

Word of Introduction

Dear friends,

Mlada fronta is one of the largest Czech publishing houses that publishes more than 200 new titles a year. In our production, you can find both literary fiction and international best-sellers, educational and pictorial publications and books for children. Even though more than one half of the books we publish are translated from other languages, in this international catalogue, we are pleased to offer you for publishing several successful titles by Czech writers.

Antonín Kočí
Program Director

COLLECTED WORKS OF ARNOŠT LUSTIG

About the author

ARNOŠT LUSTIG was born in 1926. As a seventeen-year-old boy he went through concentration camps in Theresienstadt, Buchenwald and Auschwitz. In 1945 he escaped from a transport train and joined those who were involved in the Prague uprising. After the war he worked as a **journalist**, in 1968, he emigrated via Yugoslavia to the United States where he **taught film and literature** at the University of Washington. He is the author of dozens of novels and short stories most of which came out first in Škvorecký's '68 Publishers publishing house in Toronto. Lustig also won many literary awards, for his *Lovely Green Eyes*, he **was even nominated for the Pulitzer Prize**. He was repeatedly speculated about in connection with the **Nobel Prize for literature**.

This year, he received the **Franz Kafka Prize**. The Franz Kafka Prize is the first international literary prize in the Czech Republic. Since 2001, this prize has been given for literary works that, irrespective of their authors' nationality, address the society in a similar way to that of Kafka's work. Its historical winners are for example Philip Roth, Elfriede Jelinek and Ivan Klima; last year, it was won by the French poet and essayist, Yves Bonnefoy. Lustig is only the second Czech holder of this prize.

WORK

DITA SAXOVA (Dita Saxová)

Life after the Holocaust

Dita is a Jewish girl living in post-WWII Prague, a survivor of the Holocaust like most of her friends. Music, dancing and cafes help the others to go on living after the horrors of Nazi concentration camps, but Dita can not forget. She has too many questions, such as why is she still alive when so many are dead? Dita dwells on the Holocaust because it defines her life, but her friends think her macabre, and it drives a wedge between them. This is a beautifully-told story about a lovely, sensitive girl deeply affected by personal tragedy.

→



Rights sold: UK (Quartet)

LOVELY GREEN EYES (Krásné zelené oči)

From Publishers Weekly

Prague-born Lustig (*The Bitter Smell of Almonds*) adds this chronicle of a resilient teenage girl to his highly regarded oeuvre of spare and haunting novels rooted in the Holocaust. The “lovely green eyes” of the title belong to 15-year-old Hanka “Skinny” Kaudersova, a shy, ginger-haired girl and the only member of her family to avoid death in Auschwitz. At first a cleaner in a camp hospital lab (where the doctor sterilizes her), she continues to evade extermination by lying about her age and her heritage (passing herself as Aryan) and is requisitioned as a prostitute in the German military field brothels. In a typical workday, Hanka services at least a dozen soldiers, many of whom are distraught and violent. Lustig presents the brothel clients as fully rounded characters, both viciously prejudiced against Jews and kind to the (Czech, they think) girl whose body they use. Constant hunger, freezing temperatures and disease further weaken Skinny’s spirit, but as the war ends, she realizes she must search for her place in a world built on ashes. A rabbi, who is himself drowning in despair, attempts to offer her solace, but she’s unable to shed her shame and guilt. Back in Prague, agonized by nightmarish memories, she settles in with a group of survivors and meets the narrator, whose declaration of love eventually thaws her heart. Lustig’s prose is evocative at the same time it is sparse, even during harrowing scenes of physical and mental cruelty. This is a stunning work, worthy of comparison to those by Elie Wiesel and Primo Levi. In imagining the ordeal of a young girl “who had looked on the devil 12 times a day,” Lustig has created an unforgettable character within whom “remembrance and oblivion contended,” but who still summons the courage to affirm life.

WHITE BIRCHES (Bílé břízy)

The story of soldiers without weapons, so-called PTP troupes, an assistant battalion, people excluded from civic life affected by the class distrust, men of both the morality and immorality of their own. The story of a soldier and a girl because of whom he defects and who, before they leave, sleeps with everyone in the room. The story of a captain of this soldier subordinated to him whom he either catches or shoots, as ordered by the Political Department of the Military District of Karlovy Vary. Previously, the book was not allowed to come out without censorship interventions and now it is getting to the Czech reader in an amended edition.



