows tense. And at this stage the sisters are unaware that more unpleasantness awaits them at their parents' home. ¶ In details of

family relationships and ostensibly ordinary events Soukupová succeeds in capturing imprints of life's complications with such brilliance that the reader relates to them as unique dramas. The naturally effortless narrative style, which is typical of this author, serves to underscore the story's authenticity, engaging the reader to such a degree that he/she becomes a passenger in the car as it passes through the winter landscape.

10,000 copies sold • rights sold to: Poland (Afera)

NOVEL · PUBLISHED MARCH 2015, HARDBACK; JUNE 2015, PAPERBACK, 373 PP · ISBN 978-80-7491-493-5 / ISBN 978-80-7491-587-1



Petra Soukupová born 1982, prose writer, script writer, author of four works of fiction for adults and one for children; To Disappear / Zmizet — 30,000 copies sold, Under the Snow / Pod sněhem — 10,000 copies sold (since its publication in March); To the Seaside / K moři — 12,000 copies sold; Marta in the Year of the Alien / Marta v roce vetřelce — 10,000 copies sold; awards: To the Seaside / K moři — Jiří Orten Prize, shortlisted for Magnesia Litera Prize for Prose, Josef Škvorecký Prize (all 2008); To Disappear / Zmizet — Magnesia Litera Book of the Year, shortlisted for Josef Škvorecký Prize (both 2010); books published in 6 languages: Slovenian, Polish, Italian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Bosnian; rights sold to Hungary, Serbia and Macedonia

#### Alena Mornštajnová The Little Hotel / Hotýlek



Some things, it seems, exist outside of time.

History, wars, totalitarian regimes and weather do nothing to change them. One such is Leopold Mánes's little hotel, a place for short assignations founded at the time of the First Czechoslovak Republic; it continued to serve delighted couples during the years of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, nor did it stop after it was nationalized by the communists. But the more straightforward the love played out in the rooms of the hotel, the more fateful and dramatic the relations within the family of the proprietor, and later the manager. • Following the success of her first novel Blind Map / Slepá mapa, which describes the lives of three generations of women, the primary focus of

Mornštajnová's new book is a male protagonist, Leopold's grandson Václav Mánes, who takes over the management of the hotel in the Sixties. Václav lacks clear opinions and character, allowing him to navigate deftly the waters of the communist regime and so keep the family business together, albeit to devastating effect on relationships within his family and people who get close to him. Alena Mornštajnová's new novel gives confirmation of her status as a born storyteller who is able to captivate her readers.

In her debut work Alena Mornštajnová showed herself to be a writer with a gift for straightforward narrative, a craftsman's sense of good writing and an ability to compose a consistent whole. So it will be interesting to see what happens with her second novel, which is also set in the years of communism. — Pavel Portl

NOVEL · PUBLISHED MAY 2015, HARDBACK, 319 PP · ISBN 978-80-7491-496-6



**Alena Mornštajnová** born 1963, is a teacher of English and translator; her debut novel *Blind Map / Slepá mapa* (2013) was shortlisted for the 2014 Czech Book Award

#### Petra Dvořáková

# Flouk and Lila: Adventures from a Skyscraper / Flouk a Líla: Dobrodružství z mrakodrapu



A tale for children about a great friendship between a computer mouse and a magic cat

Just imagine, children — Lila isn't an ordinary mouse, she's a computer mouse! The thing is, she's not having much fun in the office, so she's looking for friends in the real world. But she should watch out for Flouk the nasty cat, who practically lives here in the skyscraper and wants to get inside the computer. And guess what? He really does get inside! And as soon as he's in, he tries to go to the toilet in it. Yuck! That's not all — he gets into fights, too. But Lila knows a thing or two about computers, thank goodness! ¶ A modern fairy tale for children between five and seven, about differences between the real world and virtual reality.

