

2015

2016

2017

WINNING AUTHORS

CYCLE 03



EUROPEAN UNION
PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use that might be made of the following information.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2023

© European Union, 2023

Texts, translations, photos and other materials present in the publication have been licensed for use to the EUPL consortium by authors or other copyright holders who may prohibit reuse, reproduction or other use of their works.

Please contact the EUPL consortium with any question about reuse or reproduction of specific text, translation, photo or other materials present.

Print
ISBN 978-92-68-06676-8
doi:10.2766/77265
NC-09-23-141-EN-C

PDF
ISBN 978-92-68-06675-1
doi:10.2766/99451
NC-09-23-141-EN-N

Can you imagine a European literary Prize, covering the 40 or so countries taking part in the Creative Europe programme, with the ambition of raising the profile and recognition of authors who have received little or no translation? And if so, how can it be organised and how can the authors receiving this unique award be promoted? Since 2009, the organisers, with financial support from the European Union, have been tackling this almost impossible task.

The task is to find trustworthy and experienced contacts in the various participating countries, so as to be able to put the spotlight on the author who will represent his or her literature. But not all at the same time, as it is not possible to make such a selection from so many countries each year, so it was decided to work in three-year cycles, with all countries represented once per cycle.

Each year, between eleven and fourteen countries take part in the selection of authors who have published between two and four works of fiction and

who have not yet been discovered by publishers in other countries, whether in Europe or beyond.

Over the years, the Prize has changed, but the rules for selecting authors have remained the same. The vast majority of the authors featured in this compilation have been translated into many European languages and beyond. The Prize is therefore achieving its objective of highlighting new European works and introducing new readers to the talents of neighbouring countries (in the broadest sense).

The Prize organisers would like to thank all those who have been associated with this prize since its inception, who have selected the books, promoted the authors, translated them and introduced them to new readers.

The authors' bibliographical notes refer to the date on which they took part in the prize. For longer translated extracts, please visit the Prize website.

Long live literature, long live Europe!

Photo credits

	Winners	Winners' book covers
Austria	© fotowerk aichner	© Otto Müller Verlag
Croatia	No credits	© Jude McConkey / Trevillion Images
France	© Xavier Remongin	© Paprika
Hungary	© Zoltán Kocsis	© Palatinus Kiadó
Ireland	© Anthony Woods	© R. Shailer/TW
Italy	© Fabrizio Caperchi	© Studio Jellici (Design) / Tomohide Ikeya (Picture)
Lithuania	© Agnė Gintalaitė	© Vanda Padimanskaitė
Norway	© Susanne Horn	© Aud Gloppen / Blæst (Design) / Thomas Tokle Christensen (Picture)
Poland	© Marian Stefanowski	© LUKAS (Design) / Jlona Wellmann/Trevillion (Picture)
Portugal	© Mar Babo	© Dom Quixote
Slovakia	© Inge Prader	© Pavlína Morháčová
Sweden	© Caroline Andersson	© Thomas Joakim Winther

2015

Winning Authors



FRANCE
Gaëlle Josse
6



NORWAY
Ida Hegazi Høyer
11



AUSTRIA
Carolina Schutti
4



ITALY
Lorenzo Amurri
9



POLAND
Magdalena Parys
12



SLOVAKIA
Svetlana Žuchová
14



HUNGARY
Edina Szvoren
7



LITHUANIA
Undinė Radzevičiūtė
10



PORTUGAL
David Machado
13



SWEDEN
Sara Stridsberg
15



CROATIA
Luka Bekavac
5



IRELAND
Donal Ryan
8

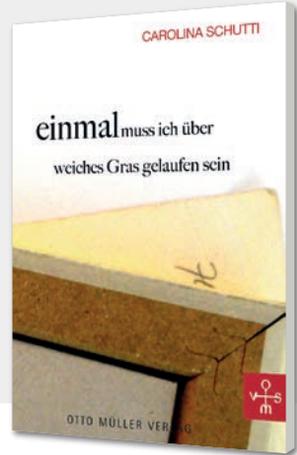


AUSTRIA

Carolina Schutti **Einmal muss ich über weiches Gras gelaufen sein**

*Once I must have
trodden soft grass*

Otto Müller Verlag, 2012



BIOGRAPHY

Carolina Schutti (1976) studied German philology, English and American Studies, concert guitar and classical voice. She taught at the University of Florence, followed by a post as a research assistant at Literaturhaus am Inn. Her publications include essays on studies, reviews and other texts in literary magazines. She coordinates and moderates literary events and interdisciplinary projects, works as a juror, gives lectures on poetry and holds training seminars in the field of Neue Literatur.

SYNOPSIS

After her mother's death, Maja is taken in by her aunt who feeds her and gives her a place to sleep but leaves her in the dark about her past. They live in a nameless village in a remote region and in very poor circumstances. Every attempt by Maja to remember her past leads nowhere. Marek, an elderly man who speaks a strange and mysterious language and lives on his own in another remote and lonely house, is the only person who can make Maja feel at home and accepted. In a clear and poetic style, Schutti describes the situation of people who have been displaced and she does so in an entirely non-political and clear-sighted way. The search for identity determines the narrator's life throughout the remainder of the story. The theme of this novel contains a very contemporary dimension which could apply to countless regions of the world.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

“Steh nicht in der Tür herum”, sagt die Tante. Maja drückt sich vom Türstock weg, macht einen Schritt vor- wärts, auf die Tante zu. “Ist sie gekommen?” fragt Maja.

“Don't stand at the door,” says Maja's aunt. Maja pushes herself away from the door frame and takes a step towards her aunt. “Has it arrived?” asks Maja. (Translated by Nick Somers)

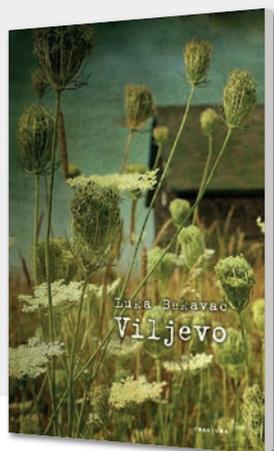


CROATIA

Luka Bekavac

Viljevo

Fraktura, 2013



BIOGRAPHY

Luka Bekavac (1976) is a writer, translator and literary theorist. He teaches at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Zagreb University and has contributed with articles on philosophy, literary theory, music and literature to a number of magazines, radio programmes and publications. His critically acclaimed novels *Drenje* (2011) and *Viljevo* (2013) were nominated for a number of regional awards.

SYNOPSIS

Viljevo is a triptych of different voices weaving together historiography, speculative fiction and highly-stylised prose. It opens with 'August', a monologue transcribed from a corrupt reel-to-reel tape. 'After Midnight' is a raw and intense document of such an attempt at channelling the unknown: a sequence of questions and answers between the characters of 'August' and their obscure counterparts. The final chapter, 'Marković', brings about a change of pace and context. Set in occupied Osijek in 1943 and written as part memoir, part painstakingly constructed (para)scientific article, it revolves around the activities of an illegal anti-fascist radio station.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

“Događaji koje ću opisati zbivali su se u Osijeku tokom ljeta 1943. godine. Pamtim te mjesece kao gluho vrijeme: na svjetskim je frontama rat bio u punom zamahu, kao i u unutrašnjosti Hrvatske, tada u savezu sa silama Osovine, no u samom Osijeku, prijestolnici Velike župe Baranja i Kammerhoferovom sjedištu, buka je zamrla.

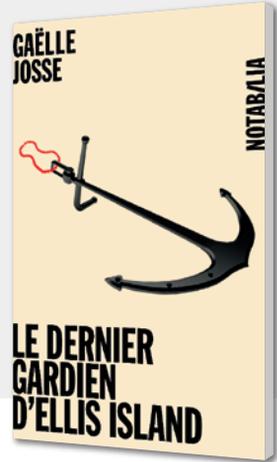
The events I'm going to describe took place in Osijek during the summer of 1943. I remember those months as a time of deafness: on the world front, the war was at full swing, just as it was in inland Croatia, then in alliance with the Axis powers; but in Osijek itself, the capital of the Great Parish of Baranja and Kammerhofer's headquarters, the noise stopped.
(Translated by Tomislav Kuzmanović)



FRANCE

Gaëlle Josse

**Le dernier
gardien d'Ellis
Island**
*The Last Guardian of
Ellis Island*

 Notabilia – Éditions Noir
sur Blanc, 2014
**BIOGRAPHY**

Having started out as a poet, Gaëlle Josse's debut novel, *Les heures silencieuses* (*The Quiet Hours*) was published in 2011. It was followed by *Nos vies désaccordées* (*Our Out of Tune Lives*) in 2012 and *Noces de neige* (*Snow Wedding*) in 2013. After several years in New Caledonia, Josse now lives and works in Paris.

SYNOPSIS

New York, 3 November 1954. In five days, the immigration station on Ellis Island will close its doors. Alone in this huge deserted space, John Mitchell, an officer of the Bureau of Immigration, is both a watchman and a prisoner of this tiny island in the Hudson River facing Manhattan. A few days before he has to leave, Mitchell feels the need to free himself from the memory of several events in his life at Ellis, so he starts a diary. Remorse, transgression, duty, loss, loneliness, exile as well as emotion, love and sincerity: John Mitchell looks back over the course of his life and an era of North American history.

**ORIGINAL EXCERPT**

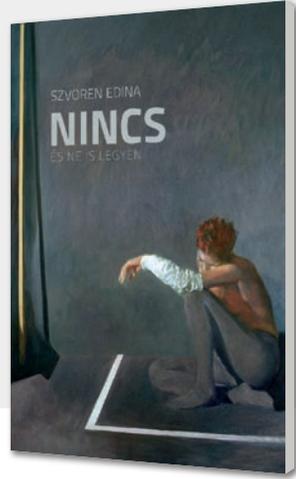
Pendant quarante-cinq années – j'ai eu le temps de les compter –, j'ai vu passer ces hommes, ces femmes, ces enfants, dignes et égarés dans leurs vêtements les plus convenables, dans leur sueur, leur fatigue, leurs regards perdus, essayant de comprendre une langue dont ils ne savaient pas un mot, avec leurs rêves posés là au milieu de leurs bagages.

