



**Magvető**  
**Publishing**  
Rights Guide  
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## Literature with a Hungarian accent

Magvető Publishing is the most prestigious publisher of literature in Hungary. Six-time winner of the Hungarian Publisher of the Year award, Magvető is proud to be the home of Imre Kertész, the only Hungarian Nobel literature laureate; László Krasznahorkai, winner of the 2015 International Man Booker Prize; and Péter Esterházy, holder of countless international awards. Thus, a young writer who is taken on by Magvető has good reason to feel that they have joined the vanguard of contemporary Hungarian literature.

Apart from Hungarian authors, Magvető brings a selection of the most outstanding works from the elite of international literature to Hungarian readers, among others César Aira, Raymond Carver, Lydia Davis, Gabriel García Márquez, Anna Galvalda, Michel Houellebecq, Daniel Kehlmann, Clarice Lispector, Colum McCann, Cormac McCarthy, Oleg Pavlov, Katja Petrowskaja, Thomas Pynchon, Alain Robbe-Grillet and Ludmila Ulitskaya.

On these pages, we are pleased to introduce you to our most recent books as well as highlights from our backlist.

Anna Dávid  
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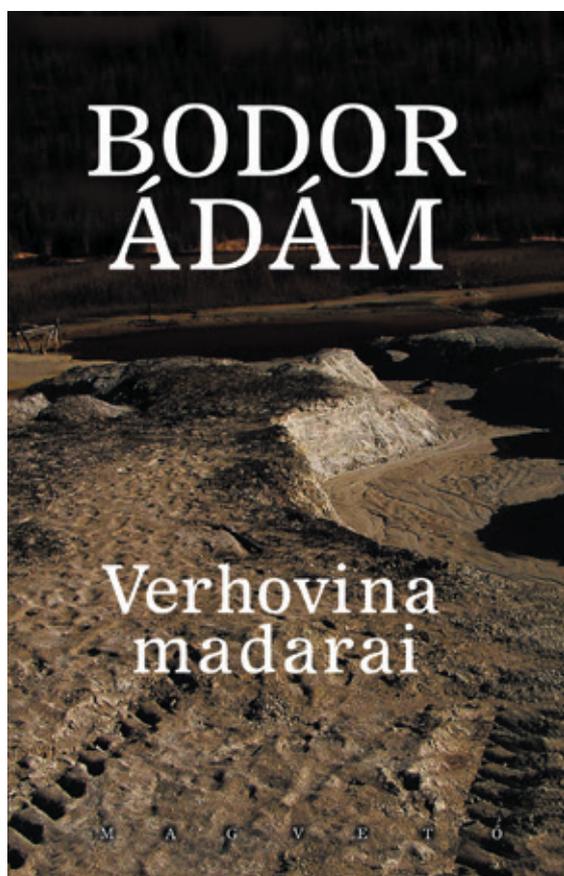
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ÁDÁM BODOR

The Birds of Verhovina

Novel



Home to nine hot springs, Verhovina used to be rich in natural beauty yet it has become a waste land, with only a few dozen inhabitants left. Trains to Verhovina are scarce; the timetable was cancelled. One day, even the birds disappeared from the region. The village has virtually lost contact with the outside world, though it seems to depend on some faceless, invisible power whose arrival always spells mysterious disappearance and violent death.

The reader arrives in Ádám Bodor's world, the periphery of civilization, at the break of dawn. Adam, the foster son of Brigadier Anatol Korkodus is waiting at the dilapidated station for a boy who is arriving from a reformatory school. Soon afterwards, Korkodus is arrested, for unfathomable reasons. As the subtitle says, these stories are 'variations on the last days.' Yet this decaying and sinister world, populated with people bearing fantastic names (Bodor's trademark), is not devoid of a certain joie de vivre: people eat gourmet dishes, point out their interlocutor's hidden motives with incredible acumen, and enjoy the stunning natural beauty. Ádám Bodor's novel is the description of a totalitarian society in all its irrationality, absurdity and implacability—a description that alternately provokes laughter and shuddering in the reader.

*The Birds of Verhovina* is oppressive and cruel without ever being gratuitously so; hilariously funny without being silly; magic and surreal without being gaudy or bombastic.