Rights sold: US (Harvill Press, Arcade Publ.), UK (Random House), Germany (Berlin Verlag), Spain (Galaxie Gutenberg)



Rights sold: China (Youth Press International)

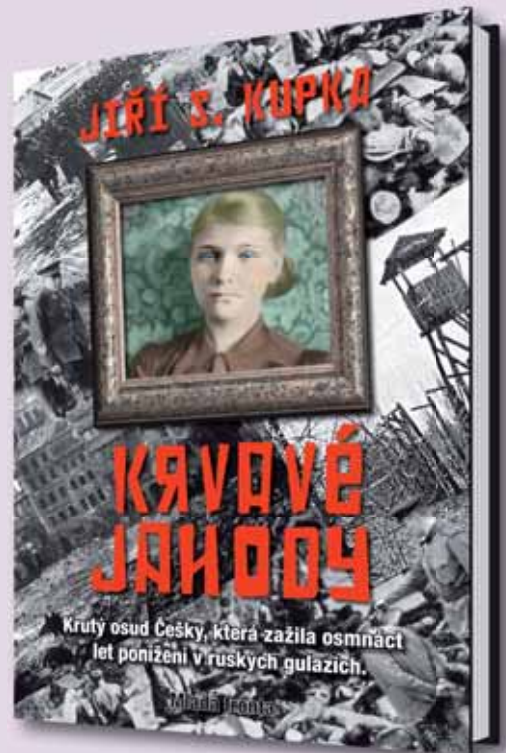
J. S. KUPKA

BLOOD-RED STRAWBERRIES

- An authentic life story of a Czech woman dragged into Soviet gulags
- The basic message of the book – how much humiliation and physical and psychological suffering people are able to endure if they have faith in themselves and a goal to achieve
- Literary prose that reads like a thriller

Real, barely believable fate of Vera Sosnarová, who was, after the World War II, only because of the Russian nationality of her mother, dragged by Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia and spent 19 brutal years in Soviet prisons and gulags. Eventually, she managed to return back to her home country where she integrated into the normal life. An experienced novelist offers a unique testimony of many a “day in the life of Ivan Denisovich”.

Rudeness, cruelty and heartlessness of her captors, in whom killing is the order of the day, are here in contrast with the, initially cautious and unique but still more and more perceptible humanity, mutual help of prisoners and the faith which eventually help one to survive. However, the author’s literary experience is reflected in the composition of the whole narrative which, after all, is coming to a happy end and Kupka, of course, enriched the narrative of the protagonist by the historical context of which the narrator, at the times of her suffering, most likely did not have a clue.



BESTSELLER

J. S. KUPKA

BLOOD-RED STRAWBERRIES
(Krvavé jahody)

2008, 240 pages, 13 × 20 cm
Hardcover

Free copyright

Jiří Svetozar Kupka has received an honorable mention for life-work by the Club of non-fiction authors in 2009.

RUDOLF ČECHURA

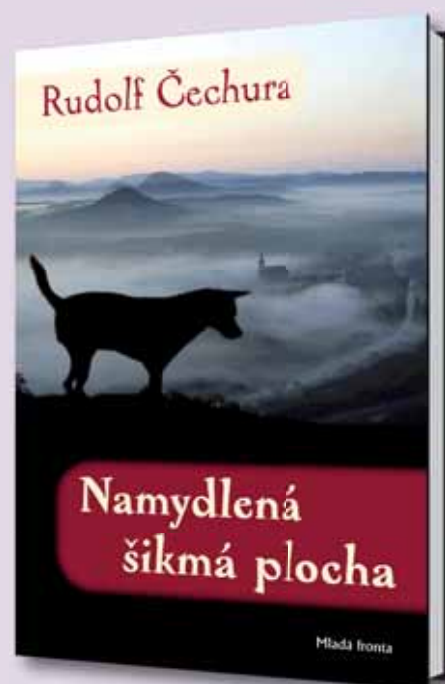
THE THIN EDGE OF THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

- A novel from the post-war city of Most (Sudeten)
- The story of a man cut up by the communist machinery
- By topic: the displacement of Germans, new settlement of the border areas, devastation of Northern Bohemia
- A text by a renowned Czech writer (more than 20 books)

A novel about a time full of joyful hope which also ruthlessly transformed human lives. It covers the first three post-war years in the Czech borderland.