For 45 years – I've had the time to count them – I saw those men, those women, those children, in their dignity and confusion and in their most presentable clothing, with their perspiration, their fatigue, their absent gazes, struggling to comprehend a language of which they didn't know a single word, their dreams set down in the midst of their baggage.
(Translated by Donald Winkler)



HUNGARY

Edina Szvoren
Nincs, és ne is legyen
There Is None, Nor Let There Be
 Palatinus, 2012

**BIOGRAPHY**

Edina Szvoren was born in 1974 in Budapest. An alumni of Béla Bartók Music High School, she currently teaches solfeggio and music theory there. She holds a degree as chorus-master from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. She has had work published regularly since 2005, including two works of prose.

SYNOPSIS

Edina Szvoren's stories contain a lot of dry humour, yet at the same time they sizzle, as she reveals the drama in the minutiae of human relationships. When describing Szvoren's literary world, reviewers have brought up the names of two radically different predecessors: the analytical prose of Péter Nádas and the graceful giant of grotesque, Péter Hajnóczy. The stories of *Nincs, és ne is legyen* will convince the reader that Szvoren is a mature author with a unique storytelling voice. The family, which is both the centre stage and model of our lives, stands firmly in the middle of the stories, regardless of whether we are struggling on that stage or are just on the outside looking in.

**ORIGINAL EXCERPT**

Jó reggelt. Miért épp hét nap tartozna össze, gondolom. Nem szeretném, hogy hetente ismétlődjön a napok neve. Az idő néha elakad, és akkor van egy kis szünet. Nemcsak azt nem tudom, mi lesz, azt sem tudom, lesz-e egyáltalán valami. Nem hiszem el, hogy egyszer felnőttem leszek. Nem lehetnek gyerekeim, biztosan tudom. Senki nem fogja akarni, hogy levetközzem, és a ruhátlan testét nézzem ruhátlanul.

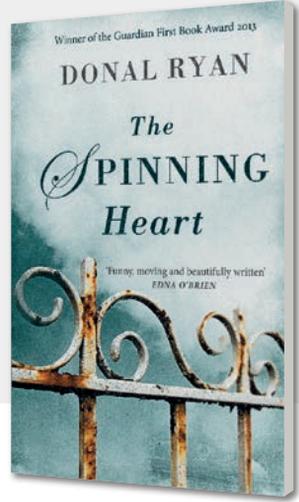
Good morning. Why should precisely seven days belong together, I think to myself. I do not like the way the names of the days are repeated every week. Time sometimes comes to a standstill and then there is a little interval. Not only do I not know what will come next, I don't even know if there will be anything at all.

(Translated by Tim Wilkinson)



IRELAND

Donal Ryan
The Spinning Heart
Le Cœur Qui Tourne
 Doubleday Ireland, 2013



BIOGRAPHY

Donal Ryan was born near Nenagh, County Tipperary, in 1976. He was a civil servant for many years and was only able to devote himself to writing from 2014, following the success of *The Spinning Heart*, the novel he wrote during the evenings of the summer of 2010. Ryan received 47 rejections before finding a publisher. His novels have gathered a great deal of critical acclaim and *The Spinning Heart* was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. He lives in County Limerick with his wife and two children.

SYNOPSIS

In the aftermath of Ireland's financial collapse, dangerous tensions surface in an Irish town. As violence flares, the characters face a battle between public persona and inner desires. Through a chorus of unique voices, each struggling to tell their own kind of truth, a single authentic tale unfolds. *The Spinning Heart* speaks for contemporary Ireland like no other novel. Wry, vulnerable, all too human, it captures the language and spirit of rural Ireland, and with uncanny perception articulates the words and thoughts of a generation. Technically daring and evocative of Patrick McCabe and JM Synge, this novel of small-town life is witty, dark and sweetly poignant. Donal Ryan's brilliantly realised debut announces a stunning new voice in literary fiction.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

“ My father still lives back the road past the weir in the cottage I was reared in. I go there every day to see is he dead and every day he lets me down. He hasn't yet missed a day of letting me down.

Mon père vit toujours dans la maison où j'ai grandi, sur la route au-delà du barrage. Chaque jour je vais voir s'il est mort, et chaque jour il déçoit mes attentes.
 (Translated by Marina Boraso)





ITALY

Lorenzo Amurri

Apnea

Fandango Libri, 2013



BIOGRAPHY

Writer and musician, Lorenzo Amurri was born in Rome in 1971. As a musician, he has collaborated with a variety of Italian artists including Tiromancino and Franco Califano. His life story is marked by a tragic skiing accident that made him a quadriplegic. It was after this accident that he decided to devote himself to writing, first through a blog and then via short stories, one of which was published in the collection *Amore Caro*. *Apnea* is his first novel.

SYNOPSIS

Lorenzo, 25-years-old and from a good family, is a rock guitarist dedicated to the philosophy of living in the moment. During a trip skiing, a collision with a chair lift pylon leaves him completely paralysed from the neck down. From that day begins a long convalescence for his body, but also for his soul – first in an Italian hospital, then in a Swiss clinic, and finally in his parents' house in Rome, where he shuts himself away to pour all his energies into pure self-pity. When his fiancée, who has supported and cared for him for over a year, resigns herself to leaving him, Lorenzo decides to commit suicide. That is unless something pushes him to win her back, and from there to regain his own life.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

L'ambulanza sfreccia verso l'aeroporto di Ciampino, scortata da una macchina della polizia. Un jet della Rega, una compagnia di soccorso privata, attende il mio arrivo per trasportarmi a Zurigo, più precisamente alla clinica Balgrist, specializzata nel recupero delle lesioni midollari.

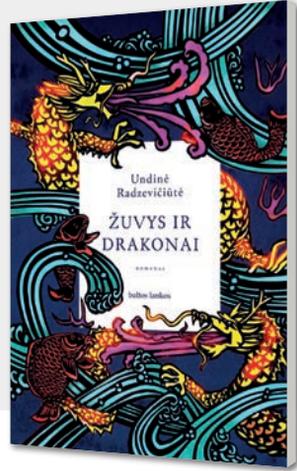
The ambulance is speeding towards Ciampino Airport, a police car escorting us. A jet owned by the private emergency service Rega is waiting to take me to Zurich, to the Balgrist University Hospital department specialising in treating spinal cord injuries.
(Translated by Frederika Randall)



LITHUANIA

Undinė Radzevičiūtė **Žuvis ir drakonai** *Fishes and Dragons*

Baltos lankos, 2013



BIOGRAPHY

Undinė Radzevičiūtė was born in 1967. She graduated from the Vilnius Academy of Arts where she studied art history, theory and criticism. She worked for ten years as a creative director for international advertising agencies. Her first short novel was published in 2003 and was favourably reviewed. *Fishes and Dragons* is her fourth and biggest book so far.

SYNOPSIS

The title of the book symbolically refers to two cultures: Christian European and traditional Chinese. Two different stories are interwoven here: one depicts the life of a Jesuit painter in 18th century China, the other mostly takes place in an old-town flat of a present-day European city. The flat is inhabited by an old woman, her daughter and two adult granddaughters. The novel is suffused with dialogue that can be seen through the prism of Zen principles. On the other hand, the misunderstandings and playfulness in the book creates a comic effect with a tinge of the absurd. With her signature lapidary style, Undinė Radzevičiūtė has written a novel where the texture of the modern European storyline is coloured with oblique reflections of traditional Chinese culture and mentality.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Komisija vėl ilgai abejoja prie jo arklių.

Kai kurie komisijos nariai primerkia tai vieną, tai kitą akį.

Kai kurie – kaišioja smailius liežuvius, tarsi bandytų tuos arklius palaižyti. Iš tolo.

Kai kurie – išverčia apatinę lūpą, kai kurie žvai-ruoja siauromis akimis, kai kurie pučia žandus.

Again, the commission is spending a long time doubting his horses.

Some members of the commission close one eye, and then the other.

While some stick out their pointed tongues, as if trying to lick the horses.

Some furl their bottom lip, some squint, narrowing their eyes, some puff out their cheeks.

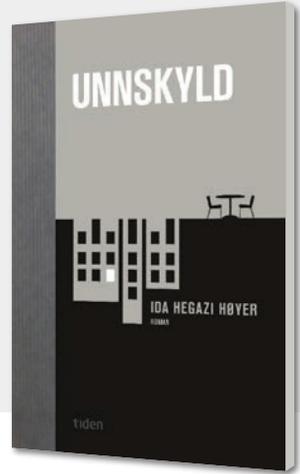
(Translated by Ada Valaitis)



NORWAY

Ida Hegazi Høyer
Unnskyld
Forgive Me

Tiden Norsk Forlag, 2014


BIOGRAPHY

Ida Hegazi Høyer (1981) is a Norwegian citizen with Danish-Egyptian ancestors. She has studied sociology and now writes in the woodlands surrounding Oslo. She is the author of three novels: her debut, *Under the World*, was published in autumn 2012, followed by *Out* in 2013 and *Forgive Me* in 2014.

SYNOPSIS

A young woman meets a young man, and it's love at first sight. He is a student of philosophy who impresses her deeply with his intellectual talk of individualism and his free spirit – he seems like the perfect man. They move into a small apartment, and in the days and weeks and months to come they become completely engulfed by one another. But it does not take long before she starts harbouring feelings of unease. Small signs, small oddities suggesting that he might not be what he appears to be. *Forgive Me* explores the darker sides of everyday life, in a realism that borders onto the dream-like and absurd, with a language that entices and surprises the reader, and through the use of black comedy.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Det sto en seng på fortauet. Helt fra krysset i enden av gata kunne man se at det sto en seng foran oppgangen vår, noen som flytta inn, noen som flytta ut, noe som var i veien. Men ikke før jeg var helt nære, ikke før jeg skulle til å gå inn, så jeg det, at det var vår seng, vår dyne, våre puter, at det hele ligna en installasjon der ute på gata, plutselig, kanskje endelig, i riktig lys.

There was a bed on the pavement. All the way from the end of the street you could see that there was a bed in front of our entrance – someone was moving in, someone was moving out, something was wrong. But it wasn't until I came up close and was about to go inside, that I saw that it was our bed, our duvet, our pillows. It all looked like an installation out there on the street.