*"The quality of Ádám Bodor's humour is akin to the hardly perceptible smile of a Buddhist—as it appears on the smeary face of Eastern Europe. And it can turn into the grimace of horror in any given moment." (Viktória Radics)*



#### Ádám Bodor

was born in Kolozsvár (today Cluj, Romania) in 1936. He was convicted as a political criminal at the age of 16, and spent the years 1952–54 in prison. His first book (*The Witness*) was published in 1969 in Romania, while in Hungary his debut piece was a collection of short stories entitled *A High Mountain Pass* (1980). He has been living in Hungary since the early 1980s; for a time, he was editor at Magvető Publishing. In the 1990s he became familiar to the wider reading public after the publication of his novels *Sinistra Zone* (1992), *The Visit of the Archbishop* (1999), the most comprehensive collection of his short stories to date, *Back to the Long-eared Owl* (1997), as well as a confessional, autobiographical piece which was eventually given an interview form (*The Smell of Prison*, 2000). Bodor's books have been published in more than twenty languages. Several of his works were made into films, including Zoltán Kamondi's *Dolina*, based on *The Visit of the Archbishop*.

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English excerpt and complete French and Polish texts available

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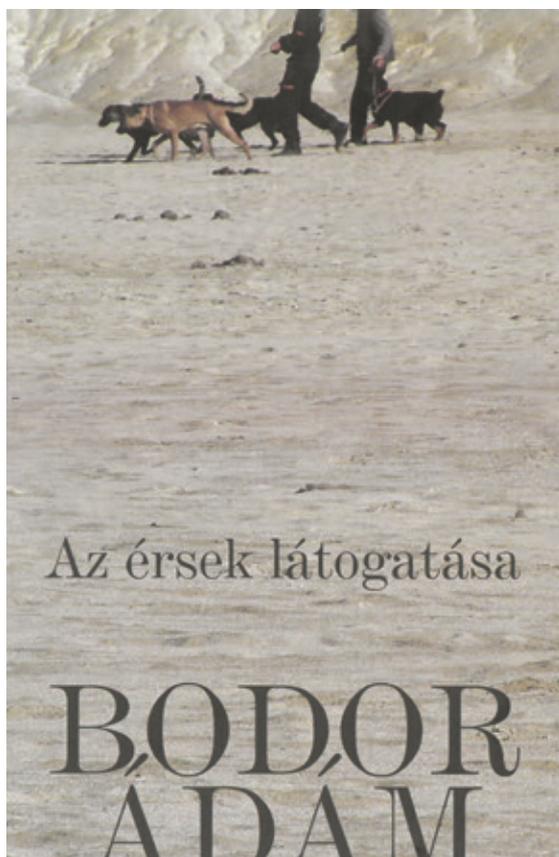
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ÁDÁM BODOR

The Visit of the Archbishop

Novel



Bodor's novel takes place in a village in the Carpathian Mountains. Situated in the centre of Europe, this god-forsaken village is surrounded by piles of garbage that give off a sickening stench. In the middle of the village, there is a penal colony for real and alleged consumptive patients—a reservation within a reservation where acts of senseless cruelty and tender love are committed, reported by the narrator in the same matter-of-fact tone. It seems that the village has recently undergone a change of regime: the feared overlords of Bogdanski Dolina, the mountain riflemen have been replaced by priests—though rumour has it that those are in fact colonels and army officers in disguise. In any case, the locals are now waiting for the visit of the archbishop.

“Bodor's districts are comparable to the Zone in Tar-kovsky's *Stalker*, although they are reservations rather than sacred spots for purification and salvation. By virtue of being isolated, they are places where the primordial aspirations of power are enacted, where human solidarity takes the shape of mutual dependence and where the only adequate response is flight.” (Lajos Jánossy)

*“For me, practically all areas of life were determined by being convicted as a political prisoner and having spent two years in prison. . . I am happy that it happened. To be sure, mine has been the life of a person bearing an existential stigma, but in the background it was charged not with the clinging shadow of frustration but with the richness of the pleasures of life.” (Ádám Bodor)*