In the city of Most, where the story takes place, peaceful life is slowly returning again after the war that just ended. People who used to live in the borderland and who were forced to leave it before the war, come back into their mostly abandoned houses and flats, the displacement of Germans is being organized, echoes of gunfire can still be occasionally heard from somewhere, future national administrators choose German property – real estate, workshops, plants. Two young friends, Václav and the narrator of their common story, Jan, join the Revolutionary Guards which later transform into the National Security Corps. What does the future hold? They are split by the communist coup in 1948. Václav's career rapidly rises, Jan's fate is indicated by the title of the book.

The book will evoke memories in those who experienced the era, for the others, now the majority, the book becomes an almost documentary image of that epoch-making period.



RUDOLF ČECHURA (text)

**THE THIN EDGE OF THE
SLIPPERY SLOPE**
(Namydlená šikmá plocha)

2009, 224 pages, 13 × 20 cm
Hardcover

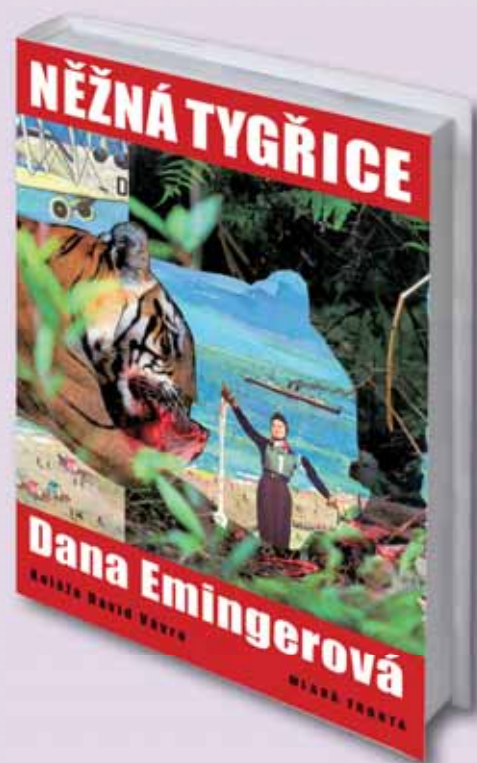
Free copyright

DANA EMINGEROVÁ

A GENTLE TIGRESS

- Humorous stories about co-existence with children
- Nostalgic memories of childhood in the 60s
- Collages of a famous Czech architect and artist

A collection of humorous columns and stories, already the third book by the author. The first part called **A little dead spider** speaks about a family co-existence with three little smart sons, in the education of whom parents must sometimes use their grey matter really well. The second part, **The Cape of Good Hope**, contains humorous and affectionate memories of childhood spent in a small Czech town in the sixties. The author cannot deny years of journalistic experience, has a fresh style, is able to express himself precisely and concisely.



DANA EMINGEROVÁ (text)
DAVID VÁVRA (collages)

A GENTLE TIGRESS
(Něžná tygřice)

2008, 168 pages, 13 × 20 cm
Hardcover, black and white collages

Free copyright

adult fiction

JIŘÍ KLOBOUK

MY LIFE WITH BLONDIE

- A novel from the American milieu
- An overstated narrative of the fate of an immigrant
- The power of dreams vs. reality
- A text by a famous Czech emigrant writer (drama, novels, short stories)

The best psychological novel of the Czech writer living abroad since 1968. The protagonist of the work – a percussionist, a musician, has been living with a split mind since he was young. He perceives reality, that is true, he even got married twice and became a father, he got divorced – but throughout all this time he burns with love for the world-famous singing star as if she were his chosen one.

The novel gives even a surreal impression, dreamlike images increasingly overlap with reality, the tension rises. Especially when the pop singer really is about to come on tour to the town in the US, where her relentless “admirer” lives with his Canadian partner.



