

Catalog 2025

Wanderlust Literary Agency



Catalog 2025 - Wanderlust Literary Agency

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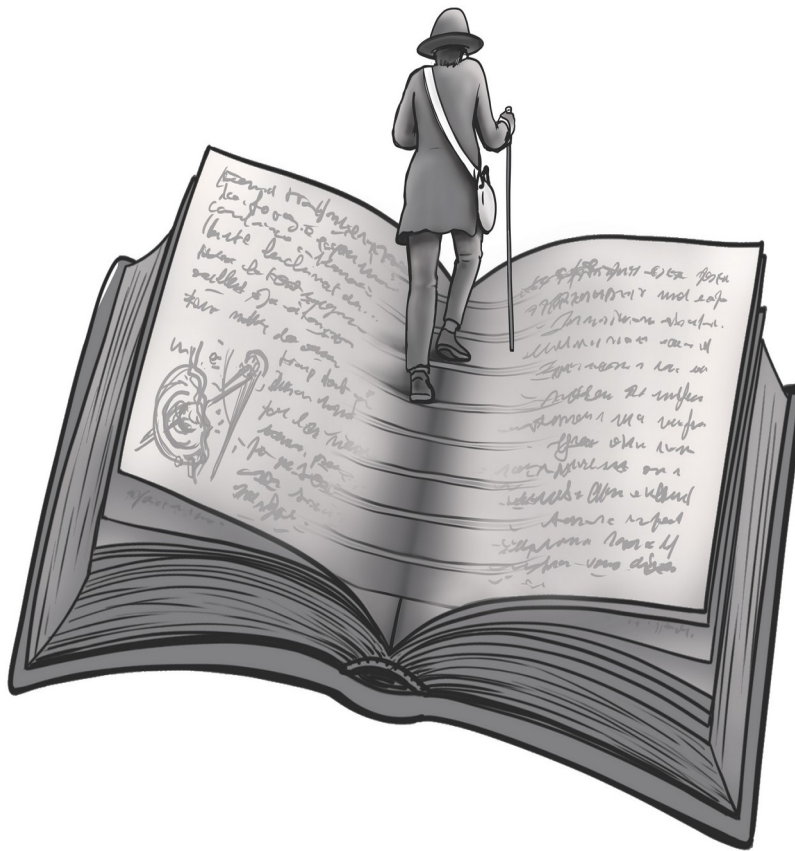
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- Josip Novakovich *Heritage of Smoke* | *Honey in a Carcase*
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Literary Fiction



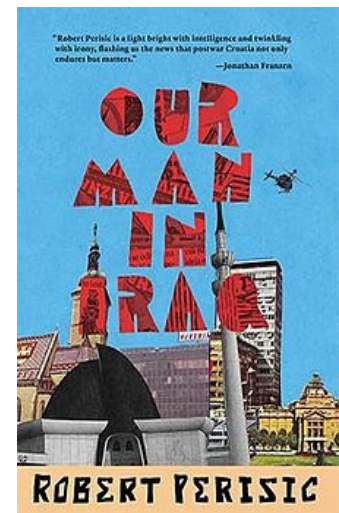
Robert Perišić

Our Man in Iraq

"Robert Perišić is a light bright with intelligence and twinkling with irony flashing us the news that postwar Croatia not only endures but matters."

— Jonathan Franzen

Tin's life seems fine: he has a permanent job as a business editor, his girlfriend Sanja is young and pretty and the relationship is stable. He feels like his life finally has to begin. But that doesn't happen; instead, he increasingly feels like he's missed the moment... Robert Perišić paints an authentic picture of young Croatia in *Our Man in Iraq*. With distant nonchalance and ironic-sarcastic directness, he shows us his homeland in transition: banking crisis, personal profit motive, career versus ideals, media power, drugs, sex and subculture embedded in a love story without illusions and seasoned with dubious reports from the Iraqi Invasion.



Naš Čovjek na Terenu

Profil International
338 Pages, 20.5 x 14.5
cm

World Rights

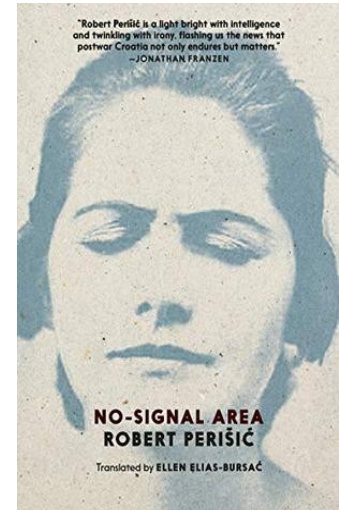
Rights Sold:
UK, Istros Books
USA, Black Balloon
France, Gaia-Actes Sud
Italy, Zandonai
Sweden, Gavriilo Förlag
Serbia, Profil Belgrade
Bulgaria, Damyan Yakov
Macedonia, (Makedonska
reč),
Slovenia (Beletrina),
Czech (Art Libri)
Turkey (Final)
Egypt (Ibn Roshd),
Ethiopia (Hohe)
Russia (Rudomino)

Robert Perišić

No Signal Area

"No-Signal Area is a mind-blowing read—a story of crime and heroism in the real-life aftermath of an all-white race war, told with wisdom, sophistication, and passion." — Nell Zink

The cousins Oleg and Nikola arrive in the town “N” somewhere in ex-Yugoslavia to arrange for the reopening of a local factory which has been shut down for many years after the break-up socialism. For this, Oleg and Nikola need the help of the former factory workers of the town in order to manufacture two industrial turbines to fulfill a contract Oleg has arranged with “the Colonel,” the leader of a questionable Middle Eastern country in conflict with the US. Once the factory is running, Perišić broadens the story’s focus, moving back in time to give Nikola's and Oleg’s backstories, exploring the lives of villagers and those who have left or been forced from the village, and circling back to a crashing grand finale. A masterpiece of Croatian literature that gives insight into the effects of a transition from socialist into a capitalist society which occurred too fast for the people to catch up.



OT: *Produčje bez Signala*

Sandorf, 2014
428 Pages, 12 x 20.5
cm

World Rights

Rights Sold:
USA, Seven Stories Press
France, Gaia-Actes Sud
Spain, Impedimenta
Italy, Bottega Errante
Serbia, Loom Books
Slovenia (Beletrina)

◆ TV Series
The Last Socialist Artefact

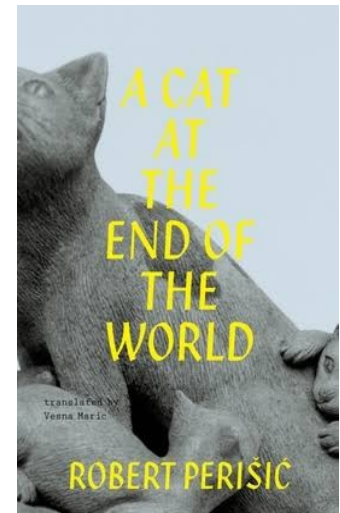
Grand Prix for best show
in the International
Panorama — Series
Mania festival, Lille
Best Drama Series — 28th
Sarajevo film Festival

Robert Perišić

A Cat at the End of the World

"Perišić's story takes on the shape of a philosophical fairy tale . . . this dreamlike novel tries to depict attachments that are freer than any proposed by the laws of civilization." — Sam Sacks, Wall Street Journal

Written like a fable, *A Cat At the End of the World* is told from the perspectives of Kalia, a runaway slave-boy, and the “Scatterwind”, a bodiless entity that has come to consciousness commenting on the events taking place in the narrative and drawing from the rich experience it has made from the beginning of time itself until our contemporary era. At the center of the novel is the touching relationship between Miu, a cat brought to Greece from Egypt—and one of the earliest to be domesticated—and Kalia. In this beautiful novel one of the most significant themes is the understanding of animal and human behaviors as seen through the results of language, warfare, colonization, trade, and the building of a society.



OT: *Brod za Isuu*

Sandorf, 2022
408 Pages 21 x 14 cm

Full English text

World Rights

Rights Sold:
USA, Sandorf Passage
Mexico, Elefanta
Italy, Bottega Errante
Hungary, Gondolat
Serbia, Laguna
Germany, Verbrecher
Verlag

◆ Awards:

Predrag Matvejević Award (2023)

Kamov Award (2023)

City Award of Zagreb Municipality in 2024

Bothayna Al-Essa

The Book Censor's Library

“An urgent, sweeping call to arms for the protection of books and book lovers everywhere.” – Kirkus Review

The new book censor hasn't slept soundly in weeks. By day, he combs through manuscripts at a government office, looking for anything that would make a book unfit to publish—allusions to queerness, unapproved religions, any mention of life before the Revolution. By night, pilfered novels pile up in the house he shares with his wife and daughter and the characters of literary classics crowd his dreams. As the siren song of forbidden reading continues to beckon, he descends into a netherworld of resistance fighters, undercover booksellers, and outlaw librarians trying to save their history and culture.