**Ádám Bodor**

was born in Kolozsvár (today Cluj, Romania) in 1936. He was convicted as a political criminal at the age of 16, and spent the years 1952–54 in prison. His first book (*The Witness*) was published in 1969 in Romania, while in Hungary his debut piece was a collection of short stories entitled *A High Mountain Pass* (1980). He has been living in Hungary since the early 1980s; for a time, he was editor at Magvető Publishing. In the 1990s he became familiar to the wider reading public after the publication of his novels *Sinistra Zone* (1992), *The Visit of the Archbishop* (1999), the most comprehensive collection of his short stories to date, *Back to the Long-eared Owl* (1997), as well as a confessional, autobiographical piece which was eventually given an interview form (*The Smell of Prison*, 2000). Bodor's books have been published in more than twenty languages. Several of his works were made into films, including Zoltán Kamondi's *Dolina*, based on *The Visit of the Archbishop*.

Product details

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ÁDÁM BODOR

Back to the Long-eared Owl

Short stories



Suppressed passions, ready to erupt like a volcano, humiliation, and quiet hopelessness, written in a dream-like yet precise prose. In Bodor's stories, there are no false tones or superfluous sentences and adjectives. Everything is in place, and mercilessly so. This is a mysterious world, hidden under our threshold, yet all too familiar and real. Bodor's characters and scenes are alive: with a few words or sentences, this author gives a staggeringly authentic picture about almost anything: love, misery, human gestures and inhumanity. This collection of Bodor's stories proves that Bodor is an outstanding figure of contemporary literature.



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**NOÉMI SZÉCSI**

**You Are All the Same**

Novel



A historical novel about the present, Noémi Szécsi's new novel explores some life strategies that women tend to employ in our time. The reader has a chance to take a sneak peek into various venues in contemporary Budapest, from ruin pubs to luxury parties of the cultural élite at a home restaurant in downtown Budapest, with some scenes taking place at the location shooting of a historical film series. Portrayed sarcastically yet empathically, the two main characters are professional women, friends and rivals: Elza, a lawyer who has recently returned from England and now works for a publishing house, and Em, a cultural historian who is working as an advisor to the film shoot. They are both witty and neurotic, trying to tough it out in the turbulent Europe of the 2010s. The novel is dominated by the dialogues and inner monologues of these two women, with some minor characters appearing here and there: family members responsible for various traumas; rivals; lovers, past and present; mentors who foul up their mentees' budding careers; and a heiress who sees ghosts.

Noémi Szécsi's novel offers a trip to Budapest at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: one of the hottest partying cities of Europe, with painful individual stories behind the scenes. Trying to capture the moment when social reality becomes history, and history becomes acutely felt in the present, this book shows that the ghosts haunting us will only become visible when we realize that the characters in our lives—including ourselves—have also become ghosts.

*A story of two women drenched in tears  
and alcohol in 21<sup>st</sup> century Budapest*



**Noémi Szécsi**

is a versatile author who has published two blog books (a journal of an expectant mother and the 'memoir of a baby'), a collection of essays, and a nonfiction book about the private life of ladies in fin-de-siècle Budapest, in addition to her novels: *Finno-Ugrian Vampire* (2002, about a young vampire who does not want to suck blood and has literary ambitions; published also in English, Polish and Italian), *Communist Monte Cristo* (2006, European Union Prize for Literature, 2009), *The Last Centaur* (2009, "snapshots of Budapest's permanent hangover after the change of regime"), *The Restless* (2011, about 19<sup>th</sup> century Hungarian exiles and table-turning), *7 Mandrake Street* (2012, a children's book), and *Mindreader* (2013, a novel about the life of deaf people in the 19<sup>th</sup> century). Szécsi is a recipient of the European Union Prize for Literature (2009) and the Attila József Prize (2011).