JIŘÍ KLOBOUK (text)

MY LIFE WITH BLONDIE
(Můj život s Blondie)

2009, 264 pages, 13 × 20 cm
Hardcover

Free copyright

The text exists already in an English translation

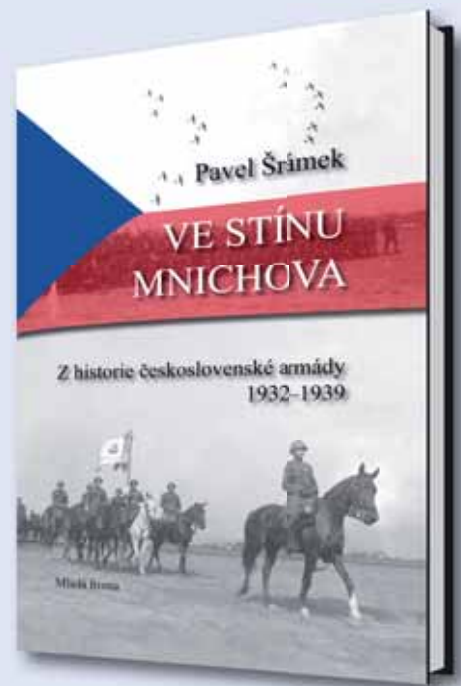
IN THE SHADOW OF MUNICH / HISTORY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY 1932–1939

Contents:

- Development by 1932
- Reorganization of the army (1932)
- Cooperation with allies (1933)
- Politicians' support (1934)
- Construction of fortifications (1935)
- Military manoeuvres (1936)
- Military training (1937)
- Dual line-up (1938)
- Fights over the border (1938)
- Plans and reality (1938)
- Fight for the Republic (1939)
- Soldiers in resistance movement 1939–1945

A new look at the history of the Czechoslovak armed forces.

A book by the leading Czech military historian introduces, on selected topics, the Czechoslovak army in the 30s of the 20th century, starting from preparations of major organizational changes to its demise after the German occupation; however, readers may also find here a description of the development of the Czechoslovak military power in the 20s and during the World War II. The publication offers a new perspective, free of the traditional highlighting of the fatality of the Munich Treaty and recalls some of the less known facts. It is not limited purely to the military sphere but deals also with the position of political leadership of the state and that of the whole of the society on issues of the defence of the country. By its popular focus, the book is designed for the general reading public with an interest in our recent history.



PAVEL ŠRÁMEK

**IN THE SHADOW
OF MUNICH /
HISTORY OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY
1932–1939**
(Ve stínu Mnichova)

2008, 160 pages, 15.5 × 23.5 cm
Black and white photographs
and plans
Hardcover

Free copyright

Pavel Šrámek has received
for this book an honorable
mention for life-work by
the Club of non-fiction authors
in 2009.

21ST CENTURY WEAPONS

From the content:

- Precision-guided weapons
- Crewless vehicles
- Difficult detectability
- Missile defence
- Aviation technology
- Ground technology
- Individual armament and outfit
- Marine technology

The world at the beginning of the third millennium is definitely not the most peaceful one. The end of the Cold War, regional conflicts, terrorism, weak or failing states, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, revolution in military affairs, ambitions of superpowers as well as of countries that would wish to become superpowers... A new wave of armament began that is affecting the entire world. Weapons, or at least the threat of their use, are becoming increasingly common means of promoting interests in a multipolar world. High-tech military technologies, which, until recently, would seem like taken out of sci-fi plots, are becoming part of the armed forces of developed countries. This book will familiarize you with the most advanced weapons of today as well as with arms that are being developed to ensure that military dominance in space, air, on land, on the surface of the oceans and beneath it is maintained even in the future.