Reckoning with the global threat to free speech and the bleak future it all but guarantees, Bothayna Al-Essa marries the steely dystopia of Orwell's 1984 with the madcap absurdity of Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, resulting in a dreadful twist worthy of Kafka. *The Book Censor's Library* is a warning call and a love letter to stories and the delicious act of losing oneself in them.

Finalist, National Book Award for Translated Literature
GENRE Fiction: Satire / Dystopia / Speculative / Political



The Book Censor's Library

Restless Books, 2024
224 Pages, 13 x 18 cm

World Rights: Except
Italy, Turkey, Chinese,
Arabic languages

Rights Sold:
UK, Selkies

◆ Awards

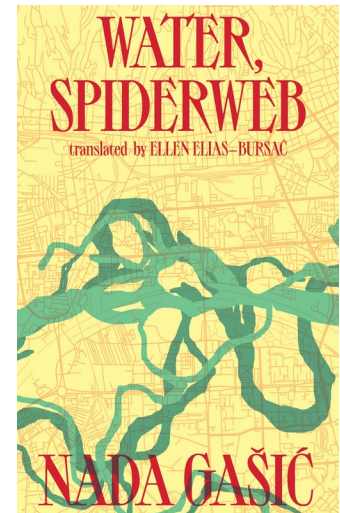
Sharjah Award for
Creativity in the novel
category in 2021

Nada Gašić

Water, Spiderweb

"In spite of all its complexity and fusion of seemingly disparate elements, playing with form and escape from classical narration and pure genre, *Water, Spiderweb* loses none of its simplicity and fluency, an unusual and praiseworthy feat that only very intelligent narrators manage to perform."
— Jagna Pogačnik, "A Novel that Grows before Your Eyes", Jutarnji list

Water, Spiderweb is more than a crime story in which the combination of politics and crime reveals social differences. A wedding, a murder and another in the background, the relationships of three sisters, married life, a conscientious police inspector are all stages of a complex novel, based in some ways on the pathology of society reduced to the micro level of a neighborhood and a family.



OT: Voda, Paučina

Sandorf, 2021
476 PAGES, 21 x 13
cm

World Rights

Rights Sold:
USA, Sandorf Passage
Slovenia Goga

◆ Awards

City of Zagreb Prize

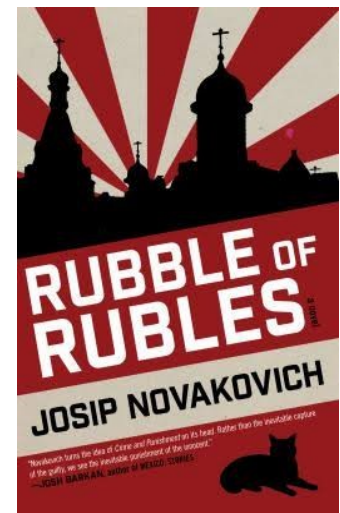
Vladimir Nazor Prize

Josip Novakovich

Rubble of Rubles

“*Rubble of Rubbles* shows Josip Novakovich at his best. I know of no other writer who knows how to ridicule the ridiculous and find meaning in the seemingly meaningless. This is a comic novel with serious content, rich in dark humor and startling cultural insights.” — Jim Heynan, author of *One-Room Schoolhouse*

Penned by Man Booker Prize Finalist 2013, this fast-paced, satirical novel is very topical before the backdrop of the current war in Ukraine. Set in the beginning of 2000, an investment banker who got bankrupt by the Enron scandal travels to St. Petersburg to take a timeout and ponder about his future. Soon he gets into serious trouble when Russian authorities arrest him because of public urinating and soon after accuse him of the murder of two Georgian wine-importers. Imprisoned at the infamous Kresty jail, Putin himself has an entry, offering to drop all charges if he travels to Georgia under the cloak of a wine importer, meet the Georgian president and slip poison into his wine.



Rubble of Rubles

DZANC, 2023
212 Pages

World Rights

Rights Sold:
Croatia, Neolit 2023

Full English text

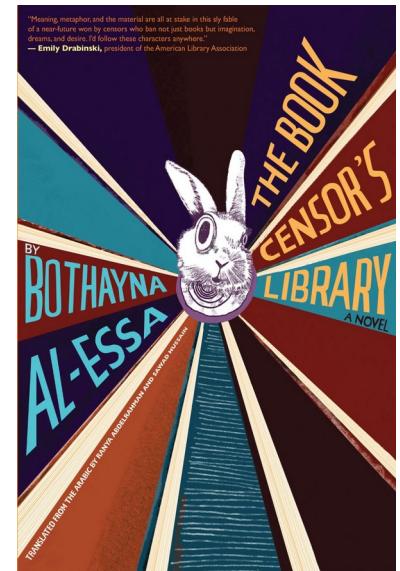
Bothayna Al-Essa

The Book Censor's Library

“An urgent, sweeping call to arms for the protection of books and book lovers everywhere.” – Kirkus Review

The new book censor hasn't slept soundly in weeks. By day, he combs through manuscripts at a government office, looking for anything that would make a book unfit to publish—allusions to queerness, unapproved religions, any mention of life before the Revolution. By night, pilfered novels pile up in the house he shares with his wife and daughter and the characters of literary classics crowd his dreams. As the siren song of forbidden reading continues to beckon, he descends into a netherworld of resistance fighters, undercover booksellers, and outlaw librarians trying to save their history and culture.

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The Book Censor's Library

Restless Books,
2024
224 Pages, 13 x 18 cm

World Rights

Rights Sold:
UK, Selkies

◆ Awards
Sharjah Award for
Creativity in the
novel category in
2021

GENRE Fiction: Satire / Dystopia / Speculative / Political

Tatjana Gromača

Divine Child

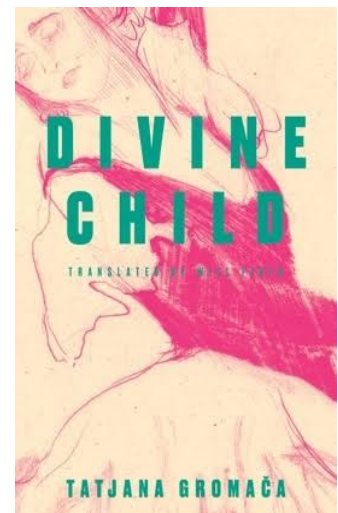
“Gromača shows that the causes of present-day crimes go back far into the past: suppressed historical experiences, an upbringing based on repression and power. But the way she does it, as she tells it, has nothing to do with pointing fingers or simple pedagogy, but rather is full of subversive irony and unerring sarcasm. A classic upside-down world story – sensationally well written and rightly awarded the “Novel of the Year” prize in Croatia in 2013.” — Bettina Hartz - Feuilleton Frankfurter Allgemeine

This unforgettable survival narrative takes place in the early 1990s, as Yugoslavia begins to crumble, so too does a woman, known only as Mother. Ostracized by her Croatian neighbors because of her Serbian background, the bright cheer Mother brought to her role as a wife and mother is darkened by the onset of mental illness that devours an entire family. Seen through the acerbic and wry perspective of Mother’s eldest daughter, *Divine Child* paints a picture of the forces that batter an individual into shape in a time of economic crisis and rabid nationalism.

◆ Awards

2013 Jutarnji list Award for Novel of the Year

Verlagsprämie des Freistaats Bayern 2022



*OT: Božanska
Dječica*

Fraktura, 2012
176 Pages, 14 x 21 cm

World Rights

Rights Sold:
USA, Sandorf Passage
Italy, Oltre Edizioni
Germany, Stroux Edition

Full English text

Ivan Vidak

Radio Siga

“Radio Siga is a subtle and thoughtful novel, a complex narrative that simultaneously makes the reader laugh, teaches and enchants him, but it, even more, disturbs and terrifies him – without any explicit or trite plots and effects. Once you find the fine frequency of Vidak's Radio, you don't leave it.” — Neven Ušumović, Kritika H.D.P.