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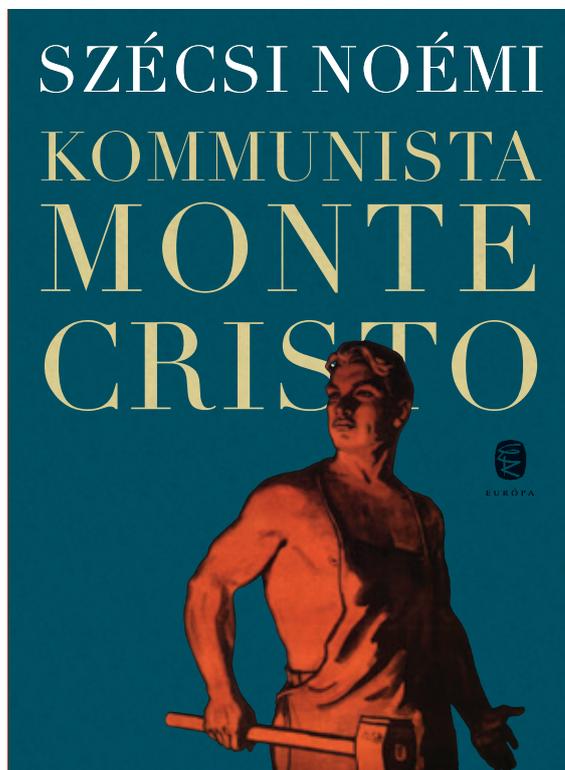
**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 14 3600 6  
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240 pages, 140 × 200 mm  
3999 HUF

NOÉMI SZÉCSI

A Communist Monte Cristo

Novel



In July 1919, Sanyi, the vegetarian butcher and devoted member of the communist party, a handsome guy who has a tattoo on his chest that reads 'Gesamtkunstwerk,' sets off to Vienna on a secret mission, with a suitcase full of gold. While in Vienna, he learns that the revolution had been crushed, and from then on, his activity will be considered illegal. Thus begins Sanyi's tragicomical adventure story, full of blood and false identities, all hilariously told by Noémi Szécsi, professedly a descendant of this latter-day Monte Cristo. Eventually, Sanyi is released from prison and starts a new life, in which he tries to conceal his communist past even from his family.

Sanyi's life story offers an introduction to 20<sup>th</sup> century Hungarian history, and especially to the history of the communist idea. A devoted communist since 1919, Sanyi is a servant and victim of any number of consecutive political regimes.

In a language that makes ample use of the clichés of various ideologies, Noémi Szécsi's historical satire cleverly deconstructs and recomposes elements of the original Monte Cristo story. As opposed to its 19<sup>th</sup> century antecedent, the main motif of Szécsi's novel is the imbecility of politics rather than revenge.



#### Noémi Szécsi

is a versatile author who has published two blog books (a journal of an expectant mother and the 'memoir of a baby'), a collection of essays, and a nonfiction book about the private life of ladies in fin-de-siècle Budapest, in addition to her novels: *Finno-Ugrian Vampire* (2002, about a young vampire who does not want to suck blood and has literary ambitions; published also in English, Polish and Italian), *Communist Monte Cristo* (2006, European Union Prize for Literature, 2009), *The Last Centaur* (2009, "snapshots of Budapest's permanent hangover after the change of regime"), *The Restless* (2011, about 19<sup>th</sup> century Hungarian exiles and table-turning), *7 Mandrake Street* (2012, a children's book), and *Mindreader* (2013, a novel about the life of deaf people in the 19<sup>th</sup> century). Szécsi is a recipient of the European Union Prize for Literature (2009) and the Attila József Prize (2011).

*European Union Prize for Literature, 2009*

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## KRISZTIÁN GRECSÓ

### There's Room for You Beside Me

Novel

*Adapted to the theatre / Theater Brett,  
Vienna, 2014*



A haunting family story of desire and loneliness spanning a hundred years. When the protagonist and narrator of the novel is asked by a local newspaper to write an incident article about an old family photograph, this seemingly harmless task entangles him in a web of mysteries and elusive family mythology. Past and present mingle as tribal secrets and mysteries, stories of adultery, jealousy, homosexuality, friendship and betrayal unravel before the eyes of the reader, and the truth is gradually revealed about a long-forgotten—and long-concealed—family history.—Aegon Award 2012, 10 printings, more than 25,000 copies sold.