CHILDREN'S BOOK · PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 2015, HARDBACK, 104 PP · ISBN 978-80-7491-505-5



Petra Dvořáková born 1977, author of four books; works as a journalist, copywriter and manager; her work includes two non-fiction books: Transformed Dreams / Proměněné sny (2007, 2013), which won a Magnesia Litera prize for Journalism in 2007, and I Am Hunger / Já jsem hlad (2009, 2013), with the subtitle About a struggle with anorexia nervosa, a search, a journey and a return to the feminine soul; her first book for children Julie and Words / Julie mezi slovy (2013) won the 2014 Golden Ribbon for Teenage Fiction (awarded by the Czech Section of IBBY) and the 2014 Teachers' Prize for Contribution to Children's Reading, and is being translated into Slovenian







## Lenka Brodecká Looking for a Star / Hledá se hvězda



A thrilling tale of adventure for little princesses and young detectives alike

Beyond seven mountains and seven centuries lies a kingdom called Shining Stars. For many years calm and peace reigned in this land because it was protected by a mythical meteorite that once fell from the heavens. On that miraculous night all criminals were turned into eggs made of stone. Wickedness was banished. But on the day when our story begins, the very day when a new jester arrives at the royal castle, it turns out that the Shining Star — the meteorite of the myth — has been stolen. Something is going on inside the stone eggs, and the castle is bracing itself for an attack by forces of evil. • There is only one way to avert a catastrophe: by tracking down

the thief and so returning the Shining Star to the castle. This gargantuan task is taken on by a couple of adorable detectives — a remarkable jester with only one bell and a little, rather lonely princess. Can these two save the kingdom? Although readers of all ages will be charmed by this story of crime and love, children aged between seven and twelve will enjoy it most.

CHILDREN'S BOOK · PUBLISHED MAY 2015, HARDBACK, 232 PP · ISBN 978-80-7491-495-9



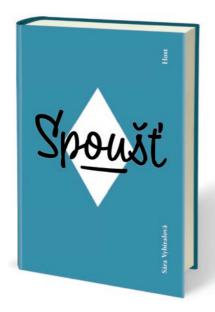
Lenka Brodecká born 1972, is an editor and writer; she has published two books for children — Plays for Child Actors / Děti hrají divadlo (2003), a set of scenarios, and the short stories Pišťucha's Got Problems / Pišťucha má problémy (2008), which was placed second in the Most Beautiful Czech Books of the Year competition; she has written several comedies and crime thrillers for Czech Radio







### Sára Vybíralová Trigger / Spoušť



Ten attempts at disaster. In the case of a human, what is a critical mass?

Ten characters live apparently ordinary lives, yet each is infected with neuroses and unfulfilled desires, albeit to differing degrees. Their attempts to live their own lives fall short somehow, complicated by the efforts of others to do the same. Once the moment of critical mass is achieved, certain irreversible processes are triggered... and this represents either an end or a beginning, death or, at last, the onset of life. Maybe there's a big bang somewhere beyond the window, and not even the universe knows how to go on. And all hell breaks loose! • Especially for readers of her own generation, Sára Vybíralová's stylistically

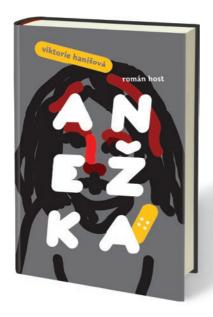
sophisticated stories are the epitome of a self-confident debut.

SHORT STORIES · PUBLISHED MAY 2015, HARDBACK, 240 PP · ISBN 978-80-7491-494-2



**Sára Vybíralová** born 1986, is a teacher and translator from the French and she divides her time between Prague and Paris; she has published poems and short pieces of prose in magazines; *Trigger / Spoušť* is her first book

#### Viktorie Hanišová Anežka / Anežka



We can't choose our parents. But sometimes we get to choose our kids.