Electrical sexual prowess is not the only change Kalman Gubica undergoes after being struck by lightning. Set in World War II Yugoslavia, Radio Siga transmits the story of this misunderstood man who is haunted by a mysterious voice that he cannot shake after that fateful lightning strike. Settling down with a female Russian soldier does not help quite the maddening messages in his head, nor does helping the resistance trying to keep at bay the Hungarian fascists and German Nazis who have occupied Yugoslavia. Darkly funny, Radio Siga is an exciting World War II novel told from a perspective not often encountered by Western readers.



Radio Siga

Sandorf, 2020
176 Pages
12.5 x 20 cm

Rights Sold:
USA, Sandorf Passage

Full English text

◆ Awards

Iso Velikanović Award for best prose work
2020

Nora Verde

My Dowry

“*My Dowry* is a book that repays debts, fights against patriarchal darkness, and, in the literary sense, deserves a good position in the corpus of contemporary Croatian literature.” — Vanja Kulaš, Kritika H.D.P.

Nora Verde's novel follows the story of a defiant little girl at the beginning of the 1980s. It is a story of a girl with a Prince Valiant inspired haircut and yellow shorts traveling from Split to Vela Luka with a bag full of Martin Mystery comics to spend the summer every year with her beloved grandmother. The idyll of days passed with grandma, days filled with chores, songs and storytelling, is broken by the threatening presence of the girl's uncle. With every passing year, the girl is burdened more and more by the feeling of not belonging to her working-class, laborer family. Torn between city and island life, the standard language and the dialect, female and male gender expression, she finds her way to freedom and independence through education and writing. *My Dowry* tells a touching and painfully striking story about an adolescence overshadowed by class shame, anger and the exploration of sexual orientation. It enriches the existing literary corpus that focuses on growing up on the islands, and brings an indispensable class and gender perspective to it.



Moja Dota

Oceanmore, 2021

Rights Sold:
Germany, Edition
Converso

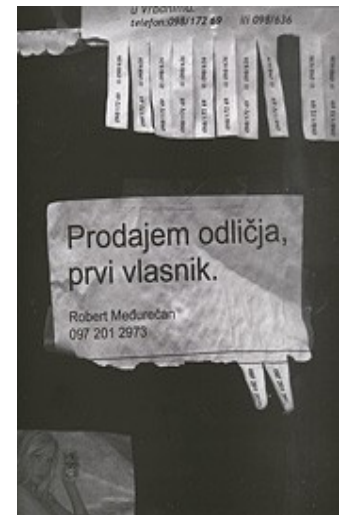
Full German text
English sample

Robert Međurečan

War Decorations, First Owner, Fair Price

“Robert's novel characterized by the rare skill of (filmic) framing and storytelling logic”. — Jagna Pogačnik

In war, soldiers kill soldiers. But what if you saw in the eyes of the 17-year old soldier you killed the innocence, fear and harmlessness that is more reminiscent of a friendly soul than an adversary? And what, if you later realized that the guns of that child-soldier weren't even loaded. Useless for the fight, the protagonist is sent home. Despite treatment for PTSD, memory continues to torment him. He is on the verge of suicide, until one morning he decides to leave for Vukovar, to the address on the boy's identification card that he found that fateful night. He wants to tell his parents the truth of their son's death, in order to be released from his pain. The plot develops like in a picaresque road novel, the main character is constantly moving from one location to another. Bizarre encounters on the way underscore the mental state of the protagonist and the entire country. However, there is no happy ending, when he finds out that the mother has died as well.



*OT: Prodajem
Odličja, Prvi
Vlasnik*

Konzor, 2008
139 Pages 20,4 x 14,2
cm

World Rights

English sample

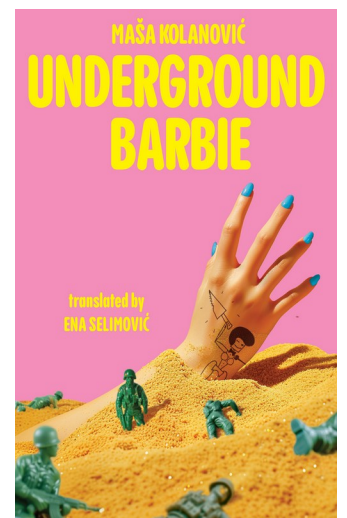
Maša Kolanović

Underground Barbie

“Maša Kolanović's novel is dedicated in a naive and unbiased way, through the eyes of a child, to a topic that could hardly be more serious and terrible: war with its concentrated cruelty and brutality, full of fear and uncertainty.”

— Kathrin Plett - Belletristik.couch

Underground Barbie brilliantly captures the vagaries of childhood as innocence gives way to the horrors of the news and the intrigues of sexual curiosity. The idealized glamour of Barbie and Ken on an endless perfect honeymoon morphs into make-believe scenarios that reflect the splintering social structure brought about by the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s: politicians campaigning to define what it means to be a “real” Croatian, a refugee ball with “disgusting” dolls lesser than “genuine” Barbie products, the discovery of a mass grave filled with the headless corpses thought to be Ken’s mistresses. *Underground Barbie* whimsically renders the power of imagination to overcome hardship alongside a sharp critique of consumer culture, made even more stark against the shredded backdrop of a great socialist experiment.



*Sloboština
Barbie*

V.B.Z, 2008
140 Pages, 15,5 x
23,5 cm

World Rights

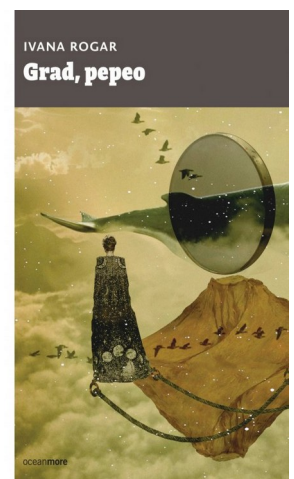
Full English text
Full German text

Ivana Rogar

City, Ashes

”What the reader will remember from this book is a mature and consistent narration, courageous and activist themes, as well as the creative language of the author who does not indulge in clichés, but, on the contrary, seeks out astoundingly original solutions.“

This short novel is a story about the life of a dysfunctional family during an unnamed war in an unnamed country. It does not contain any references to the outside events, but tells the events inside the family's apartment. Although the war itself is not mentioned, the reader is able to infer through somewhat absurd events that the disintegration is not just internal, but external as well. The absurdity, which is at times humorous, intensifies throughout the novel, culminating with one family member, the grandfather getting lost in the apartment hallway. The chapters are organized by four narrative lines, with each family member being the narrator. The characters are profiled generationally: the grandfather suffers from dementia and paranoid thoughts; the mother is confused and lost because of the harsh living conditions during which she has to keep the family together; the older son is a sociopath without the ability to feel empathy and with a range of feelings going from annoyed to not-bothered. The youngest son, still a child, serves as a passive witness who absorbs all the madness, which is to show that war inflicts damage indirectly as well: in a family without empathy, surrounded by people who do not know what stance to take in dangerous situations, children cannot grow up to be healthy individuals, and some day they will have no problem starting a war themselves.



*OT: Grad,
Pepeo*

OceanMore
2020
104 Pages, 13
x 21 cm

World Rights

English
sample

Sons, Daughters

“In this new novel, combining the familiar narrative procedure with a new, more intricate set of motives, Ivana Bodrožić tackles the issues addressed in her previous works, issues of Other and otherness, identity and gender, pain and guilt, injustice and violence. We gained so much with her new novel: great literature enforced by the justified social engagement, far from the fashionable activism devoid of substance. We also gained one of the most tender and wrenching love stories in contemporary Croatian Literature.” —

Vanja Kulaš, Moderna vremena

“At the forbidden places, places we avoid Ivana’s writing only begins and goes all the way to the most secret, most intimate corners, to the locked core of all things and does so with extraordinary ease and gravitas. Epic by proportions, lyrical, poetic, and polemical by style, Sons, Daughters is a novel about us, daughters and sons, a novel which will be read, written about, and discussed for a long time.”