#### **Krisztián Grecsó**

was born in 1977 in Szegvár, and lives in Budapest. His unique voice and flair for storytelling has made him one of the most successful Hungarian authors of the mid-generation. His works revolve around the tension between life in Budapest, on the one hand, and in small towns and isolated village communities, on the other. Grecsó has written poems, a theatrical play, screenplays, collections of short stories and five novels, and has won several prizes. [www.grecso.hu](http://www.grecso.hu)

*A hundred years of family history,  
mystery and long-concealed secrets  
unfold from a single photograph and  
an old journal. Can the past redeem  
the present?*

#### Product details

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**KRISZTIÁN GRECSÓ**

**A Masked Ball**

Mosaic pieces of a family novel



Two girls are found dead in a village sometime in the 1960s. The third one is still alive when they find her, but by the time the doctor arrives, the wounded girl has already disappeared. Her boyfriend, a young policeman, stumbles across the truth decades later in Budapest after a strange meeting. From this enigmatic detective story the mosaic of a family novel unfolds.

The characters in *A Masked Ball* set off from the same village, disperse, and meet at certain junctions. The stories are about encounters which reveal forgotten or repressed events, forcing people to take off the masks they have donned since their departure.

*A Masked Ball* is a story that stretches to the current day, about people who live their lives, searching for each other, themselves, or their biological mother. Each chapter of Krisztián Grecsó's new novel provides a snapshot, as if every story was the life of a different member of the family or a neighbour. Their paths crisscross until the dramatic whole takes shape.



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*Ordinary people – extraordinary secrets. A family novel where the reader plays detective.*

**Product details**

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**KRISZTIÁN GRECSÓ**

Following You

Novel



In a dusty village in the Great Hungarian Plain, Daru, nearly a teenager, is fighting for his position as gang leader, for his self-respect and his love—in other words, for his life. As Daru makes his way through the maze of emotional trails, past and future, in every relationship he loses something of himself, and dies a little. This way, he comes of age. Although the wounds and scabs multiply, and his heart becomes thick-skinned, he eventually finds love in a mature relationship. How better to tell someone's life story than through the story of their loves? As we explore Daru's story, we are reminded of our own bitter-sweet moments and years.



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*"I hate to cut off their wings... But if they have wings, they will fly."*

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ZSUZSA RAKOVSKZY

Celia

Novel



Zsuzsa Rakovszky's new novel is an unusual family novel about the lack of family, the lack of meaning, and about patterns transmitted from generation to generation. Decades after the event the narrator of the novel, Adam, a man in his 40s who fails to grow up, learns that his casual acquaintance, Zsani, has a daughter who may be his daughter as well. That is how twenty-year-old Celia enters his life. While he is trying to help Celia as a father, Adam is inevitably faced with his own immaturity. Rakovszky depicts her characters with gentle irony and empathy—Adam, the drifting intellectual who is unable to take responsibility or commit himself to anything or anyone; Zsani, Celia's mother, whose extreme concept of freedom leaves her daughter insecure; Niki, Ádám's beautiful and extremely dumb student whose dream is to get into a reality show; and Celia, who ends up in a religious sect. Written in Rakovszky's signature style, *Celia* is sensitive and lucid, eminently readable, and full of precise snapshots of the society and mediated environment of Hungary in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



#### Zsuzsa Rakovszky

An eminent writer and poet, Rakovszky was born in 1950 in Sopron. She had already been well known as one of the best poets of her generation when she wrote her first novel, *A kígyó árnyéka* (*Shadow of a Serpent*, 2002), a passionate story of a woman set in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which immediately won the Book of the Year Prize. *Shadow of a Serpent* has been translated into German, Dutch, Italian and Bulgarian. This was followed by *A hullócsillag éve* (*Year of the Falling Star*, 2005), taking place in Hungary in the 1950s (translated into Italian); *VS* (2011), a novel about a 19<sup>th</sup> century journalist and poet, a woman who lived her life as a man (translated into French, Turkish, Italian and Bulgarian); and several short story collections. Rakovszky has been awarded a number of prestigious prizes, including the Attila József Prize (1988), the Sándor Márai Prize (2003), the AEGON Prize (2007), and the Kossuth Prize (2010).