LUKÁŠ VISINGR

21ST CENTURY WEAPONS
(Zbraně 21. století)

2009, 128 pages + 28 pages of
pictorial supplements,
22.5 × 22.5 cm
Hardcover

Free copyright



SECRET DEFENCE OF THE IRON CURTAIN CZECHOSLOVAK FORTIFICATIONS 1945–1964

From the content:

- Reactivation of light fortification structures in 1947–1950
- Adaptations of light fortification structures against the effects of WMD
- Reactivation of the permanent heavy fortifications in Bratislava and South Moravia
- Shift towards the Soviet fortification concept
- Advent of prefabrication
- Structure types
- Fortifications' armament
- Equipment in the structures
- Barriers
- Crews
- Czech People's Army's war plans
- Unrealized tests of the effects of nuclear weapons
- Czechoslovak fortifications after 1945 in the context of European fortifications
- Evaluation of Czechoslovak fortifications after 1945 and their current condition

The first history of the post-war fortifications of the Czechoslovak western frontier. A unique book made by a trio of Czech military historians is the first processing of the history of the carefully concealed fortification system of the Czechoslovak western border in the period of 1945–1964 which has, until today, represented an unexplored chapter in our recent history and the Cold War period. Comprehensive and richly illustrated mapping of the reactivation of selected fortification structures built under the First Republic and the follow-up extensive building of field fortifications is accompanied by chapters on armaments and equipment used and on the then war plans of the Czechoslovak People's Army. The authors do not forget to integrate the Czechoslovak fortifications after 1945 into the context of European fortifications and provide information even on its current condition.



BESTSELLER

MARTIN DUBÁNEK,
JAN LAKOSIL,
PAVEL MINAŘÍK

**SECRET DEFENCE OF THE IRON
CURTAIN / CZECHOSLOVAK
FORTIFICATIONS 1945–1964**
(Utajená obrana železné opony)

2008, 216 pages + 32 pages colour
attachments, 20.0 × 25.5 cm
Colour and black and white
photographs, drawings, plans
Hardcover

Free copyright



LOOK, A MAGIC!

- A charming folding picture book about miracles around us
- Modern, fun illustrations
- Simple stories about complex matters
- Invites children to search for pictures as well as to think

This original Czech folding picture book introduces children to simple, yet miraculous phenomena that happen around us every day and we often do not even realize they exist. For example, how comes that a giant tree can grow out of a small seed, a big man from a small one, a yellow chicken from a white egg? What is the power water or soil have? What can the Sun and the Moon do...? All children will surely be pleased by illustrations by a popular artist, Andrea Tachezy.

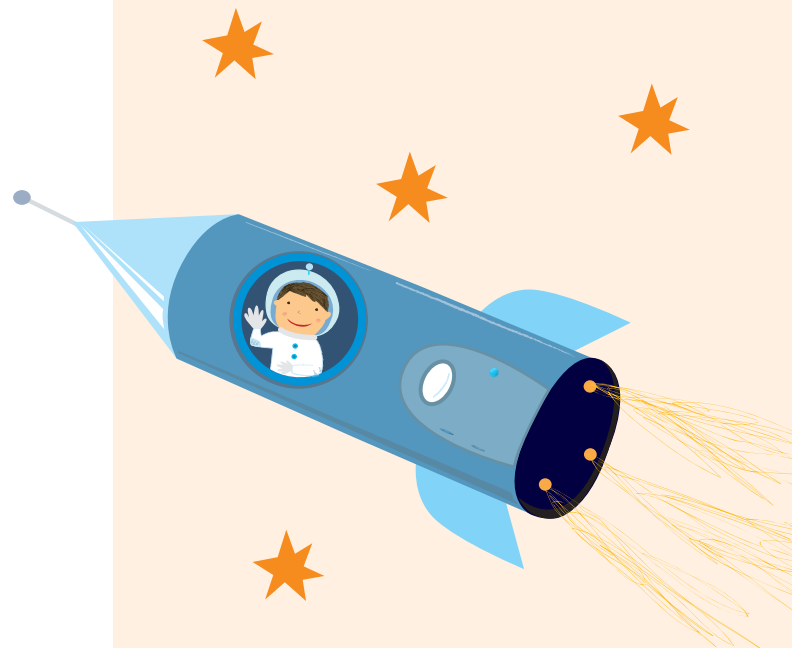


DANIELA KROLUPPEROVÁ
(concept and text)
ANDREA TACHEZY
(illustrations)

LOOK, A MAGIC!
(Koukej, kouzlo!)