(Translated by Diane Oatley)

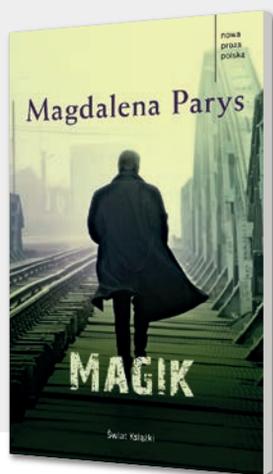


POLAND

Magdalena Parys

Magik
Magician

Świat Książki, 2014


BIOGRAPHY

Magdalena Parys (born 1971) is a poet, writer and translator. She is the founder of the Polish-German literary magazine *Squaws*, and a graduate of Polish philology and pedagogy at Humboldt University in Berlin.

SYNOPSIS

Although the story is set in 2011, its roots go back to the 1950s. That's when an operation called *Magik* began: a brutal operation where GDR Stasi cooperated with Bulgarian border guards to murder refugees from the socialist countries. Although the pretext was to prohibit illegal border crossings, this led to the elimination of opposition activists. In the book, GDR history intertwines with the outbreak of the Solidarity movement, contemporary Berlin, human stories of guilt, punishment and escape from responsibility, as well as a complicated investigation by a disobedient police officer, Kowalski. Though removed from the investigation, he does not give up – and will discover the dark past of some influential politicians in the reunited Germany...


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Odkąd dzieci wyjechały na studia za granicę, jego żona była jakby spokojniejsza, od kilku miesięcy miał nową, młodą kochankę, Felicię. Były to od dawna wyczekiwane zmiany, nie one jednak były najistotniejsze. Najważniejszym wydarzeniem minionego roku był fakt, że w lutym w Urzędzie do spraw Materiałów Stasi poddano kasacji ponad 5,8 kilometrów akt, około dwudziestu milionów stron A4. Zniknęły.

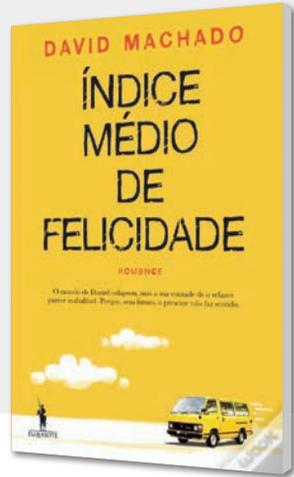
Ever since the children had gone to college abroad, Christian Schlangenberger's wife seemed calmer, and for a few months he'd had a new, young mistress called Felicia. These were long-awaited changes, but they weren't the most essential. The most significant event of the past year was that, in February, more than 5.8 kilometres of files at the Stasi Records Office, some 20 million pages of A4, had been annulled. They'd disappeared.
(Translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones)



PORTUGAL

David Machado
Índice Médio de Felicidade
Average Happiness Index

Dom Quixote, 2013



BIOGRAPHY

David Machado was born in Lisbon in 1978. He has a degree in economics from ISEG, Lisbon's School of Economics and Management, but soon devoted himself to writing fiction and children's literature. He is the author of children books, short story collection and novels, contributed work to literary collections and published short stories in newspapers and magazines.

SYNOPSIS

Daniel had a plan written in a notebook. Sometimes he went back to rectify small things but life seemed pretty easy. All of a sudden, everything changed for the worse: Portugal collapsed and he lost his job. His wife left with his children, searching for better opportunities. His two best friends are absent. When thinking of his children and of Almodóvar's child, Daniel tries to understand what kind of hope is left for future generations. And he doesn't want to give up. In spite of the wreck that his life becomes, his will to rebuild everything seems unshakable. Because the Present is meaningless, if we don't anticipate a Future.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Fizemos alguma coisa mal, disse.
 O que é que fizemos mal?
 O site, disse ele. O site não está a resultar.

"We did something wrong," he said.

*"What did we do wrong?"
 "The site," he said. "The site isn't working."*

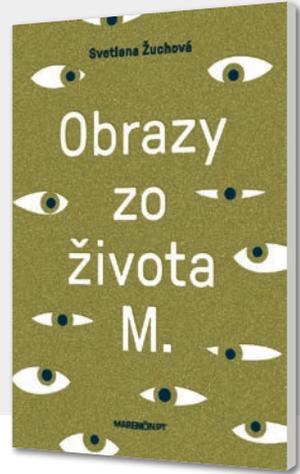
(Translated by Rui Vitorino Azevedo)



SLOVAKIA

Svetlana Žuchová
Obrazy zo
života M.
Scenes from the
Life of M.

Marenčin PT, 2013



BIOGRAPHY

Svetlana Žuchová, born in 1976, studied psychology at the Vienna University and medicine at the Medical Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava. She works at a psychiatric clinic in Prague. Her first book was the story collection *Dulce de leche* (2003), next came the chamber novella *Yesim* (2006), followed by the novel *Zlodeji a svedkovia* (*Thieves and Witnesses*, 2011). Her third novel is *Obrazy zo života M.* (*Scenes from the Life of M.*, 2013).

SYNOPSIS

The plot of *Scenes from the Life of M.* loosely follows on from the writer's previous novel, *Thieves and Witnesses*. The main character, Marisia, returns from Vienna to Slovakia after her mother's death, lives with her partner and works as a nurse. While in the first novel, Marisia was looking for a home for herself, this novel shows her finding one. Descriptions of her everyday life alternate with memories of her mother's death, her mundane existence juxtaposed with the extremity of certain situations. The novel's main theme is one of family ties both old and new, close and distant, and their importance and futility.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

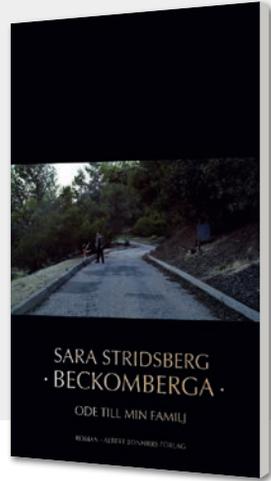
V deň, keď mama zomrela, som išla na kúpalisko. Mama zomrela nadržanom a krátko pred siedmou mi volali z nemocnice. V tom období som chodievala každý víkend za mamou, a od piatku do nedele som spávala v jej prázdnom byte. Bolo to v čase, keď sa Janut odsťahoval.

The day Mum died I went to the swimming pool. Mum died at daybreak and they called me from the hospital just before seven. At that time I was visiting Mum every weekend, and from Friday to Sunday I slept in her empty flat. It was then that Janut moved out.
 (Translated by Heather Trebaticka)



SWEDEN

Sara Stridsberg
Beckomberga
– Ode till min
familj
The Gravity of Love
 Albert Bonniers Förlag,
 2014


BIOGRAPHY

Sara Stridsberg, born in 1972, is a writer and playwright living in Stockholm. Her first novel *Happy Sally* was published in 2004, and her breakthrough came two years later with the publication of *The Faculty of Dreams*, her second novel. Her third novel, *Darling River*, was published in 2010.

SYNOPSIS

When Jimmie Darling is admitted to Beckomberga, a psychiatric hospital outside Stockholm, his daughter Jackie starts to spend increasing amounts of time there, and when her mother leaves for a holiday by the Black Sea, the hospital becomes Jackie's whole world. The doctor in charge is Edvard Winterson. On some evenings he takes Jimmie and a few other patients to big parties in town. As soon as they pass the gates in Edvard's car, the first bottle of champagne is opened in the back seat. "One night beyond the confines of the hospital makes you human again," he says to his patients. *Beckomberga* explores Jackie's love for Jimmie and the way she reaches out for him, as a child and as a grown woman and mother. The psychiatric hospital, set in a lovely park close to a lake, takes on almost mythical dimensions, both as a punishing angel and as a rescuer seeking to save distraught souls, like in an old utopian vision.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

På kvällarna lämnar de sjukhuset. När de elektriska dörrarna slås upp och släpper igenom bilen öppnas den första flaskan i baksätet, alltid champagne som har stått på kylning i källaren under dagen.

In the evenings they get away from the hospital. As the electric gates open and let the car through, the first bottle is uncorked in the back seat, always champagne that has been chilling in the cellar during the day.
 (Translated by Deborah Bragan-Turner)

Photo credits

	Winners	Winners' book covers
Belgium	© Koen Broos	© Michiel Hendryckx
Bosnia and Herzegovina	© Tanja Stupar-Trifunović	© JP "Zavod za udzbenike i nastavna sredstva"
Cyprus	© Eleni Papadopoulou	© To Ποδακιό
Denmark	© Frida Gregersen	© Thomas Joakim Winther
Estonia	© Merle Karu	© K. Mandmanin and I. Bilibin
Finland	© Liisa Valonen	© Jenni Noponen (Design) / Istock (Picture)
Germany	© Bogenberger Autorenfotos	© Elizabeth Peyton, Jeanne Moreau and François Truffaut
Luxembourg	© Gast Groeber	© Eric Steffen
North Macedonia	© Martin Kuculovski	© Ili-Ili
Romania	© Claudiu M. Florian	© Ludwigh Richter (1803-1884). I don't think credits are needed
Slovenia	© Maj Pavček	© Mojca Kumar Daris
Spain	© Raquel Torres	© Grupo Planeta (Design) / Cristina Reche (Picture)

2016

Winning Authors



CYPRUS
Antonis Georgiou
20



FINLAND
Selja Ahava
23



GERMANY
Benedict Wells
25



SLOVENIA
Jasmin B. Frelih
28



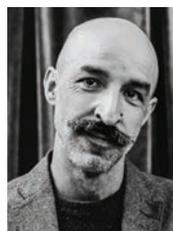
BELGIUM
Christophe Van
Gerrewey
18



DENMARK
Bjørn Rasmussen
21



LUXEMBOURG
Gast Groeber
26



SPAIN
Jesús Carrasco
29



**BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA**
Tanja Stupar-
Trifunović
19



ESTONIA
Paavo Matsin
22



**NORTH
MACEDONIA**
Nenad Joldeski
24



ROMANIA
Claudiu M. Florian
27

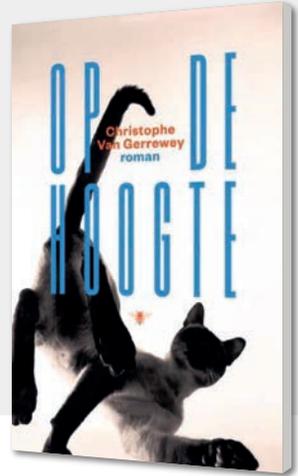


BELGIUM

Christophe Van Gerrewey

Op de hoogte
Up to Date

De Bezige Bij, 2012



BIOGRAPHY

Christophe Van Gerrewey (1982) studied architecture at Ghent University and literary science at KU Leuven. He is a member of the editorial board of OASE, a Dutch journal on architecture, and of DWB, one of the oldest literary journals in Flanders. Since September 2015, he is professor of architecture theory at EPFL in Lausanne, Switzerland.