*A family novel without a family*

#### Product details

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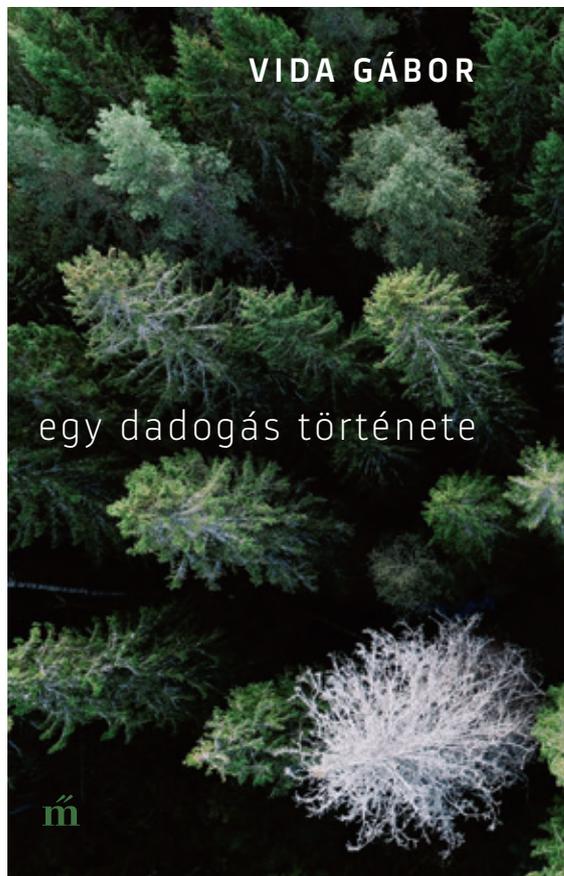
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**GÁBOR VIDA**

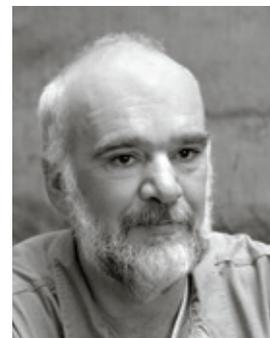
**The Story of a Stammer**

Novel



Described by critics as “the autobiography of Transylvania,” Gábor Vida’s novel tells the story of a Hungarian family in Transylvania at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Sad, bitter and ruthless yet written with gentle humor and empathy, *The Story of a Stammer* describes rural life in the Ceaușescu era, with its oppressive atmosphere, dictatorship and poverty, and the author’s own family, whose main virtue is decency and hard work. Vida writes with compelling honesty, breaking taboos that everyone knows about but no one ever says aloud. He charts the ways in which oppression and exploitation seep into family relationships, making education an abusive process. Particularly chilling are the narrator’s experiences in the eminently oppressive institutions of that society: the boarding school and the army. A chronicle of minority Hungarian life in rural Romania, Vida’s book is also a story of coming to terms with childhood—stammer, loneliness, and an unstimulating environment where religion, alcoholism and suicide are common escape strategies. Although the world he describes is sad and bleak, Vida’s lucid account is immensely enjoyable, and the novel also abounds in beautiful scenes describing the narrator’s love of nature and sport.

“In our family, work, family, studying, peace, love and unity come first. These things all come first. Nothing comes second in our family, not to talk about last, we don’t do things that could be considered as coming last.”



**Gábor Vida**

was born in 1968 in Chișineu-Criș, Romania and studied Hungarian and French in Cluj. He lives in Târgu Mureș, and works as editor of the literary journal *Látó*. This is his fifth book at Magvető.