2009, 12 pages, 24 × 16 cm
Folding picture book, full-colour
illustrations
For children from 3 years

Free copyright



I AM NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK ANYMORE

- A book written by a famous Czech illustrator
- The topic of fear treated in a short story with beautiful illustrations
- Understandable for young children

A fragile story of little Štěpán (Stephen) and his teddy bear Bartoloměj (Bartholomew) but, above all, about what hides in the dark and what makes everyday things scary and fearsome. About a skeleton which climbs each night through the window to Štěpán's room, about a dangerous octopus, a vampire from a picture or about the darkness which runs out of the wardrobe whenever you open it to an unknown place. Eventually, however, little Štěpán finds out that he does not need to be scared by all that. Why? You'll find out in the book.

About the author:

VHRSTI, a nickname of a young writer, illustrator, comic book illustrator and script writer. In 2003, he first drew attention to himself in the global anti-war comic-strip anthology and received a special award from the jury at the 1st International Shop of Young Comics, in Belgrade. Since then, he has been collecting awards at a variety of comics and cartoons festivals and his illustrations are published both in the Czech Republic and abroad.



VHRSTI (text and illustrations)

I AM NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK ANYMORE
(Už se nebojím tmy)

2006, 56 pages, 21.5 × 21.5 cm
Hardcover, full-colour illustrations
For children from 3 years

Rights sold to: Upper and Lower
Lusatia

This book has received a Young
Reader's Prize.



HOLIDAYS IN HEAVEN

- A loose sequel to the book *I am not Afraid of the Dark Anymore*
- The topic of the death of a loved one treated very sensitively and delicately for young children
- A poetic story with suspense

Little Štěpán, whom we know from the book *I am not Afraid of the Dark Anymore*, is sad, because most of his classmates go to their grandmothers and grandfathers for holidays. His grandparents have already died and he often misses them. However, one night, a long ladder appears miraculously in his room leading up to the sky. There, Štěpán meets his grandfather and grandmother but not only that: he experiences an unusual adventure and gains a new friend whom no-one else has.

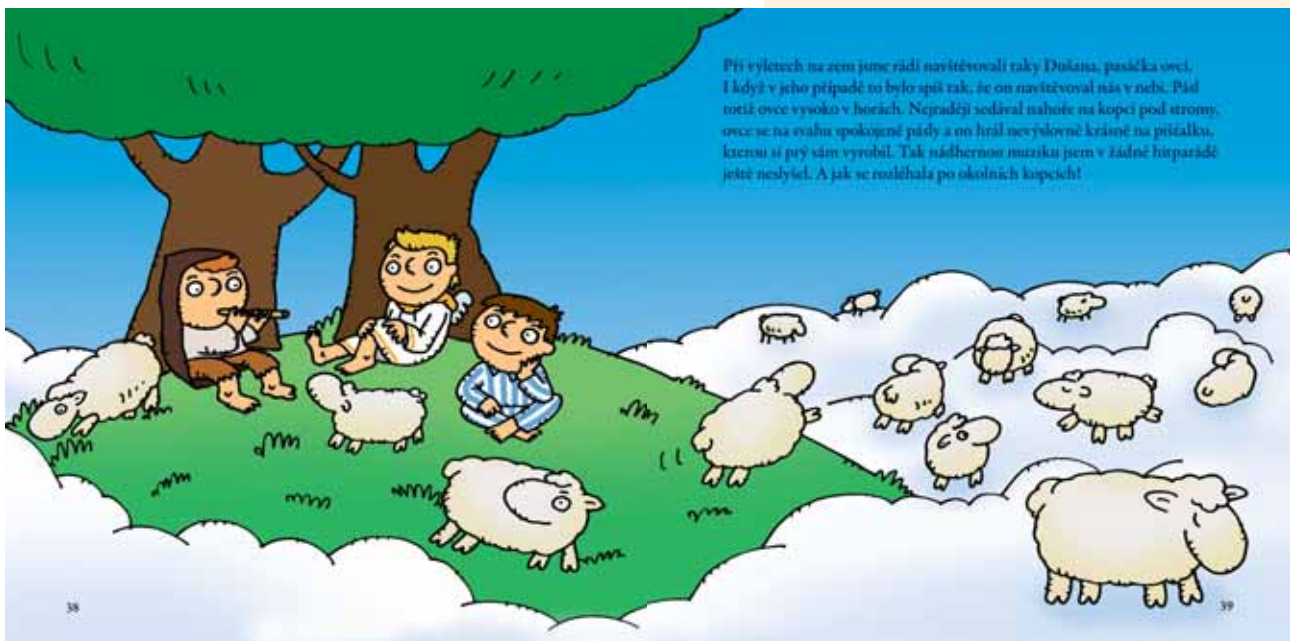


VHRSTI (text and illustrations)