The debut novel by Viktorie Hanišová reveals the tragic consequences of a single wrong choice. Self-confident, educated, worldly-wise Julie is unable to have children of her own, and without a partner she doesn't qualify for the adoption programme; meanwhile, the proverbial biological clock is ticking. Julie's dream of Anežka, a little blonde girl with plaits, looks increasingly likely to remain unfulfilled; she becomes desperate to have a child at all costs. Bypassing the authorities and the law, Julie takes Agnes, an unwanted Romani child, into her care. But the baby Julie wanted was Anežka, not the one she has chosen — a cluster of her own prejudices and an embodiment of one of the

most sensitive issues in Czech society. She starts to lie, first to others, then to herself. And Agnes grows up in a state of permanent struggle with the ideas of others about herself. ¶ Viktorie Hanišová's novel presents readers with a view of a poignantly common phenomenon: a mother-daughter relationship that is disturbed from the outset, crippled by the former's bourgeois anxiety and the latter's inability to break the stereotype. ¶ The novel is rooted in the everyday. The protagonist's decline is described not as a *Bildungsroman* in reverse but as a series of the kind of failures that can happen to anyone, the sheer ordinariness of which makes them all the more tragic.

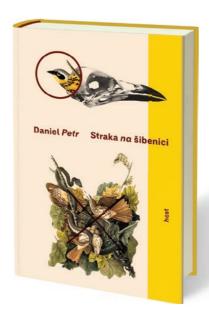
NOVEL · TO BE PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2015, HARDBACK, 250 PP APPROX · ISBN 978-80-7491-559-8



**Viktorie Hanišová** born 1980, is a graduate in English and German from Charles University, Prague; she works as a translator and language teacher; the novel *Anežka* is her first book

Daniel Petr brand-new · 10

#### The Magpie on the Gallows / Straka na šibenici



Making sense of your life and getting to the bottom of your identity isn't always a good thing.

Let us imagine Pieter Bruegel's painting *The Magpie on the Gallows*, in which a boy sees the magpie sitting on a strange swing while a man fails to notice the bird because the sole focus of his attention is the gallows. The life of the novel's protagonist, who is growing up in a ramshackle house on the fringes of a North Bohemian backwater with an alcoholic father, unfolds between these two perspectives. Although the hero is of above-average intelligence and learns to read earlier than his peers, his father's warped views on education remain in thrall to spectre-filled ignorance that is practically medieval.

As the hero's life lurches from one mishap to the next, Bruegel's painting keeps appearing to him as a fateful riddle he needs to solve.

Although Daniel Petr has published two books already, he has hitherto escaped the attention of literary critics and readers. His new novel The Magpie on the Gallows is bound to change that. — Miroslav Balaštík, editor-in-chief, Host

NOVEL · PUBLISHED OCTOBER 2015, HARDBACK, 272 PP · ISBN 978-80-7491-500-0



Daniel Petr born 1975, studied Czech and History in Ústí nad Labem and Slavonic Studies in Leipzig; a regular contributor to magazines, he has also published the novella A Story of Czech Youth / Příběh z České mládeže (2005) and the novel The Hole / Díra (2012)

highly recommended · 11

#### Kateřina Tučková The Žítková Goddesses / Žítkovské bohyně



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 Žítková, 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 Žítková she is surprised to learn that she is an inseparable part of an arcane lore...

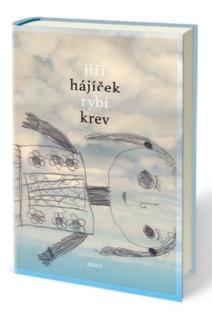
110,000 copies sold, film rights sold, successful theatre adaptation, complete English translation available • awards: Josef Škvorecký Prize (2012), Czech Bestsellers Prize (2012), Magnesia Litera Readers' Award (2013), Czech Book Prize Readers' Award (2013) • foreign editions: Ukrainian (Komora, 2014), Polish (Afera, 2014), Macedonian (Kultura, 2015), Romanian (Curtea Veche, 2015), German (DVA, 2015), Slovenian (Sanje, 2015) • rights sold to: Bulgaria (Paradox), Croatia (Fraktura), Egypt (Sefsafa), Belarus (Logvino), Hungary (Kalligram), Slovakia (Tatran), Italy (Keller Editore), Serbia (Barber)