— Olja Savičević Ivančević, author of Farewell, Cowboy



*OT: Sinovi,
kćeri*

Hermes
Naklada 2020
264 Pages

Sample texts:
Full English
French

World Rights

Sold to:

Serbia, Orfelin
Italy, Sellerio
World English,
Seven Stories Press
Hungary, Libri
Bulgaria, Paradox
North Macedonia,
Antolog

Synopsis

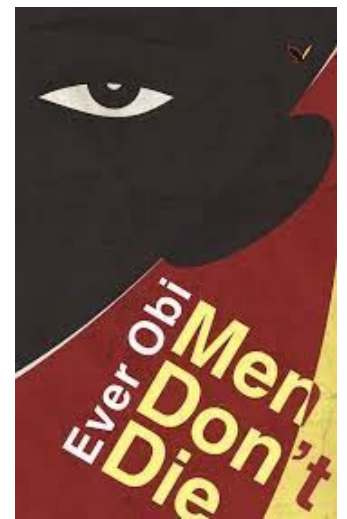
A daughter that is paralyzed after a car crash, left without the possibility to speak, confined to a hospital bed and unable to move anything but her eyes vertically. Physically restrained but self-conscious, she is forced to reminiscence. Then a son trapped in the body which he doesn't feel as his own, in a role assigned to him and different from the one he saw for himself, forced to endure misperception and the vile abuse of the community in order to become what he really is. In the end, a mother that carries the burden of the generations, distorted by the violent patriarchy, growing up oppressed and lectured, taught she is never good enough for the world which holds no place for the desires and choices of women. They intertwine in a story which gives each of them the right to their own truth, pain and drive for survival; children that long for their parents' validation, sons and daughters that long for acceptance, parents shaped by the fear they will later inflict onto their children. This novel questions our matrilineal family legacies and points to the unbreakable bond between our personal freedoms, human dignity and social circumstances, and does so with empathy, its most powerful weapon, breaking the chains and unlocking lives, concealed family relations and forbidden love stories.

Ever Obi

Men Don't Die

“Men Don't Die by Ever Obi is a metaphysical story with themes ranging from friendship, material poverty, fate, death, and the afterlife amongst others. It is a suspenseful and poignant story that is most remarkable in the way it is narrated.” — Book Art Ville

This novel is set in Port Harcourt and Lagos, Nigeria. The plot revolves around the professionally unsuccessful protagonist, Brume, to whom his deceased father appears and advises him to break away from his fixation on money and materialism and marry his long-time girlfriend. Brume follows his father's advice, but everything turns out differently than he hoped: his girlfriend leaves him for a rich man and he loses his job in the factory. These developments solidify Brume's belief that wealth is the solution to all his problems. After sinking into self-pity, he accidentally comes across a lot of stolen money and, on the run from the gangsters who find out his identity, sets off on a journey to Lagos. However, the coach has an accident and all passengers, except Brume, are killed. Once in Lagos, Brume achieves everything he ever dreamed of thanks to his new wealth. The surprising twist in the story is that Brume did not survive the bus accident uninjured, but the entire second part is simply a product of his imagination as he is in a coma in the hospital. He is brought there to learn a huge lesson, to see what his impatience costs him. To see what he has lost by making wrong decisions.



Men Don't Die

Parrésia 2019
352 Pages

World Rights

Sold To:
UK, Abibiman
Publishing

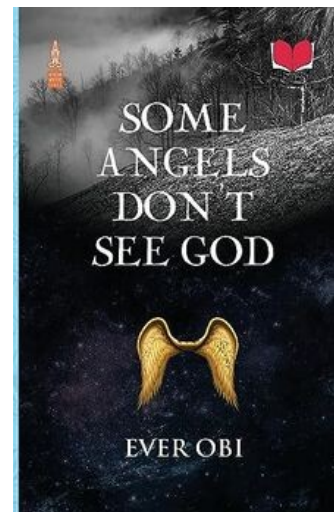
Full English text

Ever Obi

Some Angels Don't See God

“Some Angels Don’t See God is a roller coaster kind of novel: Once you start reading it, curiosity keeps you flipping the pages in search of answers to puzzles and you, in no time, become a prisoner of your quest. Beautifully imagined, vibrant and haunting, Ever Obi’s achievement is momentous. It shocks and excites on equal footing” — Olukorede S. Yishau, *In the Name of Our Father*

In a desperate search for some solace, Neta Okoye, a melancholic author, publishes a book published as fiction in which she recounts tragic experiences she experienced as a student. Experiences that have haunted her for more than six years and plunged her into a deep depression. By writing about her past, she hopes to regain some of her intellectual freedom. But her life becomes even more unraveled when the success of the book attracts people from her past. The first was Peter, an old friend she had left long ago, a tangible reminder of the experiences she wrote about. As she grapples with her mental health and Peter with his renewed promise of love and happiness, her twin brother is released from prison, carrying an incestuous secret that may be the root of all the misfortune that has befallen her. Neta has to choose between love and family. She is forced to confront her past and all the victims within it, an experience that opens the door to further tragedy.



Some Angels Don't See God

Parrésia 2022
270 Pages

World Rights

Sold to:
UK, Abibiman
Publishing, 2022

Full English text

Ikenna Okeh

Deportee

“Here is something fresh and new, a most enjoyable and emotional depiction of the realities of immigration. *Deportee* is set against the backdrop of an important social condition that’s not given enough attention. The book makes you laugh and cry; like a pill impregnated with sugar, the humour, delivered with finesse, sustains a most emotional narrative so that in the end you’ll be glad that you’d met Anayo, the young Nigerian protagonist, deported from Cyprus“ — Peter Hesen, UbuntuFM Africa

After living in Cyprus for two years, Anayo, a Nigerian immigrant, is deported back to his homeland, broke, stranded and with no savings. *Deportee* describes the fall of a man and the gradual, arduous climb to regain his dignity. With Anayo we are confronted with the reality of the stigma of the deported. He is one of thousands who have left their people and their land to find a brighter future abroad. However, he is one of the brave few who holds his head high amidst the people who see him as a failure because of his deportation. Anayo receives a lot of material and emotional support from family and friends, who treat him no less than a human despite the amount of debt they took on to send him to Europe. They teach through their encouragement that man is not to be equated with his mistakes or his fall. Maybe that's why the book ends with Anayo getting a visa to Bulgaria and having the chance to leave Nigeria again.



Deportee

Abibiman 2022
210 Pages, digital A4

World Rights

Full English text

Historical Fiction



Vladimir Bartol

Alamut

“Most of all, *Alamut* was and is simply great read—imaginative, erudite, dynamic and humorous, a well-told tale set in an exotic time and place, yet populated by characters with universally recognizable ambitions, dreams and imperfections. Both at home and abroad, it continues to be perhaps the most popular book that Slovenia has ever produced, with recent translations of *Alamut* having become bestsellers in Europe. ...*Alamut* is... a finely wrought, undiscovered minor masterpiece that offers ... a wealth of meticulously planned and executed detail and broad potential for symbolic, intertextual and philosophical interpretation.” — Michael Biggins, Afterword to *Alamut*

A classic of Slovenian literature, *Alamut* is a significant and universal literary achievement. Most astoundingly, already in 1938 the novel describes the brain-washing of the first suicide assassins in Persia who follow a false prophet. Composed after World War I and shortly before World War II, Bartol intended to write a novel taking aim at the dictators of the time and their propaganda machines. The book is the basis of the globally successful game *Assassin's Creed*, underscoring once again the contemporary relevancy of the novel.



Alamut

Latest Edition:
Snanje 2023
(Original 1938)
560 Pages, 13 x 20
cm

World Rights

Full English text

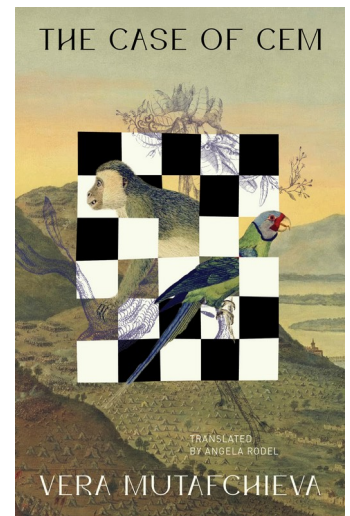
Vera Mutafchieva

The Case of Cem

“A book that—like the great novels of Ismail Kadare or Orhan Pamuk—belongs to the world [...] A reader like me reads it for seven days, trying to lengthen the 540 pages of the novel as much as possible.” — Miljenko Jergović,

It's 1481, and as seen from the centers of power in Rome and Venice, the cultures of Europe are under threat from the expansion of the Ottoman Empire. When the exalted Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror dies, his eldest son, Bayezid, takes the throne. However, discontented factions within the Ottoman army urge Mehmed's second son, Cem, a well-educated and experienced warrior, to oppose his brother's ascension, igniting a ruthless power struggle and forcing Cem into long years of exile, a pawn for European rulers who are desperate to preserve the order they have imposed on the continent over the course of centuries.