HOLIDAYS IN HEAVEN (Prázdniny v nebi)

2008, 72 pages, 21.5 × 21.5 cm
Hardcover, full-colour illustrations
For children from 3 years

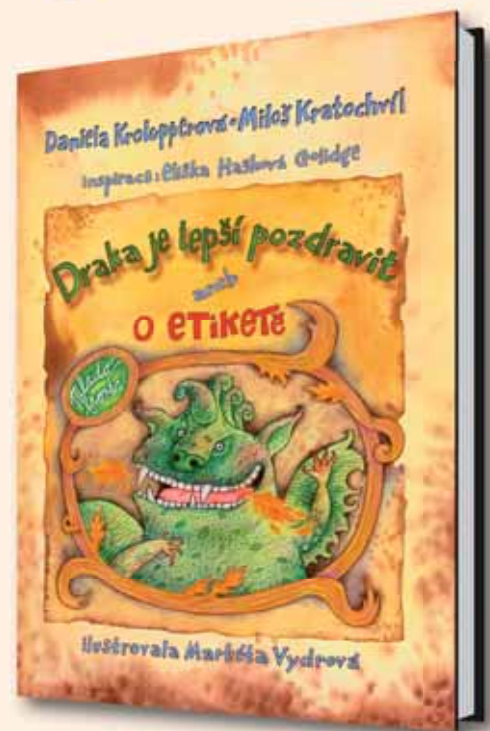
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YOU'D BETTER GREET THE DRAGON OR ETIQUETTE FOR CHILDREN

- Basics of manners for children
- Learning through stories, fairy tales, tasks and verse
- Interactive book not only for children but also for their parents

Manners need to be learnt from an early age. However, in order not to discourage children by dry, abstract rebuke, the authors have decided to teach them etiquette through stories. There is a hidden message in them that one should always politely greet other people, ask for things and say thank you, that one must tidy up when he or she makes a mess, must not destroy things, share with others, that one should not be indifferent to their surroundings. Each story is accompanied by instructions for parents on how to teach their kids good behaviour, and by tips on what such good behaviour actually looks like (for example, at the table). And finally, so that all that is easier to remember, there is a nice little poem to sum it up.



BESTSELLER

DANIELA KROLUPPEROVÁ (text)
MILOŠ KRATOCHVÍL (poems)
ELIŠKA HAŠKOVÁ-COOLIDGE
(preface + expert guarantor
of the book)
MARKÉTA VYDROVÁ (illustrations)

YOU'D BETTER GREET THE DRAGON OR ETIQUETTE FOR CHILDREN

2009, 136 pages, 20.5 × 21 cm
Hardcover, full-colour illustrations
For children from 5 years

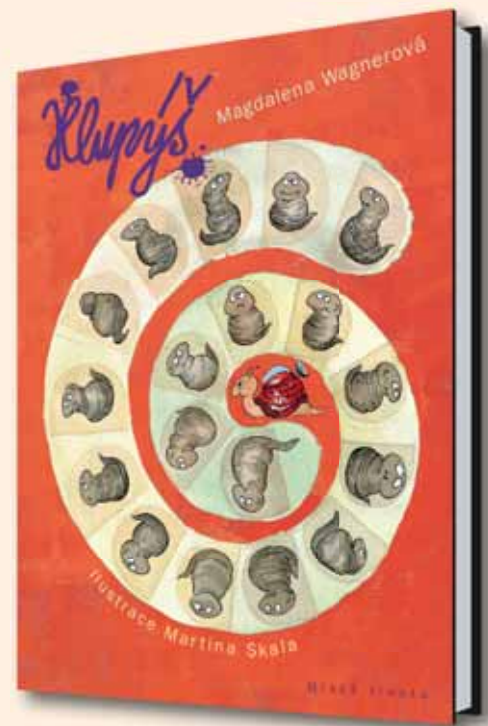
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HLUPYS THE STUPO