SYNOPSIS

A young man takes care of his friends' cat in their house while they are on holiday. He spent the previous summer with his lover in the same house. She is no longer there, and he decides to write her a letter. Wouldn't it be better to publish it as a novel? In an increasingly perverse mix-up, the addressee turns the tables, and she starts talking to him, instead of the other way around. Soon, the real purpose of this letter (and this book) becomes unclear: is this a letter of complaint from a jilted lover, an exhibitionist confession to the world, or a scrupulous, somewhat ridiculous self-examination? And then there is the cat, still recovering from the flea infestation of last year, and probably the real protagonist in the novel, or at least the only living creature the narrator is able to make contact with.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Ik zou je in deze eerste zin moeten stoppen, als een zakdoek die vol plooiën verborgen zit in een vuist, en die door een clown als een boeket tevoorschijn wordt gehaald.

I should work you into this first sentence like a crumpled handkerchief in a fist, ready to be pulled out as a bunch of flowers by a clown.

(Translated by David Colmer)



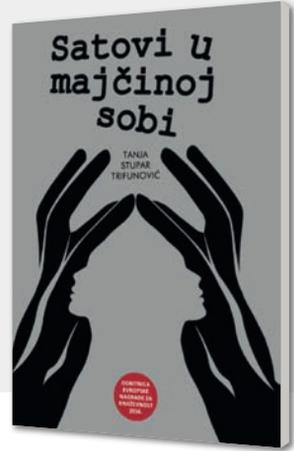


BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Tanja Stupar-
Trifunović**

**Satovi u
majčinoj sobi**
*Clocks in my
Mother's Room*

Zavod za udžbenike i
nastavna sredstva, 2014



BIOGRAPHY

Tanja Stupar-Trifunović was born in Zadar in 1977 and is a graduate of the University of Banja Luka. She writes poetry, columns and literary reviews. Her poetry has been translated into several languages, and she was shortlisted for the CEE Literature Award (for poetry) in 2008. Stupar-Trifunović lives in Banja Luka and works as the Editor of Putevi, a literary magazine.

SYNOPSIS

This story about women in peacetime and in wars that marked the region examines the ignored role of women in great historical upheavals, which can routinely assign them the role of passive observers with no right to interfere with the 'great' story of war and politics. Against the backdrop of mothers and daughters, the novel deals with refuge, homelessness and a sense of not belonging. The narrator is stuck between two states, two lives, two loves, two unfinished books: this duality tears her apart, while she wears socially acceptable masks to heal her sudden removal from her childhood comforts. Writing and literature become her only home and sanctuary, where her partitioned self can finally become one and whole.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Možda treba početi od djetinjstva. U djetinjstvu se utisci utiskuju duboko u čovjeka, kao stopalo u još nestvrdli beton. Sada već ostaju samo tragovi blata koji se lako speru.

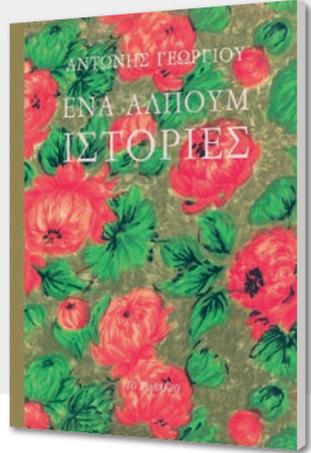
Childhood is perhaps a good place to start. In childhood, impressions are deep and indelible, like a footprint in soft concrete. Now, it's just traces of mud, easy to wash off.
(Translated by Amira Sadikovic)





CYPRUS

Antonis Georgiou
Ένα αλπούμ
ιστορίες
An Album of Stories
 To Rodakio, 2014



BIOGRAPHY

Antonis Georgiou was born in Limassol, Cyprus, in 1969. He studied law in Moscow and works as a lawyer. In 2006, he published a book of poetry, *Πανσέληνος παρά μία* (*Full Moon Minus One*), and a book of short stories, *Γλυκιά bloody life* (*Sweet Bloody Life*). He has also contributed to several short story collections and writes plays.

SYNOPSIS

On the occasion of a grandmother's death, a range of stories are revealed. From the grandmother to the family and from the small village to the whole country, these stories speak about life, love, death, war, refugees and emigrants. These are old and new stories, in the Greek language and Cypriot dialect. The stories are aided by quotations from newspapers, recipes, children's drawings, folk songs, laments, poems and many photographs from family albums. Sometimes the stories are confused and the reader is also confused. Perhaps our lives are nothing but a collection of stories, that we remember sometimes, relate them to the stories of others, write them down and give them a title. And they become like one story, the story of each one of us, the story of all of us. Aren't our lives nothing but an album of stories?



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

ένας φεύκει άλλος έρκεται [...] ένας αδελφός της γιαγιάς μου ο Σπυρίς, όταν πέθανε η γυναίκα του έμεινε μόνος και τα παιδιά του κανόνισαν να έρθει μια γυναίκα από την Θαϊλάνδη για να τον φροντίζει, φαίνεται πως τα πήγαιναν καλά οι δυο τους, όχι απλώς καλά αλλά πολύ καλά!

people come, people go [...] when his wife passed away, one of my grandmother's brothers, Spyris, was left alone and his children arranged for a housekeeper to come from Thailand to look after him; it seems that the two of them got along well, not just well but very well!
 (Translated by Yiola Klitou)



DENMARK

Bjørn Rasmussen

Huden er det elastiske hylster der omgiver hele legemet

The Skin Is the Elastic Covering that Encases the Entire Body

Gyldendal, 2011



BIOGRAPHY

Bjørn Rasmussen was born in 1983 and graduated from the Danish Playwright School in 2007 and from the Danish Writers' School in 2011. He received the Montana Literary Award in 2011 for *Huden er det elastiske hylster der omgiver hele legemet*.

SYNOPSIS

Huden er det elastiske hylster der omgiver hele legemet is a coming-of-age novel about a young man looking back on life growing up in rural Denmark; not least his far-reaching encounter with a much older riding instructor, with whom he develops an attachment that becomes a romantic and erotic obsession. Any kind of conventional plot summary would do the book an injustice: bleak teenage years involving drugs and self-harm, identity crises, a dysfunctional family, a first big love, and fierce sexual longings, as well as trying to deal with all of these as extremely as possible. The idiosyncratic yet highly assured prose and poetry is wild, untrammelled and defies all taboos. And despite its reckless confrontation with despair, it manages to move, fascinate and shock the reader with its glittering, undeniable beauty.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Jeg var allerede ældre, da en mand en dag kom hen imod mig i hallen til et offentligt sted. Jeg så dit skuespil, sagde han, det rørte mig usigeligt. Jeg genkendte ham ikke, jeg registrerede blot hans bevægelser, denne skydende gangart, der er bestemt af en opvækst i provinsen, han kunne være hvem som helst.

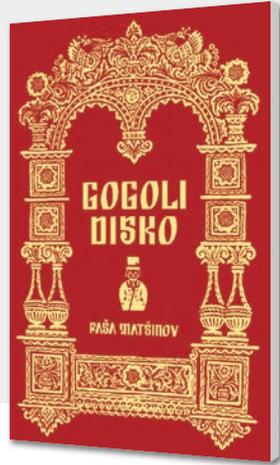
I was already older when a man one day approached me in the entrance hall to a public space. I saw your play, he said, it touched me beyond words. I did not recognize him but merely registered his movements, this boastful gait that stems from an upbringing in the provinces, he could have been anybody.
(Translated by Nina Sokol)





ESTONIA

Paavo Matsin
Gogoli disko
The Gogol Disco
 Lepp ja Nagel, 2015

**BIOGRAPHY**

Having started his literary career with self-published experimental poetry books, Paavo Matsin has moved on to very tense and naturalistic prose writing. Loosely mixing history, fiction, fact and fantasy, alchemy and the esoteric with ironic but warm humour, his sharp, concise and exact use of words put more substance into his work than one might judge by volume alone.

SYNOPSIS

A small Eastern European town is inhabited by new settlers after a war in the imaginary future. As they are calmly going through their everyday business, the settlers' life, devoid of memory, is disrupted by the sudden resurrection of the classic Russian horror writer Nikolai Gogol.

**ORIGINAL EXCERPT**

“Katerina oli terve päeva üksinda allkorrusel Grigori kadumise tõttu nutnud, lõpuks rahunenud, läinud Opiatovitši keelust hoolimata vastu ööd tagasi tööle, avastanud, et baariuks on lahti ning leidnud Gogoli Koidu ja Tartu tänava nurgalt pargis kuuvalgel magamas.

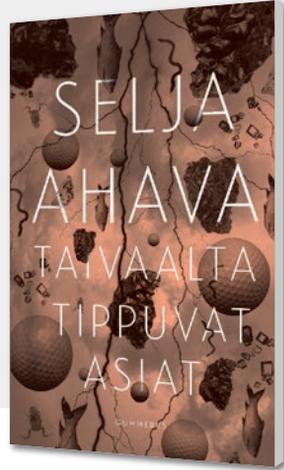
Katerina had been crying over Grigory's disappearance the entire day, alone downstairs. She finally calmed down, went back to work around midnight in spite of Opiatovich having forbidden her to do so, discovered that the bar door was open, and found Gogol sleeping in the moonlight in a park at the intersection of Koidu and Tartu streets.
 (Translated by Adam Cullen)



FINLAND

Selja Ahava
Taivaalta tippuvat asiat
Things that Fall from the Sky

Gummerus, 2015


BIOGRAPHY

Selja Ahava (1974) graduated with a degree in scriptwriting from the Theatre Academy of Helsinki in 2001. She has written film scripts, a TV series and a radio play. She wrote two novels, *The Day the Whale Swam through London (Eksyneen muistikirja)* and *Things that Fall from the Sky (Taivaalta tippuvat asiat)*.