The Case of Cem, Vera Mutafchieva's celebrated novel of court intrigue, maintains lasting resonance for being a personal exploration of emigration and loss set in the historical era during which the politics of the East and West were sketched out with utter clarity. These early lines of demarcation, as voiced through Christian and Muslim emissaries, greedy leaders, unflinching soldiers, and lyrical poets, have indelibly influenced the world as we know it today.



The Case of Cem

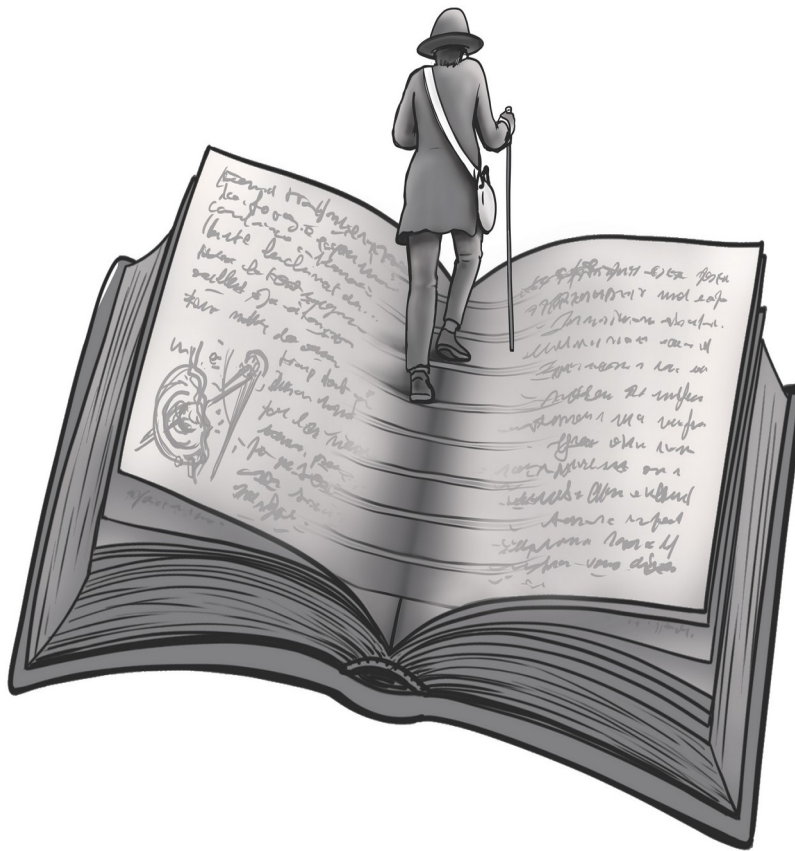
English Edition:
566 Pages, 14 x 21
cm

World Rights

Full English text

Sold to:
Worldwide English,
Sandorf Passage
Spain, Automática
Editorial
Croatia, Sandorf
Serbia, Laguna
Slovenia, Založba
Goga

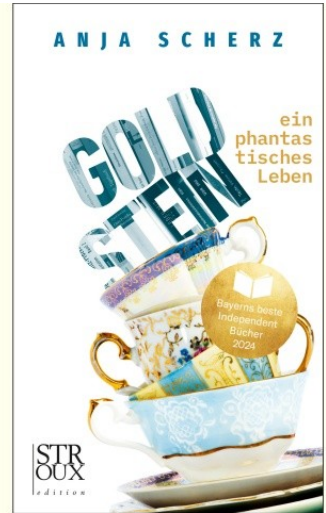
Biographical Fiction and non-Fiction



Anja Scherz

Goldstein – A Fantastic Life

A story based on researched evidence and testimonies from contemporary witnesses and about real people: The actor, director and drama lecturer Raphael-Maria Goldstein discovers that he does not come from a middle-class business family in Duisburg, but was adopted as a child. His mother, Auschwitz survivor Esther Goldstein, is reluctant to tell him who his father is: Otto Frank, the father of Anne Frank. He decides to write not only about the odyssey surrounding his origins, but also about his eventful professional life in the world of theater and film. When he has finished the manuscript, he dies. The author takes over the manuscript and examines his documents, talks to companions, does research. And little by little, the extent of this incredible life story is revealed to her. Nothing is as it seems, but many things seem as if they could have been.



Goldstein- ein phantastisches Leben

Stroux Edition 2024
338 Pages
21 x 15 cm

World Rights

English sample and full
German text

◆ Awards

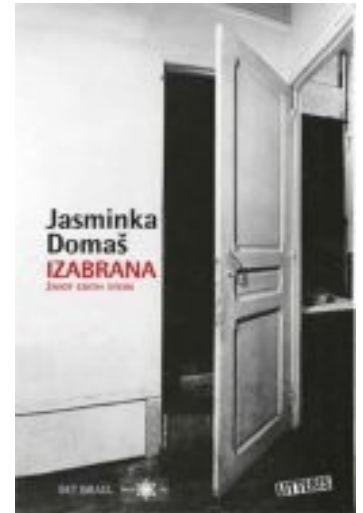
Best Bavarian

Independent Books

Jasminka Domaš

The Chosen One - The Life of Edith Stein

The Chosen One is about the life story of Edith Stein, who was born as the youngest daughter into a strict Jewish Orthodox family. As a recognized expert on Jewish culture and history, Jasminka Domaš reports in her book about Edith Stein's early doubts about the existence of God. Her studies and later scientific work with the phenomenologist Edmund Husserl in Göttingen as well as the emancipated fellow students she met in Germany further strengthened her struggle with the existence of God. However, an angelic apparition brings her back to the path of faith; However, not of the Jewish, but of the Christian. She decides to join the Carmelite nuns and is baptized as a Catholic as Teresia Benedicta of the Cross. This is followed by a confrontation with her strict Jewish mother, which leads to a philosophical-theological exchange that represents a highlight in Domaš's book. However, life in the monastery cannot protect Edith Stein from the mass deportations of the Nazis. In 1942, she and her sister Rosa were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau from the Netherlands, where they wanted to escape the persecution of Jews, and murdered. The deportation takes up the last part of the book and also raises philosophical and existential questions that make this book stand out.



*Izabrana – život
Edith Stein*

Litteris 2017
179 Pages
21 x 15 cm

World Rights

Sold to:
Germany, Anthea Verlag
Switzerland, Literki
Verlag

Full English and
German text

Anja Scherz

Goldstein – A Fantastic Life

The actor, director and drama teacher Raphael-Maria Goldstein discovers that he does not come from a middle-class family of entrepreneurs in Duisburg, but was adopted as a child. His biological mother, Auschwitz survivor Esther Goldstein, is reluctant to tell him who his father is: Otto Frank, the father of Anne Frank. He decides to write down his life. When he has finished the manuscript, he dies.

A friend of his widow takes over the manuscript and does some research. Gradually, the extent of this incredible life story is revealed to her: Nothing is as it seems, but much seems as if it could have been.



Goldstein- ein phantastisches Leben

Stroux Edition 2024
338 Pages
21 x 15 cm

World Rights

English sample and full German text

Travel Narratives



Marko Pogačar

Neon South

“The work reads more like poetry that has gotten lost in fiction . . . Like spots in a pointillist painting, the people and places of narrative form points of reference that multiply and layer to depict a much larger, interconnected world. The vastness of history becomes intimate and personal.”—Asymptote

Neon South is an off-the-beaten-path Latin American travel narrative that unfolds like a novel, shadowing locals all too aware of how outside influences, from colonialism to globalism, have changed their lives. From the drug cartel-controlled squares of Mexico to Venezuelan jungles where the outside world threatens traditions, Marko Pogačar absorbs all he encounters with the eyes and words of a poet, finding humor in the absurd and intimacy in despair. Unexpected similarities surface in the assemblage of these tropical experiences fused together with Pogačar’s memories of living through the dissolution of Yugoslavia: “After all, are our customs, our kingdoms, our churches and wars, our arsons and human sacrifices one iota different from the Aztec ones?”



OT: Latinamericana

Sandorf, 2020

84 Pages

11.6 x 16.8 cm

World Rights

Sold to:

USA, Sandorf Passage
Austria, Wieser Verlag

Full English and
German text

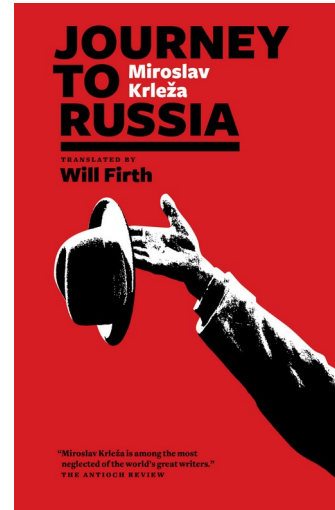
Miroslav Krleža

Journey to Russia

“Miroslav Krleža is among the most neglected of the world’s great writers.”