- An original, fresh story of a garden slug
- A large dose of lovely humour
- It introduces children to the garden fauna and flora
- Beautiful illustrations

This fairy tale with beautiful illustrations by Martina Skala about a somewhat stupid slug takes place in an ordinary garden from spring to winter. In the garden, all kinds of living creatures live, flowers grow here and vegetables too, there are fruit trees but also a dangerous greenhouse which is not advisable to get near to. One day an argument arises between the local and neighbouring wasps on ripe cherries. The controversy develops into a diplomatic crisis that leads to a vegetable war. And slug Hlupys somehow unwittingly gets into the middle of what is going on. Will it survive all the pitfalls that await him in his journey from one end of the garden to the other?



MAGDALENA WAGNEROVÁ (text)
MARTINA SKALA (illustration)

HLUPYS THE STUPO (Hlupýš)

2008, 128 pages, 19.0 × 25.5 cm
Hardcover, full-colour illustrations
For children from 6 years

Free copyright

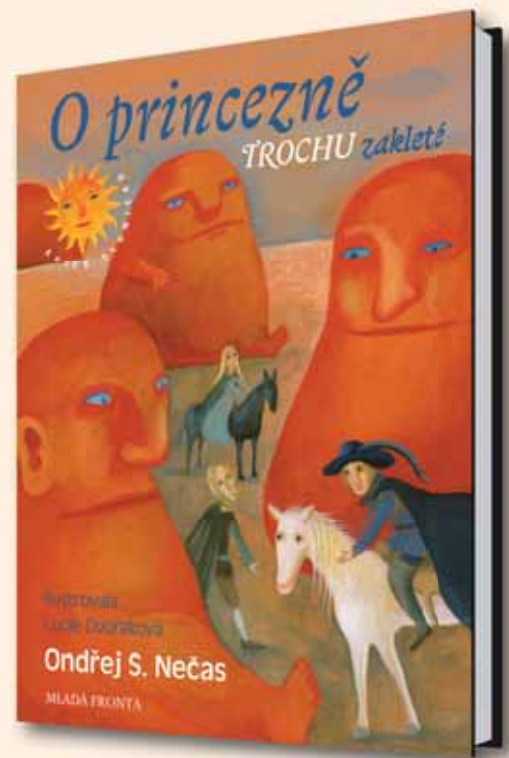


ABOUT A PRINCESS SOMEWHAT ENCHANTED

- Modern "traditional" fairy tale
- Cultured, humorous narrative
- Traditional fairy-tale motifs in combination with modern language
- Beautiful illustrations



Honza, the goats herder, manages to get the witch Divuslava rid of a faulty spell and she in turn helps him get rid of Princess Jasmine's curse. During the journey to the castle of sorcerer Morodaš who, as it seems, is responsible for the curse, Honza trains to be a knight, gets to the realm of underground fairies, meets giants, has to address various tasks and he gains more than just a good friend in the forester's daughter, Bělka.



ONDŘEJ S. NEČAS (text)
LUCIE DVOŘÁKOVÁ (illustrations)

**ABOUT A PRINCESS
SOMEWHAT ENCHANTED**
(O princezně trochu zakleté)

2008, 184 pages, 19.0 × 25.5 cm
Hardcover, full-colour illustrations
For children from 7 years

Free copyright

THREE DOZENS OF FABLES... AND ONE ON TOP

- Classic fables (La Fontaine, Aesop, Krylov) wittily paraphrased for little children
- Modern illustrations by a successful young Czech artist
- A simple text full of humour
- Bringing classics to small children

Who wouldn't know La Fontaine's, Aesop's or Krylov's fables? Originally, these stories were intended primarily for adults which is why they are often less comprehensible to children readers. Arnošt Vít has decided to make them accessible to children and paraphrased selected fables in short, lively and wittily written pieces. Illustrations by a young artist, Dora Dutková, sensitively react to the text and encourage children to active reading.



ARNOŠT VÍT (text)
DORA DUTKOVÁ (illustrations)

**THREE DOZENS OF FABLES...
AND ONE ON TOP**
(Tři tucty bajek... a jedna navrch)

2008, 96 pages, 19.0 × 25.5 cm
Hardcover, full-colour illustrations
For children from 5 years

Free copyright



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