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



Kateřina Tučková born 1980, prose writer, curator, author of three works of fiction; Vyhnání Gerty Schnirch / The Expulsion of Gerta Schnirch -40,000 copies sold, film rights sold, successful theatre adaptation; awards: Magnesia Litera Readers' Award (2010); shortlisted for Jiří Orten Prize and Josef Škvorecký Prize • books published in 8 languages: Italian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Polish, Romanian, Macedonian, Slovenian, German; rights sold to Bulgaria, Croatia, Egypt, Belarus, Serbia, Slovakia

## Jiří Hájíček Fish Blood / 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.  $\P$  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.  $\P$  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.

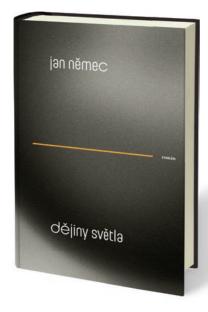
17,000 copies sold, film rights sold • awards: Magnesia Litera Book of the Year (2013), Finnegan's List 2013 • foreign editions: Macedonian (Begemot Dooel, 2014) • rights sold to: Belarus (Lohvinau), Bulgaria (Paradox), Poland (Książkowe Klimaty)

NOVEL · PUBLISHED 2012, HARDBACK; 2014, PAPERBACK, 360 PP · ISBN 978-80-7294-639-6 / ISBN 978-80-7491-133-0



Jiří Hájíček born 1967, prose writer, author of seven works of fiction; awards: Rustic Baroque / Selský baroko — Magnesia Litera for Prose (2006) • books published in 5 languages: English, Italian, Hungarian, Croatian, Macedonian; rights sold to Belarus, Poland, Bulgaria

## Jan Němec 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...

film rights sold • awards: European Union Prize for Literature, Czech Book Award, shortlisted for Magnesia Litera in the Prose category and Josef Škvorecký Prize (all 2014) • rights sold to: Poland (Książkowe Klimaty), Bulgaria (Colibri), Macedonia (Antolog), Croatia (Ljevak), Hungary (Noran Libro), Serbia (Clio), Italy (Safara Editore), Slovenia (Police Dubove), Albania (Fan Noli)



Jan Němec born 1981, prose writer, editor and journalist, author of three books • awards: Game for Four Hands / Hra pro čtyři ruce — shortlisted for Jiří Orten Prize

#### Selected backlist

Antonín Bajaja: Burying the Season / Na krásné modré Dřevnici  $_{\mathtt{NOVEL}}$  . 2009

Bianca Bellová: Nothing Happens All Day / Celý den se nic nestane  $_{\tt NOVELLA}$  · 2013

Bianca Bellová: Dead Man / Mrtvý muž

NOVELLA · 2011

Stanislav Beran: The Iron-breaking Woman and the Fire Eater / Žena lamželezo a polykač ohně

SHORT STORIES · 2013

Stanislav Beran: Days of Clay / Hliněné dny

NOVEL • 2009

Stanislav Beran: When You Die, No One'll Want to Touch Your Breasts / Až umřeš, nikdo ti nebude chtít sahat na prsa

SHORT STORIES · 2007

Vendula Borůvková: Annie and the Berleps / Annie a berlepsové

CHILDREN'S BOOK · 2014

Martina Boučková: The Mystery of Grandpa's Diary / Tajemství dědečkova deníku  $_{\rm CHILDREN's~BOOK}$   $\cdot$  2014

Petr Čichoň: A Silesian Novel / Slezský román

NOVEL · 2011

Radka Denemarková: A Contribution to the History of Joy / Příspěvek k dějinám radosti