—The Antioch Review

When Miroslav Krleža traveled through Russia for six months between the end of 1924 and the beginning of 1925, the celebrated Croatian writer was there to figure out what it all meant. The sprawling country was still coming to terms with the events of the 1917 revolution and reeling from Lenin’s death in January 1924. During this period of profound political and social transition, Krleža opened his senses to train stations, cities, and villages and collected wildly different Russian perspectives on their collective moment in history. Krleža’s impressionistic reportage of mass demonstrations and jubilant Orthodox Easter celebrations is informed by his preoccupation with the political, social, and psychological complexities of his environment. The result is a masterfully crafted modernist travelogue that resonates today as much as it did when first published in 1926.



OT: Izlet u Rusiju

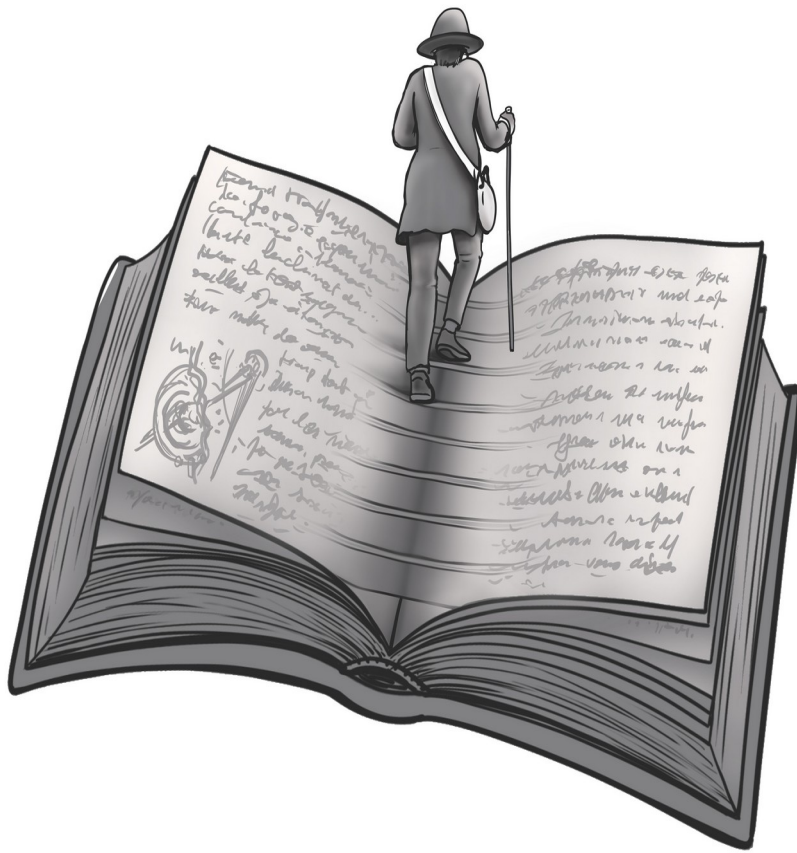
Narodna knjižnica,
1925
424 Pages
13,5 x 20,8 cm

World Rights

Sold to:
USA, Sandorf Passage
Austria, Wieser Verlag

Full English and German
text

Upmarket Crime Fiction

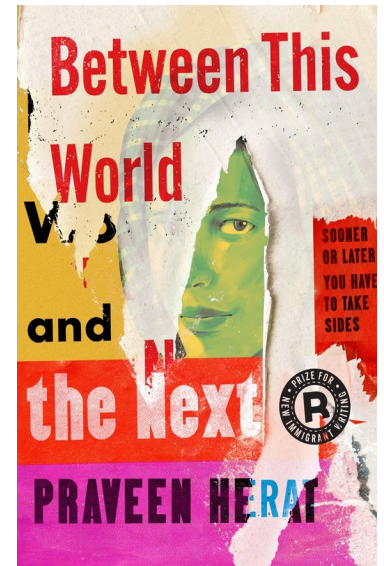


Praveen Herat

Between This World and the Next

Herat impresses on his first time out, with well-shaded characters and gripping suspense . . . this is worth seeking out.” — Publisher’s Weekly

An intricate international thriller, *Between This World and the Next* tells the story of Joseph Nightingale, aka Fearless, a burned-out British war photographer, and Song, a Cambodian woman who has been physically and psychologically marked by the violence in her country. When Song disappears, leaving only a mysterious videotape behind, Fearless must navigate a dangerous network of power brokers, transnational kingpins, sex traffickers, and arms dealers, uncovering a sprawling network of criminality and corruption in a newly post-Soviet world. Praveen Herat challenges our complicity as passive observers when exposed to a constant stream of media depicting suffering across the world and asks what we truly know about anyone, even those we hold dearest. And yet, riven by dark acts, the book is uplifted by love—love between sisters, love of the bereaved, and a remarkable platonic love between Fearless and Song. This propulsive, page-turning novel is a passionate exploration of power, poverty, and greed. With its sharp new perspective, *Between This World and the Next* pushes the boundaries of what a literary thriller can achieve.



Between This World and the Next

Restless Books,
2024
336 Pages, 15 x 23 cm

World Rights

Rights Sold:
UK, Selkies

◆ Awards

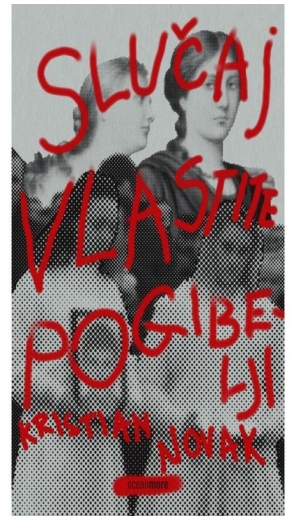
Winner of the
Restless Prize for
new Immigrant
Writing 2022

Kristian Novak

The Event Of My Demise

Novak's works are precisely at that sweet spot in between upmarket and literary fiction. Those in search for a crime story that will outsmart them, will find one on these pages.

Nenad Fegeš, a young roads policeman was found dead at the backseat of his car. The case was ruled a suicide, but his family refuses to believe it. There are too many discrepancies in the story, the police never did the autopsy, fueling the suspicion of an inside job. Nenad's older brother, a policeman himself, is burdened with a heavy task of uncovering the truth and punishing the ones responsible. But what if the ones responsible are the same ones who are in power? At the same time, a young, ambitious drama teacher is staging a high school production of Antigone. She wants her students to express raw emotion, pushing them to face their own darkness: how else will they create real magic on the stage? In that, she makes a fatal mistake. She brings up the policeman's death, convinced his demise was a consequence of him standing up to local sheriffs but not all her students see it that way. While she sets on a quest to prove the truth and to save her dignity and her job, her seemingly perfect, comfortable life starts falling apart. When a gun fires in the first act, the small town setting – Novak's specialty – becomes a stage of archetypal conflicts: individual versus the system, morality versus the law, principles versus the corruption. A few authors can do what he does so effortlessly: by using a smartly constructed crime plot as an engine that drives a story, he paints a painfully faithful picture of a society, breaking the fourth wall of illusions upon which its structure is built



*OT: Slučaj
vlastite
pogibelji*

OceanMore
2023
280 Pages, 21 x
14 cm

World Rights

Rights Sold:
Slovenia,
Beletrina

English sample

Kristian Novak

Foreign Neighbors

“The pinnacle moments in Novak’s fiction happen in a continuous stream already from page 20, taking us no further, just as life takes us nowhere in, say, Faulkner’s novels which have no entry point or ending.” — Miljenko Jergović

Foreign Neighbors is a crime novel, with a central enigma of brutal murders of several John Does – because victims without faces are hard to identify – and an overarching investigation. But don’t be too quick to label it, because this is a thriller as much as *Crime and Punishment* is. The story is told by four narrators, in truncated transcripts: Milena, the middle-aged returnee to her birthplace; Nuzat, a Kurd from Mosul on his way to Calais; Sandokan nicknamed Sandy – a gypsy from North Croatia, and Plančić – the PR manager for the Zagreb Police Station. The novel entangles several lives between the rivers Drava and Mura in the northernmost part of Croatia. It charts two biographies from cradle to grave, it encompasses and reconstructs at least three cultural circles, it creates explosive psychoportraits of the four storytellers and mass psychology of a crowd that threatens to end things violently. Here you’ll find al-Anfal, Daesh (ISIS) and the refugee wave, forbidden love between a Croatian woman and a Gypsy man, a Croatian Homeland War veteran securing peace in his village, a policeman having schizoid episodes in the dusk of his career, an orgy with Moldavians in a weekend house, theory and practice of theft and fist-fight, a spider weaving a web, Internet rage, splendor of language, thought and emotion.