SYNOPSIS

A triptych of voices weave together an array of human attempts to force life into logical chains of events. On a sunny summer day, a block of ice falls from the sky and kills a woman on her home veranda. Her story is brutally cut short, and her eight-year-old daughter Saara is left motherless. After the tragedy, Saara and her father move in with their lottery-winning Auntie. She decides to contact a Scottish fisherman who has been hit four times by lightning and asks for his advice. Their correspondence starts an archive of chance and coincidence. After four years, Saara and her father move back to their old house with the father's pregnant new partner. The house, where renovations never got completed, comes back to life and carries its own seeds of secrets.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Aika kuluu ja äiti liikkuu taaksepäin. Äidistä näkyvät housut ja pitkä suora tukka. Tuuli heiluttaa tukkaa ja toinen käsi tukee tupakkakättä. Sillä lailla äiti seisoo ja etäännyy.

Le temps passe et ma mère recule. On voit son pantalon et ses longs cheveux raides. Le vent agite sa chevelure, et elle se sert de sa deuxième main pour soutenir la main qui tient la cigarette. C'est dans cette position que je la vois s'éloigner..
 (Translated by Martin Carayol)

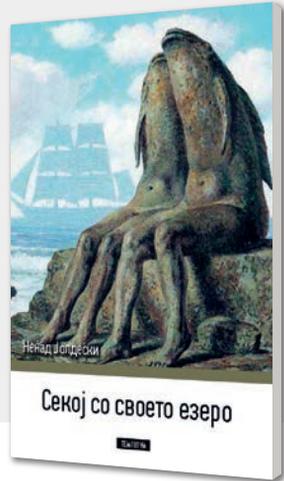




**NORTH
MACEDONIA**

Nenad Joldeski
Секој со своето
езеро
Each with their own
Lake

Templum, 2012


BIOGRAPHY

Nenad Joldeski was born in 1986 in Struga, Macedonia. In 2010, he graduated at the Faculty of Economics in Skopje. His debut is *The Silence of Enhalon*, followed by *Each with their own Lake*. He adapted several screenplays, published online journals and worked for cultural festivals.

SYNOPSIS

Each with their own Lake is a short story collection composed of 14 stories that oscillate thematically around the urban landscapes, grief and ageing, love and sadness, set by a restless inky lake. The short story 'Fire' is an example of the instability of identity and the need to share the identity of narratives and real events; where fiction brings balance to the disproportionate relationship between truth and lies, and reality and fantasy. In this circle of stories we can also include the short fictions 'My Father, the Clock and the Short Story' and 'My Mother, the Flood and the Short Story'. These are tense, dramatic, melancholic, and ironic stories in which the existential abyss and the abyss of identity are compensated by the silent text of the writer, carefully retaining the mystery by protecting the right of mystery as the right of creative freedom and the right of free absence or existence.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

“Лутајќи низ празните улици,
поминав покрај музејот,
поранешната куќа на Николај
и Софија Незлобински,
истата онаа која неколку
дена ми ја распламтуваше
фантазијата.

*Wandering the empty streets, I
found myself in front of the museum,
once the home of Nikolai and Sophia
Nezlobinski the same house that had
been exciting my imagination for
several days.*

(Translated by Ljubica Arsovska)



GERMANY

Benedict Wells
Vom Ende der
Einsamkeit
On the End of
Loneliness

Diogenes, 2016


BIOGRAPHY

Benedict Wells was born in 1984 in Munich. Instead of an academic education he started to dedicate his time to writing. In 2008, he published his critically acclaimed debut novel *Becks letzter Sommer*. His third novel *Fast genial* became very popular with readers and ended up spending several months in the German book charts.

SYNOPSIS

Jules and his siblings Marty and Liz have all been shaped by a tragic event in their childhood: growing up in a sheltered family, they lost their parents in an accident. The siblings each make their own way in life and over time lose touch. Notably, Jules slowly retreats into an imaginary world. His only friend is the mysterious Alva, but it will take him years to discover what she means to him and what she has been hiding from him all these years. Then, however, they are caught up by their past... A heartfelt novel which deals with overcoming loss and loneliness and addresses the question of which characteristics are so intrinsically linked to a person that, no matter how their life develops, they will remain unchanged.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Das Heim, in das meine Geschwister und ich nach dem Tod unserer Eltern kamen, war keine dieser elitären Einrichtungen mit Tennisplätzen, Hockeyfeldern und Töpfereien, die uns anfangs vielleicht vorschwebten, sondern ein billiges staatliches Internat auf dem Land, bestehend aus zwei grauen Gebäuden und einer Mensa, alles auf dem Gelände des örtlichen Gymnasiums.

The home my siblings and I were sent to after our parents' death was not one of the elite boarding schools we might have imagined to begin with, complete with tennis courts, hockey pitches and pottery studios. It was a cheap state-run institution in the countryside, consisting of two grey buildings and a canteen, all on the grounds of the local grammar school.
 (Translated by Katy Derbyshire)



LUXEMBOURG

Gast Groeber
All Dag verstoppt
en aneren
One Day Hides
Another

Op der Lay, 2013



BIOGRAPHY

Gast Groeber grew up in Hollerich, Luxembourg. He studied primary education at the Institut Supérieur d'Études et de Recherches Pédagogiques. He taught at a number of primary schools in Luxembourg City. Since 2007, he has been head of the Centre Technolink, a division of school administration, which is in charge of equipping schools with computers, internet and new technologies.

SYNOPSIS

Every day, the one before and the one after, every day is everyday: a day of reminiscences of the past and a day of anticipations of the future. Every day something transpires. In these nine short stories by Gast Groeber, we discover all kinds of people who live a day that changes their everyday life. Groeber's texts mirror modern Luxembourg, whatever the setting. Written in an innovative style, Groeber's third book confirms his ability to depict Luxembourgish reality in a masterful way.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

“ Déi éischt Strale vun der Sonn krabbelen duerch d'Fënsterglas. D'Liicht erwächt e Mann. Deen wenzelt sech zweemol ëm seng eegen Achs. Da gräift en no sengem Handy. Aacht Auer. En hieft sech aus dem Bett. Reift sech d'Aen. Samschdes moies.

Les premiers rayons de soleil se faufilent par la vitre de la fenêtre. La lumière jaillit et tire un homme de son sommeil. Il gesticule et se tourne deux fois. Puis attrape son téléphone portable. Huit heures. Il s'extirpe de son lit. Se frotte les yeux. On est samedi matin.

(Translated by Nathalie Ronvaux)

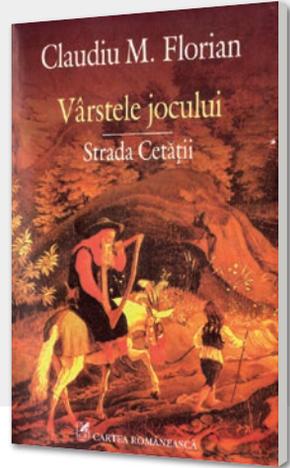




ROMANIA

Claudiu M. Florian
Vârstele jocului.
Strada Cetății
The Ages of the Game –
Citadel Street

Cartea Românească, 2012



BIOGRAPHY

Claudiu M. Florian (1969) received a degree in German Studies and an MA in Humanistic Interdisciplinary Studies in the German Language at Bucharest University, then an MA in Contemporary History at Bielefeld University in Germany. He worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, moving on to become Cultural and Press Attaché at the Romanian Embassy in Berlin, now working at the Romanian Embassy in Bern, Switzerland.

SYNOPSIS

Sometime before the First World War, the great-grandparents left for work in America; now their descendants have to emigrate to a Germany (the FRG) that became a Promised Land for those remaining in Communist Romania. The spotlight belongs to a young boy, whose monologue carves out destinies, physiognomies, beliefs and attitudes with a soul-binding comprehension, admirably unfolded on the page. It captures, filters, analyses and diagnoses in the name of the fascination exerted by the „language of understanding.”



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

„Noi suntem aici. Însă nu suntem singuri – și aici nu e singurul loc pe lume. Cerul, e adevărat, se termină în pădurile dindărătuțului cetății și dincolo de vale, iar la stânga și la dreapta în zare, printre dealuri, însă tot ce acoperă aici nu e la rându-i decât o parte a lui de-mai-multefeluri. Pentru că locuri pe lume există cel puțin încă două. Sau trei.

We are here. But we are not alone – and here is not the only place in the world. Indeed, the sky ends up in the woods behind the citadel, beyond the valley and far away, among the hills to the left and the right, but everything it covers here is itself just a part of several ways-to-be. Because there are at least another two places in the world. Or maybe three.

(Translated by Mihnea Gafta)

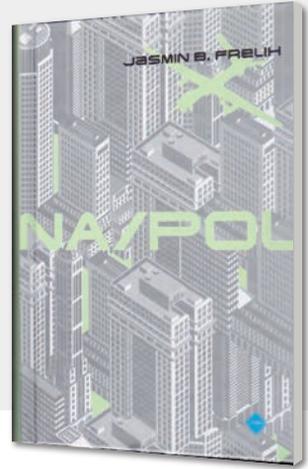


SLOVENIA

Jasmin B. Frelih

**Na/pol
In/Half**

Cankarjeva Založba, 2013


BIOGRAPHY

Jasmin B. Frelih was born in Kranj, Slovenia, in 1986. He studied comparative literature, and literary theory and history, at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. His first novel *Na/pol (In/Half)* was published in 2013. His short story collection *Ideoluzije (Tiny Ideologies)* was published in 2015.