NOVEL · 2014

Radka Denemarková: Kobold / Kobold

NOVEL · 2011

Radka Denemarková: Money from Hitler / Peníze od Hitlera

NOVEL · 2006, 2009, 2012

Jakub Dotlačil: The Other Lives of Hynek Harr / Jiné životy Hynka Harra

NOVEL · 2014

Petra Dvořáková: Julie and Words / Julie mezi slovy

CHILDREN'S BOOK · 2013

Petra Dvořáková: I Am Hunger / Já jsem hlad

NON-FICTION  $\cdot$  2009, 2013

Petra Dvořáková: Transformed Dreams / Proměněné sny

NON-FICTION · 2006, 2013

Jan Folný: Little Queers / Buzíčci

SHORT STORIES · 2013

Pavel Gotthard: Meds for the Sad / Léky smutných

NOVEL · 2013

Jiří Hájíček: Memories of a Village Dance / Vzpomínky na jednu vesnickou tancovačku

SHORT STORIES · 2014, 2015

Jiří Hájíček: Football Diaries / Fotbalové deníky

NOVELLA · 2007

Jiří Hájíček: Rustic Baroque / Selský baroko

NOVEL · 2005, 2009, 2013

Jiří Hájíček: The Wooden Knife / Dřevěný nůž

SHORT STORIES · 2004

Jiří Hájíček: Mainstream Adventurers / Dobrodruzi hlavního proudu

NOVEL · 2002

Jiří Hájíček: The Green Horse Rustlers / Zloději zelených koní

NOVEL · 2001, 2015

Matěj Hořava: Distilled Spirit (Stories from the Banat) / Pálenka (Prózy z Banátu)

NOVELLA · 2014

Lidmila Kábrtová: Whom Foxes Drink Up / Koho vypijou lišky

SHORT STORIES · 2013

Jakuba Katalpa: Germans / Němci

NOVEL · 2012, 2014

Stanislav Komárek: Mandarins / Mandarini

NOVEL · 2007

Daniel Krhut: Dreams Smuggler / Pašerák snů

NOVEL · 2012

Roman Ludva: Forgery / Falzum

DETECTIVE SHORT STORIES · 2012

Vratislav Maňák: Polythene Clothes / Šaty z igelitu

SHORT STORIES · 2011

Alena Mornštajnová: Blind Map / Slepá mapa

NOVEL · 2013

Luděk Navara: New Iron Curtain Stories / Nové příběhy železné opony

NON-FICTION · 2007

Luděk Navara: Iron Curtain Stories 2 / Příběhy železné opony 2

NON-FICTION · 2006

Luděk Navara: Iron Curtain Stories / Příběhy železné opony

NON-FICTION · 2004

Martin Pecina: Books and Typography / Knihy a typografie

NON-FICTION · 2011, 2012

Nela Rywiková: House No. 6 / Dům číslo 6

DETECTIVE NOVEL · 2013

Petra Soukupová: Bertie and the Snuffler / Bertík a čmuchadlo

CHILDREN'S BOOK · 2014

Petra Soukupová: Marta in the Year of the Alien / Marta v roce vetřelce

NOVEL (DIARY) · 2011

Petra Soukupová: To Disappear / Zmizet

TRIPTYCH OF SHORT STORIES · 2009, 2011

Petra Soukupová: To the Seaside / K moři

NOVELLA · 2007

Michal Sýkora: Blue Shadows / Modré stíny

DETECTIVE NOVEL · 2013

Jiří Šimáček: A Small Night-Time Fest / Malá noční žranice

NOVEL · 2014

Jiří Šimáček: Character / Charakter

NOVEL · 2012

Martin Šmaus: A Chair for Štefan / Židle pro Štefana

NOVEL · 2008

Kateřina Tučková: The Expulsion of Gerta Schnirch / Vyhnání Gerty Schnirch

NOVEL · 2009, 2010

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