OT:
Ciganin, ali najljepši

OceanMore
2018
400 Pages, 22 x
14 cm

World Rights

Rights Sold:
France, Les
Argonautes
Norway, Cappelen
Damm
Slovenia,
Beletrina
Serbia, Rašić
Audio (Croatian)
StoryTel
Macedonia, Goten

Film/TV
Antitalent
Bulgaria Paradox
Hungary,
Metropolis Kiado

Full English
text

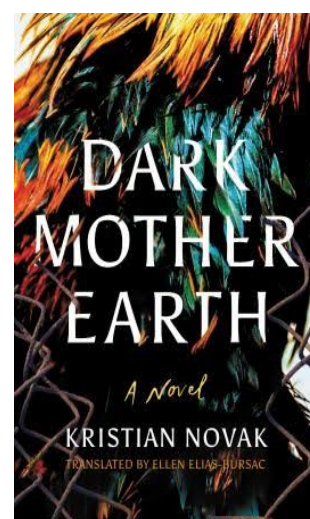
Kristian Novak

Dark Mother Earth

“*Dark Mother Earth* is a book that discovers a new, different and quite narratively competent name on the domestic literary scene. It is a novel that contains and combines different and important layers that are relevant to the contemporary Croatian prose, although approached and elaborated from completely different starting points.”

— Jutarnji list on *Dark Mother Earth*

Matija Dolenčec is a successful young writer struggling to overcome his creative and emotional block by reaching for his own, deeply repressed and forgotten story which was compensated by inventing all of his other stories. It's a story about a personal journey from a bright, alienated, casual and urban place into one that is dark, intimate, essential and rural. Matija's suppressed memories slowly reveal a traumatic story of his childhood in a village in a rural region of north Croatia, of his father's tragic death and eight mysterious suicides, of two demons haunting him, the loss of a friend, great myths and local legends, the historic turmoil of the nineties, everyday lies, guilt, cruelty, loneliness and love. Universality, depth and poignancy, intimate scenes and exceptional portraits, painful scenes of violence and pedophilia, humorist flares and delicate reflections are what makes this novel a rural panorama of memorable characters, a candle-lit horror hidden in the heart of darkness, immersed in the gelid river, a historic reconstruction of a microcosmos in which football and tanks, socialism and archetypes coexist.



OT: Črna mati zemla

OceanMore
2017
296 Pages, 21 x
14 cm

World Rights

Rights Sold:
World rights
Amazon Crossing
(excl. Germany)
Poland Pogranicze
Slovenia, Beletrina
Macedonia, Pnv
Publikaciji

English sample

Tadej Golob

The Lake

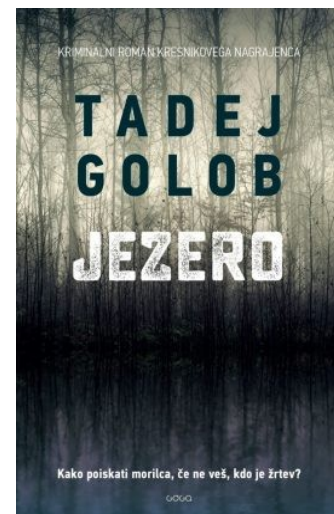
“Finally! An excellent Slovene crime novel in the manner of Scandinavian thrillers without the excessively painful scenes, blood and various mental deviations.” — Katarina Mahnič on RTV Slovenija’s portal MMC

Taras Birsa, chief criminal investigator of the Ljubljana Police Administration, is returning from a skiing trip to Mount Vogel on New Year’s Eve. As he makes his way home through a snowstorm, he comes across a girl who has found the body of an unrecognizable young woman in the river. Who is the victim? Who is the perpetrator? Was the crime committed by a lone madman or was the unknown woman killed as part of some larger plot?

In his novel, Golob includes the pharmaceutical industry and its profits, milestone inventions, the secrecy over which make killing seem almost a necessity, and involves in this the police inspector and a spirited group of doctors, one of whom is also his wife. Society and work with all their antagonisms mix at all levels, jealousy, adultery, complicated relationships in a team, the anomalies of the police system, changing social statuses...

The Lake is the first in by now 7 crime novels around Taras Birsa!

The first three novels of the series have been made into successful Slovenian TV series!



OT: Jezero

Goga, 2016
424 Pages
13,5 x 20,8 cm

World Rights

Sold to:
UK, Dixi Books
Italy, Ronzani Editore
Ukraine
North Macedonia
Croatia
Egypt

Tadej Golob

Lenin Park

"In countless interviews the experienced journalist holds the readers in tension, skillfully holds our attention alert and puts the current social situation on display, with homelessness issues, neo-nazism, secret services, political intrigue... kindergartens, old people... The work is socially committed, because it reflects the broad spectrum of knowledge, erudition, activities and interests of the author."

Taras Birsa, chief criminal investigator of the Ljubljana Police Administration has another murder case on his desk. In a small park in the middle of Ljubljana a corpse of a woman is discovered, killed by a shot in the head. A day later a man dies the same way in Metelkova. Is there a connection between the murders? Ljubljana is boiling in a heat wave, Slovenia forms a new government after the elections and Taras Birsa has already enough problems of his own.



OT: Leninov Park

Goga, 2018
477 Pages
13 x 20 cm

World Rights

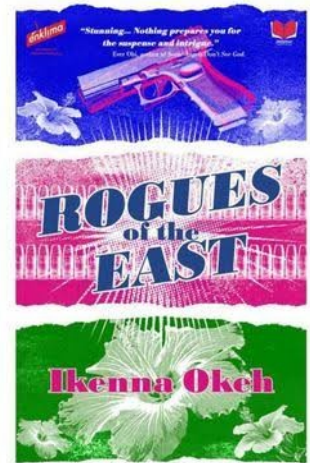
Sold to:
UK, Dixi Books
Italy, Ronzani Editore

Ikenna Okeh

Rogues of the East

“‘Rogues of the East’ is keen with wild and intriguing brilliance. — Kelvin Kellman, *The Stockholm Review of Literature*.”

This novel is a crime thriller set in eastern Nigeria. It's the story of a struggling Nigerian writer who dreams of getting his work into the hands of publishers. However, desperate for quick money, he agrees to help a potential benefactor find an estranged son who has gone into hiding. The seemingly simple task leads him deep into a web of conspiracies where he crosses paths with a ruthless cult leader, a vengeful retired hitman, a retired assassin and a cunning guy, all brought together by a failed kidnapping deal. At the heart of *Rogues of the East*, however, is the depiction of the struggles of a writer in Nigeria, written in a highly entertaining way that sheds light on Nigeria's social imbalance.



Rogues of the East

Abibiman
Publishing, 2022
366 Pages, digital A4

World Rights

Sold to:
UK, Abibiman
France, Mera Editions

Ikenna Okeh

Manuscript: They Killed Ahmed – A Fatma Ozdemir crime series – A Novella

They Killed Ahmet is the first in a series of soon to be eight novellas. The setting of every book of the series is another Turkish city. Fatma Ozdemir is a young detective who has just graduated from the police academy, ready to delve into the police work in Istanbul. She soon realizes that her first assignment as lead detective in a supposedly standard drug case turns out to be a grand-scale smuggling affair with politics involved. Even though she gets the order to go off the case, she makes a deal with an underworld boss and old friend of the family. With the help of her Nigerian sidekick and ex-boyfriend, Fatma manages to solve her first case against all odds, with a press coverage breaking the case to the public. The consequences of Fatma's disobedience is left open and will be the offset of the second novella in the series.