SYNOPSIS

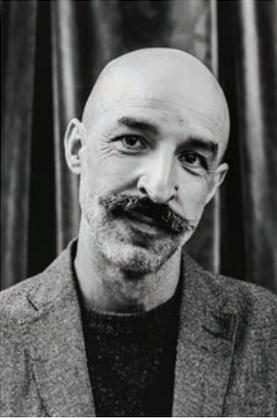
In/Half is a globalist novel set in a post-globalist future. The book interweaves three distinct narrative threads: Evan, an addict theatre director in Tokyo in the future, is staging a play and lamenting the loss of the love of his life. Kras, a family patriarch and ex-war-minister, is celebrating his 50th birthday in the Slovenian part of what could nowadays be called Fortress Europe. Zoja, an anarchist poet, is getting ready to read at the Brooklyn festival Poetrylitics, attended by a motley crew of intellectuals, artists and madmen. With its sharp focus on the contradictions of modernity, and with the reading experience likened to an extended surfing session on a world wide web crafted by an ingenious demiurge, *In/Half* is a powerful statement on the nature of the novel.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Utrinek je utonil v oranžno nebo. Zvezde trkajo po oblaku smoga in nihèe jim ne pride odpret. Pod pokrovom so ljudje prikrajšani za svetlobo iz èasa dinozavrov.

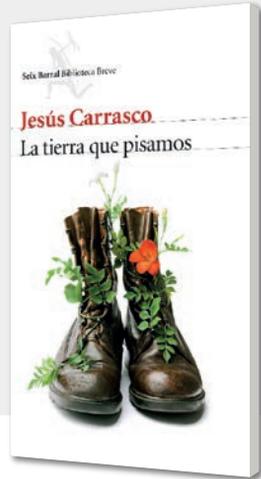
The shooting star sunk into the orange sky. The stars are knocking on clouds of smog and nobody comes to open up for them. Under this cover the people are deprived of light from the time of the dinosaurs.

(Translated by Jason Blake)



SPAIN

Jesús Carrasco
La tierra que pisamos
The Earth We Tread
 Seix Barral, 2016

**BIOGRAPHY**

Jesús Carrasco was born in Badajoz in 1972. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education. He took up writing after moving to Madrid, in 1992. Over the years, he has kept diaries and has written short stories, two books for children and one novel, and has grown as a reader. In 2013, his first novel, *Intemperie*, made a stunning debut on the literary scene.

SYNOPSIS

At the beginning of the 20th Century, Spain has been annexed to the largest empire that Europe has ever seen. After pacification, the military elites choose a small town in Extremadura as a prize for the leaders of the occupation. The book explores our ties to the land and our birthplace, but also to the planet that supports us. These relationships range from the brutal commercialisation of power to the pleasant emotions of a man tending to his crop in the shade of an oak tree. And between these two extremes, one woman struggles to find true meaning in her life, a revelation that her upbringing has kept at bay. Jesús Carrasco explores humanity's infinite capacity to withstand hardship, the revelation of empathy when someone ceases to be a stranger in our eyes, and the nature of a love greater than we are.

**ORIGINAL EXCERPT**

Hoy me ha despertado un ruido en mitad de la noche. No un ronquido de Iosif, que, raro en él, a esa hora dormía a mi lado en silencio, medio hundido en la lana del colchón.

A noise roused me in the middle of the night. Not Iosif's snoring: strangely for him, he was asleep at my side in silence, half-sunk in the wool of the mattress.

(Translated by Adam Cullen)

Photo credits

	Winners	Winners' book covers
Albania	© Albes Fusha	© Ombra Gvg
Bulgaria	© "Razvitie Corporation, Yana Punkina"	© Damyan Damyanov
Czech Republic	© Marta Režová	© Martin Salajka
Greece	© Phaedra Bei	© Maria Tsoumahidou
Iceland	© Ásdís Thoroddsen	© Aðalsteinn Svanur Sigfússon
Latvia	© Kristaps Kalns	© Jānis Ešitis (Design) / Latvian National Library (Picture)
Malta	© Bettina von Brockdorff	© Mizzi Design and Graphich Services
Montenegro	© Dnevne novine	© Irena Milacic
Netherlands	© Arnout Hulskamp	© Arnout Hulskamp & Lu Liang
Serbia	© Arhipelag	© Archipelag
Turkey	© Can Erok	© Utku Lomlu / Lom Creative
United Kingdom	© Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert	© Picador

2017

Winning Authors



**CZECH
REPUBLIC**
Bianca Bellová
34



ALBANIA
Rudi Erebara
32



GREECE
Kallia Papadaki
35



BULGARIA
Ina Vultchanova
33



ICELAND
Halldóra K.
Thoroddsen
36



LATVIA
Osvalds Zebris
37



MALTA
Walid Nabhan
38



MONTENEGRO
Aleksandar
Bečanović
39



TURKEY
Sine Ergün
42



**THE
NETHERLANDS**
Jamal Ouariachi
40



**UNITED
KINGDOM**
Sunjeev Sahota
43

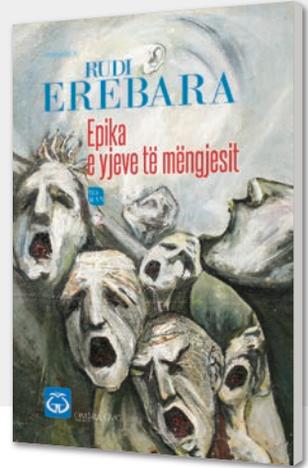


SERBIA
Darko Tuševljaković
41



ALBANIA

Rudi Erebara
Epika e yjeve të mëngjesit
The Epic of the Morning Stars
 Ombra GVG, 2016



BIOGRAPHY

Rudi Erebara was born in 1971. He is the author of two books of poetry, *Fillon Pamja* (*There Begins the View*), 1994, and *Lëng argjendi* (*Silver Juice*), 2013. His two novels are *Vezët e thëllëzave* (*Eggs of the Quails*), 2010, and *Epika e yjeve të mëngjesit* (*The Epic of the Morning Stars*), 2016.

SYNOPSIS

The Epic of the Morning Stars is a testimony to the destiny of Suleyman, an Albanian painter employed in the capital of Albania. A technical issue is attributed to him by the State Security Services. Around this time, Albania is about to sever its relations with Mao's communist China. On the same day, Józef Wojtyła becomes Pope John Paul II. In the evening, a heavy shower washes away the letters of the slogans written by the state decoration company in deep red, the symbol of the blood spilled during the war for freedom by the communist fighters. Even though the festivities are over, the state security starts the hunt for the perpetrators.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Edmondi hapi shishen e fernetit, akoma me bukën me groshë në gojë. Mbushi gotën. Gromsiu. “Sot me 16 tetor 1978, populli shqiptar feston duarplot me arritje e tejkalime të planit në çdo fushë të jetës, për ditëlindjen e udhëheqësit të shtrenjtë të partisë. Po japim lajmet kryesore në radio Tirana”, por ai nuk u kushtoi vëmendje.

Edmond popped the Fernet bottle open, his mouth still full of bread and half-chewed beans. He filled his cup to the brim. He burped. “Today, on 17 October 1978, we, the verily exuberant people of Albania, mark the celebration of the anniversary of our beloved Party leader, through a host of achievements and over-fulfilments of the central plan in all fields of life. This is the main news edition in Radio Tirana...” but he paid no attention.
 (Translated by Rudi Erebara)





BULGARIA

Ina Vultchanova **Остров Крах** *The Crack-Up Island*

Razvitie Corporation,
2016



BIOGRAPHY

Ina Vultchanova is a journalist, writer, producer and translator. Her professional career has been dedicated to the art of audio drama. She has worked as a long-time senior producer at the Drama Department of Bulgarian National Radio and has produced numerous audio adaptations. She is also a freelance writer and dialogist. Her first novel was *The Sinking of Sozopol* in 2013. *Остров Крах* (*The Crack-Up Island*) is her third novel.

SYNOPSIS

Остров Крах (*The Crack-Up Island*) presents two women telling their singular stories. They barely know each other, yet a magic liaison exists between them, because one of them is a newly self-initiated amateur astrologer and reads in the stars that a coming crack-up is threatening the other. Each of the women knows only her part of the story and the narrative pieces have to be fitted into one whole by the reader, like in a puzzle. Whether the predicted crack-up will smash the characters, the reader will find out in the unanticipated last page of the novel. The surprising element is that the narrative is not telling the story of a breakdown.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

И после стана тя,
каквато стана.
Разгледахме Риека.
Намерихме истински
ресторант, в който
сервират риба, а не
пица. Пихме още
червено вино и вместо
риба ядохме октопод,
пригответен по някаква
старинна рецепта,
която я знаел само
собственикът на това
заведение, понеже я
знаел от баба си.

*And then what happened,
happened. We looked around
Rijeka. We found a genuine
restaurant, where they
served fish and not pizza.
We drank more red wine
and instead of fish we ate
octopus, prepared according
to some old recipe which only
the restaurant proprietor
knew, because he'd learnt it
from his grandmother.*
(Translated by Christopher
Buxton)



CZECH REPUBLIC

Bianca Bellová
Jezero
The Lake

Host, 2016


BIOGRAPHY

Bianca Bellová, born in Prague in 1970, is a translator, interpreter and writer with Bulgarian roots. Her first book, *Sentimentální román* (*Sentimental Novel*), came out in 2009. Two years later was published *Mrtvý muž* (*Dead Man*), which impressed critics. In 2013, Bellová's novella *Celý den se nic nestane* (*Nothing Happens All Day*) was published. Her most recent book is the novel *Jezero* (*The Lake*, 2016).

SYNOPSIS

A fishing village at the end of the world. A lake that is drying up and, ominously, pushing out its banks. The men have vodka, the women have troubles, the children have eczema to scratch at. And what about Nami? Nami doesn't have anything but a granny with fat arms. However, he does have a life ahead of him – a first love that is taken from him by Russian soldiers, and then all the rest of it. But if a life can begin at the very end of the world, maybe it can end at the beginning. This story is as old as humanity itself. For its hero – a boy who embarks on his journey with nothing but a bundle of nerves and a coat that was once his grandad's – it is a pilgrimage. To get to the greatest mystery, he must sail across and walk around the lake and finally sink to its bottom.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Bazar práce je trojstup, místy až čtyřstup mužů oblečených do všech barev smutku, zapáchajících společnou vůní lidství a nepraným prádlem. Většinou mlčí a rezignovaně hledí do země. Upracované ruce s navěky zažranou špínou svírají v pěst.