*They Killed Ahmed
– A Fatma Ozdemir
crime series*

Full manuscript
available
98 Pages, digital A4

World Rights

Short Stories



Robert Perišić

Horror and Huge Expenses

“Robert Perišić’s absurdism is perhaps best appreciated in a moment such as the one we live in, the ordinariness of familial connections cataloged in wartime, between bombardments, a woman running with a wheel of cheese, a father paralyzed by trauma. Everyone, at least on the surface, still intact.”
— Jai Chakrabarti, Author of *A Play for the End of the World*, winner of the Jewish Book Council Debut Fiction Prize

Outside of Croatia, Robert Perišić is best known for his novels, but short stories are what first garnered him recognition, and eventually led him to be considered one of Croatia's most important contemporary voices. *Horror and Huge Expenses* is a career-spanning collection of stories that demonstrate why Perišić's wryly incisive prose, able to hit so many registers, resonates with readers everywhere. From the frontlines of tragic ethnic conflicts to capturing the hilariously absurd realities of globalism, Perišić unapologetically renders failure and loss, so often finding aching beauty in both, by pulling readers into the stray thoughts and moments upon which all of our lives are built, whether we realize it or no



Užas i veliki troškovi

Samizdat 2002

World Rights

Sold to:
USA, Sandorf Passage
Austria, Brot und Spiele
Verlag

Full English text

Ivana Rogar

Dark Mirror

“Dark mirroring in this case is not just a leitmotif that trails from one story to another, but a poetic base – of the facing our own dark reflection, our darkness we carry inside ourselves, which is the thicker the more we avert our gaze from it; it is the dark reflections that thicken in groups, communities and strategies created so as people wouldn’t have to face it, so as to turn it into something else, from family mythologies to national ideologies.” — Dušanka Profeta, Tportal

In her debut collection of short stories *Dark Mirror*, Ivana Rogar focuses upon apparently unimaginable paradoxes and particularities that deeply characterise a human being; upon our relentless belief that we are better than others – which can colossally cave in in the moments of solitude and reflection upon one’s own failures; upon the selective blindness of our perception and unjustified search for the guilty part in others; and often upon that sentiment which is very strong in us – a tendency to dismiss differences and different ones, to ignore other peoples’ problems, to (un)consciously and automatically trample on others.



OT: *Tamno
Ogledalo*

Durieux 2014

World Rights

English saample

◆ Awards

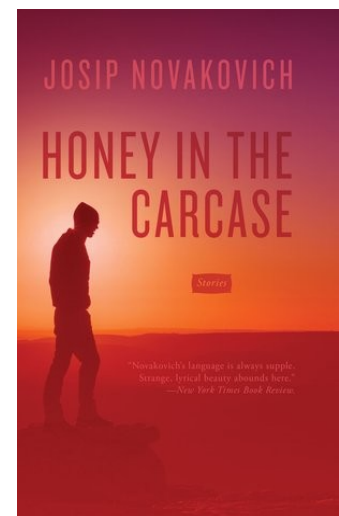
Croatian Ministry of Culture award for one of the best Croatian books published that year

Josip Novakovich

Honey in the Carcase

“A celebrated short story writer, novelist, and essayist who was a finalist for the 2013 Man Booker International Prize . . . [t]hese stories continue his fascination with the dislocation of exile, war’s absurdity, a world without logic in which certain patterns can yet be discerned, while further demonstrating his wit, his talent for the uncanny and absurd, and his fundamental empathy with all living things.” — Courtney Angela Brkic, Los Angeles Review of Books

Both absurd and melancholy, *Honey in the Carcase*, the newest collection from award-winning Josip Novakovich, moves from scenes as familiar as a dinner party to the brutal landscapes of war-torn Southeast Europe. A man tends bees amid the bombed-out husks of his village. A young girl takes revenge for the loss of a precious life. A Yugoslav drifter finds himself at dead ends in the American heartland. A marriage splinters over a suspicious scent. A cat and a dog enact ancient enmity in the midst of a war zone. An old debt is repaid. And a boy and a juvenile hawk seem to be on a similar quest for freedom and adventure, though violence lurks in the wilds just beyond the window.



Honey in the Carcase

DZANC 2019

World Rights

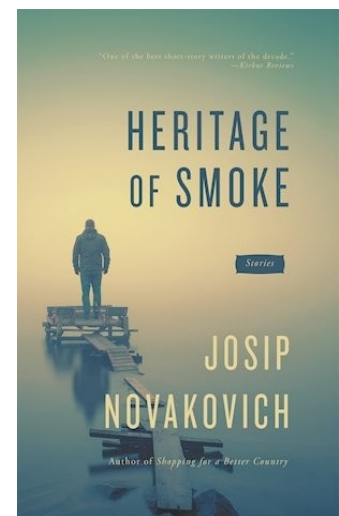
Full English text

Josip Novakovich

Heritage of Smoke

“A host of characters grapple with the legacy of war, religious obsessions, surreal instances of violence, and an enduring guilt. . . . These often haunting stories of violence, faith, and disconnection make for a memorable voyage into a number of unsettled minds.” — Kirkus Reviews

Short story writer, novelist, and essayist Josip Novakovich returns with his first collection of stories since being named a finalist for the 2013 Man Booker International Prize. In *Heritage of Smoke*, he explores the major themes of emigration and culture clash, war and exile, and religiosity and existentialism that have defined his fiction and earned him the American Book Award and Whiting Writer’s Award, as well as praise from Kirkus Reviews as “one of the best short-story writers of the decade.” With dry humor and world-weary wisdom, Novakovich explores the sorrows and absurdities of the wars in Bosnia and Croatia, constructing a bravely intelligent mosaic of what it means to be torn from one’s country and one’s self.



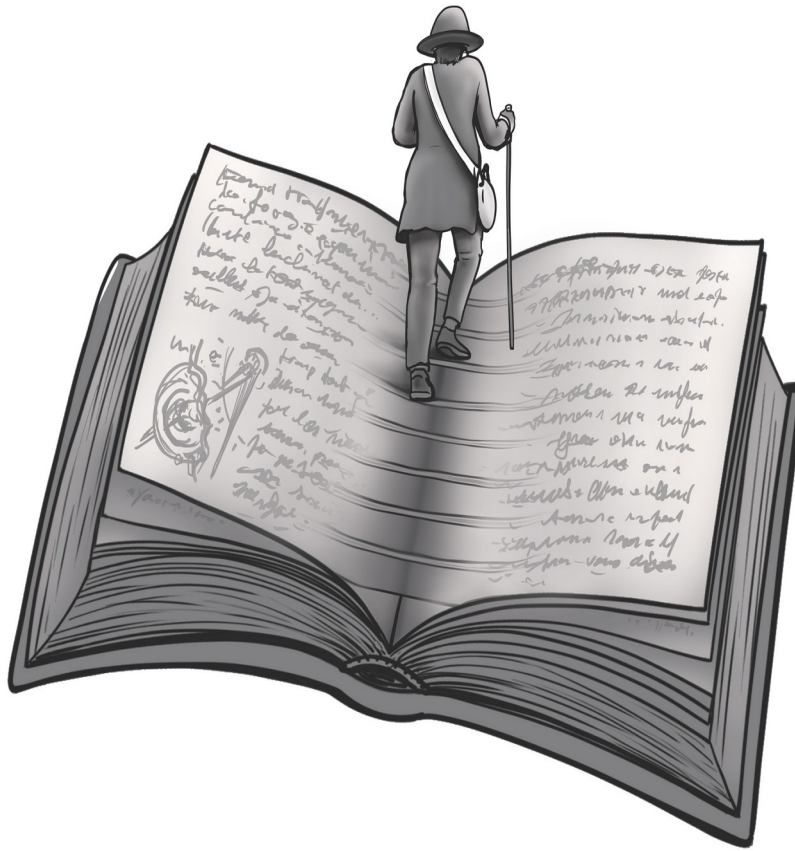
Heritage of Smoke

DZANC 2017

World Rights

Full English text

Non-Fiction



Stefan Selke

Manuscript: Future Euphoria – Towards a Poetry of New Beginnings (Working Title)

Stefan Selke is a professor of transformation research and with the titles *Wunschland* (2022), *Lifelogging* (2014) and *Schamland. Poverty in the Middle of Us* (2013), he has made a name for himself as a critical analyst of current social conditions. The book provides answers to the question of whether our narratives about the future are still up to date. The belief in the controllability of the world and in one's own problem-solving competence is increasingly lacking. Many suffer from the giving up/given up syndrome. But only people who believe euphorically in the future transform demoralizing ideas into positive creative impulses. Against this background, the book consistently pleads for a utopia-driven future by design: departure instead of adaptation. Every crisis has an end. Especially in times characterized by numerous threshold debates, courageous counter-narratives are needed. Therefore, the book is a contribution to a poetry of hope that will be in demand especially in times of crisis.



*Zukunftseuphorie –
Aufbruch statt
Anpassung
(Working Title)*

World Rights

Full English and German
manuscript