The labour bazaar is a collection of men garbed in every colour of mourning, reeking of humanity and unwashed clothes, arranged in ranks of three or four across. Most stand silently, staring down at the ground with a look of resignation, their work-worn hands ingrained with dirt, clenched into fists.
 (Translated by Alex Zucker)

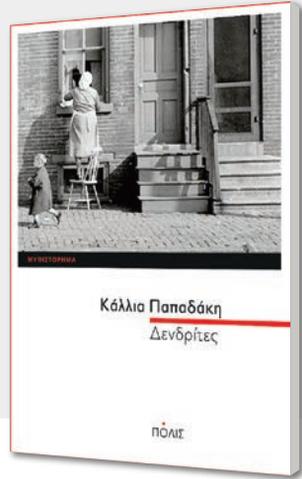


GREECE

Kallia Papadaki

Δενδρίτες *Dendrites*

Polis, 2015



BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1978 in Didymoteicho, Kallia Papadaki grew up in Thessaloniki and studied economics in the United States, and film at the Stavrakos Film School in Athens. Her third book is the novel *Δενδρίτες* (*Dendrites*, 2015). Papadaki works as a professional screenwriter.

SYNOPSIS

When Minnie's brother goes missing, her mother dies of sadness. The Campanis family decides to take Minnie in. Adolescents and adults in crisis-ridden 1980s Camden, New Jersey, must deal with hard times, as action gains perspective through flashbacks to previous generations of Greek and other immigrants. This is a novel about wanting to belong; a story about immigration and its quest for a meaningful life; a tale of lost second chances, failed marriages, and broken careers; a book about how big dreams, small gestures, and unspoken words can create minute cracks that bring down walls, buildings and lives. There is a crack in everything. But, as Leonard Cohen has said, that's how the light gets in.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Ο ήλιος δύει νωχελικά πίσω από την πόλη του Κάμπτεν, τη στιγμή που η Λητώ παραπατά και σκύβει να δέσει το λυτό της κορδόνι στην άκρη του δρόμου, κι ενώ απέναντί της το σχολικό λεωφορείο του δήμου διασχίζει νοτιοδυτικά τη λεωφόρο με μότο στο σκαρί του τις «ίσες ευκαιρίες στην εκπαίδευση», διατρανώνοντας το δικαίωμα κάθε μαθητή ανεξαρτήτως φυλής, χρώματος και οικονομικής επιφάνειας ν' απολαμβάνει τα ίδια προνόμια στη δημόσια εκπαίδευση.

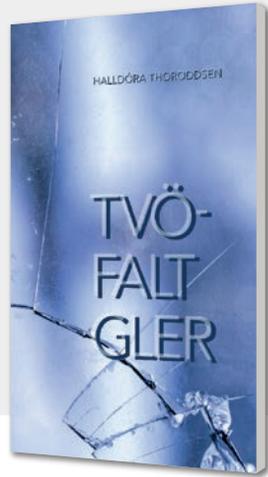
The sun sets indolently behind the town of Camden, while Leto trips and bends down to tie her shoelaces at the side of the road, and opposite her the municipal school bus crosses the avenue south west, a motto along its side with "equal opportunities in education," proclaiming the right of every pupil regardless of race, colour or wealth to enjoy the same privileges of a state education.

(Translated by Irene Noel-Baker)



ICELAND

**Halldóra K.
Thoroddsen**
Tvöfalt gler
Double Glazing
Sæmundur, 2016



BIOGRAPHY

Halldóra Thoroddsen was born in 1950. She graduated from Iceland College of Education and from the Iceland Academy of the Arts. Her first poetry collection, *Hárfinar athugasemdir*, was published in 1998, and was followed in 2002 by a popular collection of microfiction, *90 sýni úr minni mínu*. A second collection of poems, *Gangandi vegfarandi*, was published in 2005, the short story collection *Aukaverkanir* in 2006, and her novel *Tvöfalt gler* in 2016.

SYNOPSIS

Modern life separates generations and isolates both youth and those in old age. The often overlooked passions of old age are captured exquisitely in the novella *Tvöfalt gler* (*Double Glazing*). Death is closing in on an elderly woman in her small apartment; her husband recently passed away, her friends gone, her body failing and her role in society diminished. As she observes the world through her window pane, she feels simultaneously exposed and isolated. A sudden chance of romance swirls up into her lonely existence, filling her with exuberance but also with doubt. Knowing that the love life of the elderly is still a taboo to be frowned upon or even ridiculed, she will have to find strength to go against the norm – to not back down from living life to the fullest, like a fly in autumn still buzzing at the window.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Sverrir er önnur manngerð en hún hefur heillast af til þessa. Hann er fulltrúi hins venjulega manns. Karla sem henni hafði alltaf fundist of skrautlausir, grunaði þá um skort á ímyndunarafli. Hún hallast æ meir að hinu tilgerðarlausu. Grunndvallarmanninum.

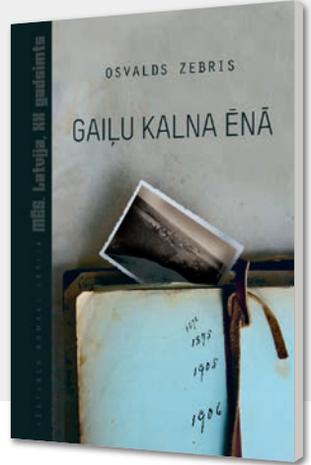
Sverrir is a different type of man than she's normally been attracted to. He's representative of the ordinary man. Of men she'd always found too unadorned, suspected of lacking imagination. Now she finds herself ever more inclined towards unpretentiousness. The fundamental man.
(Translated by Philip Roughton)



LATVIA

Osvalds Zebris
Gaiļu kalna ēnā
In the Shadow of
Rooster Hill

Dienas grāmata, 2014


BIOGRAPHY

Osvalds Zebris, born in 1975, is a Latvian writer and journalist, holding a master's degree in economics. Zebris' first book, a collection of short stories is *Brīvība tiklos*. The novel *Koka nama laudis* tells the story of a strange wooden house in one of the oldest neighbourhoods of Riga. Zebris is a member of the Latvian Writers' Union.

SYNOPSIS

It is 1905 in Riga – the Russian Tsar is slowly losing power over his empire, and the city is being rocked by violence. Revolution is in the air, the chaos forces people to choose a side. Among this upheaval, a former schoolteacher becomes involved in the revolution, but soon realizes that war will take much more than he is willing to give. The following year, a dramatic kidnapping of three children has Riga's police on edge. Who did it? What was their motive? The answer will shatter the lives of two families, as they struggle to understand who is guilty in a revolution where all sides are victims. Osvalds Zebris weaves a powerful tale of a country's desire to become free against the backdrop of the 1905 Revolution in Tsarist Russia, an event that gave birth to some of the most dramatic events in the 20th century.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Salicis, drukns vecis platiem soliēm
 snaj no Dinaburgas sliežu cēla puses.
 Palielo galvu nošķiebis, smagi un
 nevienādi elsdams, viņš šķersa krašņo
 jaunās stacijas laukumu, tad ielu –
 ciets, daudz gājēju pieblīvēts sniegš
 ēkst zem bruno pūszabaku zolem.

The First Day: Redemption A stooping,
 thickset old man strode with wide steps
 from the side of the Dvinsk railway track.
 His somewhat large head bent downwards,
 panting heavily and irregularly, he crossed
 the splendid square of the new station, then
 the street – the hard snow, packed down by
 the many passers-by, crunched under the
 soles of his brown boots.

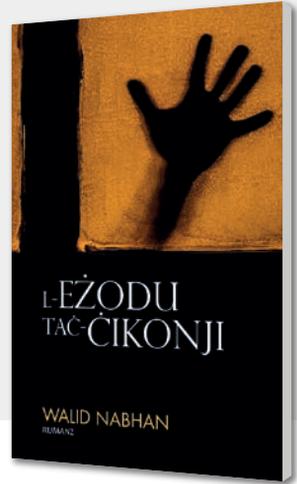
(Translated by Jayde Thomas Will)



MALTA

Walid Nabhan L-Eżodu tač- Ċikonji *Exodus of Storks*

Midsea Books Ltd, 2013



BIOGRAPHY

Walid Nabhan (1966) studied at United Nations schools in Amman. He arrived in Malta in 1990. In 1998, he graduated in Biomedical Sciences from Bristol University. In 2003, he gained a master's degree in Human Rights and Democratisation from the University of Malta. He has published two collections of short stories (*Lura d-Dar u Ġrajjet Oħra li ma Ġrawx* in 2009) and *Lehen tal-Fuħħar u Stejjer Oħra* in 2011) and one novel (*L-Eżodu tač-Ċikonji* in 2013). He also published his first collection of poetry, *Fi Triqti Lejha*, in 2014.

SYNOPSIS

The novel tells the story of a Palestinian man called Nabil who has lived all his life outside his homeland. His life is irrevocably intertwined with the fate of Palestine and of the whole Arab world, and in trying to understand himself he needs to find explanations for the way things have turned out in the Middle East, especially since the Six-Day War, an event which coincided with the birth of the narrator. The events in the novel take place mainly in Jordan, where Nabil was brought up and where his father continued to live until his death, and Malta, where the protagonist ended up later in life. It is a novel about identity, exile and displacement, but also about love and family in difficult times.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Wara li spičcat il-gwerra tas-67 u l-gisem Gharbi nxeħet ferut mal-art, in-nies bkew sakemm kienu ħa jagħmew. Ftit minnhom, wara li raw il-kobor tal-ġisem kollu ġrieħi u č-čokon tal-avversarju li mlieh bid-daqqiet, għażlu li jjeqfu jemmnu f'Alla.

When the 1967 war ended and the Arab body lay wounded on the ground, people wailed to such an extent that they almost became blind. Some people chose to stop believing in God when they gazed upon that large body full of wounds, succumbing before the feet of the small adversary that had inflicted all those injuries.

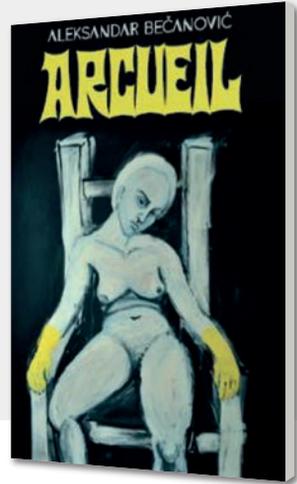
(Translated by Rose Marie Caruana)



MONTENEGRO

**Aleksandar
Bečanović**

Arcueil
Levo krilo, 2015


BIOGRAPHY

Aleksandar Bečanović, born in 1971. He is the author of five poetry books: *Ulysses' Distance* (1994), *Being* (1996), *The Pantry* (1998), *Places in the Letter* (2001) and *Preludes and Fugues* (2007); two short story collections, *I am Waiting, What Will Happen Next* (2005) and *Obsession* (2009); and a novel, *Arcueil* (2015). He has also published two books of film criticism, *Genre in the Contemporary Cinema* (2005) and the 900-page long *Lexicon of Film Directors* (2015).

SYNOPSIS

On Easter Sunday, April 3, 1768, Marquis de Sade promised an écu to a beggar by the name of Rose Keller if she would follow him to Arcueil. Only a few hours later, after Keller managed to escape from the Marquis' country house, this little adventure in the Paris suburbs would become the notorious 'Arcueil affair', a scandal that caught the public imagination in France and beyond. Different testimonies and rumours were spreading, conflicting interpretations were heard, but what really happened in the Marquis' room? Was Arcueil the scene of horrible sadistic sexual violence and some kind of perverse theatrical production, or was the victim not so innocent after all?


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Marquis je izašao u osam sati. Stojao je maloprije uokviren u velikom ogledalu, prikladno odjeven, sa izrazom lica koje je nestrpljivo iščekivalo što će se dalje desiti. Njegove oči su dobile dubinu neophodnu da bi strasti prešle u imperativ.

The Marquis left the house at eight in the morning. Just before that he had stood framed in a large mirror, suitably dressed, with an expression on his face that showed he eagerly awaited what was to come. His eyes took on the depth needed for passions to cross over to the imperative.
(Translated by Will Firth)

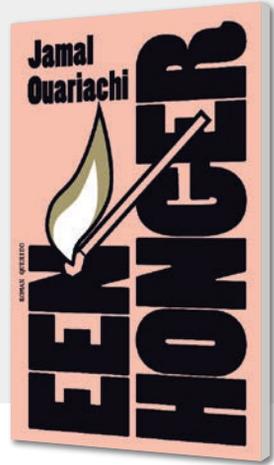


THE NETHERLANDS

Jamal Ouariachi

Een Honger
A Hunger

Querido, 2015


BIOGRAPHY

Jamal Ouariachi (1978) made his literary debut in 2010 with the novel *De vernietiging van Prosper Morèl* (*The Destruction of Prosper Morèl*). Since then, he has written stories, articles and columns. His second novel *Tenderness* earned him various nominations. He followed it up with 25, one third of a Dutch literary trilogy written in response to *Fifty Shades of Grey* together with Daan Heerma van Voss and David Pefko.

SYNOPSIS

Aurélie is the loving and dedicated mother of a three-year-old daughter, a role she combines with a successful career in television. Her life is turned upside down when she receives a phone call from an ex-lover: Alexander Laszlo. Ten years previously, the passionate relationship between Aurélie, then a young student, and the flamboyant Alexander ended abruptly when Laszlo was convicted of sexually abusing one of his Ethiopian foster children. The aim was to give these children the best possible education so that they would return to their homeland armed with the knowledge to make a difference to society.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Sneller dan veilig was stoom de minibus voort door de grijze blubber, liefdesbaby van sneeuw en strooizout, bij een buitentemperatuur van -9°C, terwijl binnen een ouderwetse autokachel goedbedoelde maar misselijkmakende hete lucht rondspoot die, in combinatie met de vochtige koolstofdioxide uit de monden van de twaalf inzittenden, zorgde voor de klamme atmosfeer van een tropisch zwemparadijs.

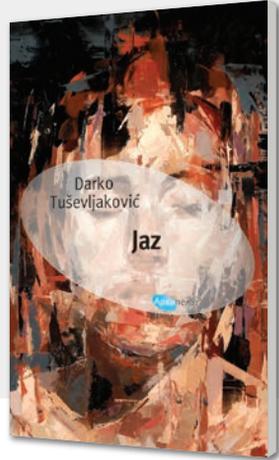
Faster than was safe, the minibus raced through the grey slush, spawn of snow and road salt; the outside temperature was minus 9°C, while inside an old-fashioned car heater shot out well-intentioned but nauseating hot air which, in combination with the moist carbon dioxide from the mouths of 12 passengers, recreated the clammy atmosphere of an indoor tropical water park.
(Translated by Michele Hutchison)



SERBIA

Darko Tuševljaković
Jaz
The Chasm

Arhipelag, 2016


BIOGRAPHY

Darko Tuševljaković was born in 1978. His fiction has been published in literary magazines. He is the author of two novels and a collection of short stories. His books have been shortlisted for some of the most important Serbian national awards for fiction. He lives and works in Belgrade.

SYNOPSIS

At its core, *Jaz (The Chasm)* is a story about the disintegration of a family. In the first of the two parts of the novel, an estranged husband suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as a consequence of his war experience, strives to re-establish the relationship with his estranged wife during a holiday in Greece, succeeding only in deepening the discord between the two of them. The second part takes place in Serbia and focuses upon the main reason for the marital discord of the couple from the first part – the plight of their son, a student who tries to find his place in society, as well as his identity, through a series of dramatic events with a surprising and powerful twist at the end.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

I posle toliko godina, Bogdana je budio prasak. Ovog puta su mu eksplodirale zenice i, kada je došao sebi, prešao je prstima preko kapaka da se uveri da ispod njih ipak ima nečega. Bio je prilično zadovoljan zaključkom: nalazio se u sve tri dimenzije, a i četvrta mu se postepeno vraćala dok se prevrtao po neudobnom, nepoznatom krevetu.

Even after all those years, Bogdan was awakened by a bang. This time his pupils exploded and, when he came to his senses, he felt his eyelids with the tips of his fingers to make sure that there was still something lying under them. He was fairly satisfied with his conclusion: he was occupying all three dimensions, and the fourth was gradually coming back to him as he tossed and turned in an uncomfortable bed he had never slept in before.

(Translated by Randall A. Major and Ema Pandrc)



TURKEY

Sine Ergün **Baştankara** *Chickadee*

Yayınları, 2016



BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1982, Sine Ergün graduated from Cađalođlu Anadolu High School and Bilkent University, where she studied creative drama. She started writing poetry while she was still in high school. For three years, Ergün worked as an editor for a literary magazine, before publishing her short stories and poems in publications including *Notos*, *Özgür Edebiyat* and *Sözcükler*. She has published three books so far and her 2012 collection of short stories, *Bazen Hayat*, won the Sait Faik Short Story Award the following year.

SYNOPSIS

The book's 23 stories in 80 pages are succinct: the shortest story is just one page long, the longest six pages, plainly written with depth and variety. Each story is an independent being, inviting the reader to start a new challenge. In her stories, the themes she deals with are: alienation to oneself and to others; facing mediocrity; coming to terms with the past, the present and the future; revolt to inner and outer pressures; challenging your reality; seeing your city, your environment and your surroundings with different eyes; making choices; and looking deeper and deeper into one's soul.



ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Uzun bir yolculukta ona eşlik etmesi için ne kadın adamı ne de adam kadını seçerdi. Gitmeleri gerektiğinde bir birbirlerine bir etrafa bakmış, başka seçenekleri olmadığı için beraber yola çıkmışlardı.

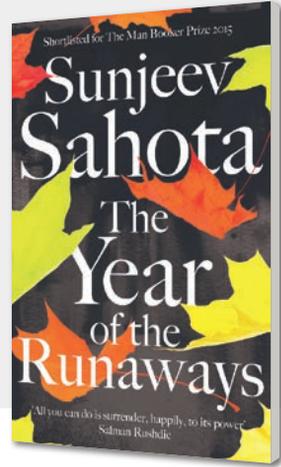
The woman did not choose the man, nor the man the woman to accompany him on a long journey. When it was time for them to leave they looked first at each other, then all around them, and having no other option, set out together.
(Translated by Ümit Hussein)



UNITED KINGDOM

Sunjeev Sahota
The Year of the Runaways
L'année de tous les départs

Picador, 2015


BIOGRAPHY

Sunjeev Sahota was born in 1981. His debut novel is *Ours are the Streets*. His second novel, *The Year of the Runaways*, won the South Bank Sky Arts Award for Literature, and the Encore Award. It was also shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2015. In 2013, Sahota was named as one of Granta magazine's Best of Young British Novelists.

SYNOPSIS

Thirteen young men live in a house in Sheffield, each in flight from India and in desperate search of a new life. Tarlochan, a former rickshaw driver, will say nothing about his past in Bihar; and Avtar has a secret that binds him to protect the chaotic Randeep. Randeep, in turn, has a visa-wife in a flat on the other side of town: a clever, devout woman whose cupboards are full of her husband's clothes, in case the immigration men surprise her with a call. Sweeping between India and England, and between childhood and the present day, Sunjeev Sahota's generous, unforgettable novel is a story of dignity in the face of adversity and the ultimate triumph of the human spirit.


ORIGINAL EXCERPT

Randeep Sanghera stood in front of the green-and-blue map tacked to the wall. The map had come with the flat, and though it was big and wrinkled, and cigarette butts had once stubbed black islands into the mid Atlantic, he'd kept it, a reminder of the world outside.

Randeep Sanghera se tenait devant la carte verte et bleue scotchée au mur. Cette carte faisait déjà partie du décor de l'appartement avant qu'il ne le loue. Elle était grande, froissée et des mégots de cigarettes écrasés avaient laissé des traces d'îlots noirs au milieu de l'océan Atlantique. Malgré cela, il avait décidé de la garder, souvenir du monde extérieur.
(Traduit par Dominique LeMeur)

**THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,
DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

www.ec.europa.eu/culture

The European Union Prize for Literature (EUPL) is part of Creative Europe, the EU Framework programme for support to the culture and audiovisual sectors.

More information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/>
Creative Europe Desks for information and advice are set up in all countries participating in the programme.

THE EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

www.euprizeliterature.eu

The content in this brochure refers to the year when the authors were nominated for the EUPL and does not take into account the continuation of their careers in subsequent years.