*The autobiography of Transylvania*

**Product details**

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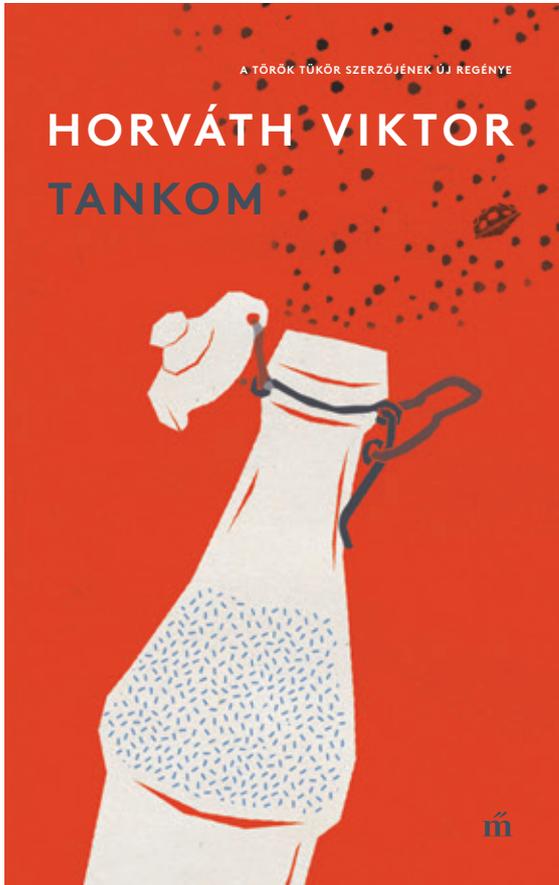
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**VIKTOR HORVÁTH**

**My Tank**

Novel

*A Hungarian novel about the Prague Spring in 1968 – when we stood on the wrong side*



*“If I start a war with my toy soldiers and my toy tanks, can I still be an adult? And if my soldiers and tanks are real?”*

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 14 3603 7  
2017, paperback  
276 pages, 125 × 197 mm  
3499 HUF

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Slovakian, Iron Libri  
Czech, Větrné mlýny  
Polish, Fundacja im.  
Timoteusza Karpowicza

The author of the European Union prize winning novel *Turkish Mirror* has written another historical novel, about a fairly recent event: the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union and its satellite states in 1968. The invasion ended the period of liberalization initiated by Alexander Dubček, known as the Prague Spring. The narrator of Viktor Horváth's novel is an officer in the invading Hungarian army, a half-wit who becomes an active participant in the events as an interpreter of the most prominent politicians. The protagonist is an immature character who admires political leaders and enthusiastically supports Communist dictatorship. He writes love letters to Julika, a Hungarian girl who lives in Czechoslovakia, plays with toy soldiers in the barracks with another officer, allows himself to be cuckolded by a secret agent to whom he faithfully reports everything that he hears as interpreter, and participates wholeheartedly in the aggression.

Yet far from being a bleak story, Viktor Horváth's novel is incredibly funny. Besides the naivety and stupid enthusiasm of the narrator, the main source of fun is the language: the obscenity of army officers, the shiftiness and Communist jargon of politicians and secret agents, and the contrast between chilling events and their naive narration. The novel is interspersed with letters written to Julika, in which the protagonist narrates his life and ideas, asks Julika whether sex has already been introduced in Czechoslovakia under Dubček, and crosses out pieces of information that he suspects are in fact top secret. Other special treats include Villonesque ballads in which various characters, from a boar killed during a hunt—a favourite pastime of Communist leaders—to the lieutenant-general who signs the document authorizing the invasion, burst into song. *My Tank* is a funny book which is, however, based on research about the invasion and the negotiations preceding and leading up to it, and which, through the portrayal of the protagonist, shows how people fail to grow up in dictatorial regimes. Writing about one of the most shameful incidents in Hungary's history of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Viktor Horváth's novel also calls attention to some chilling similarities between the power techniques of the Kádár era and our present time, as well as to the tendency to shift responsibility on others and to follow leaders.

*My Tank* was published as part of the “K4—one book, four countries, four languages” project, a book series which promotes the translation of Central European works into other Central European languages. Each year, a Central European author's work is published in four languages (Czech, Slovak, Polish and Hungarian) simultaneously, on the very same day, in all the four countries.



**Viktor Horváth**

was born in 1962 in Pécs, Hungary. He has worked as art event organizer, journalist, grammar school teacher, and visiting lecturer at the University of Pécs, teaching poetry and translation. He has published two novels, as well as several books of short stories, poetry translations and essays.

**Awards**

European Union Prize for Literature 2012 for his novel *Turkish Mirror* (*Török tükör*, 2009), sold in Croatian, Polish, Italian, Czech, Bulgarian, Serbian, Macedonian and Turkish



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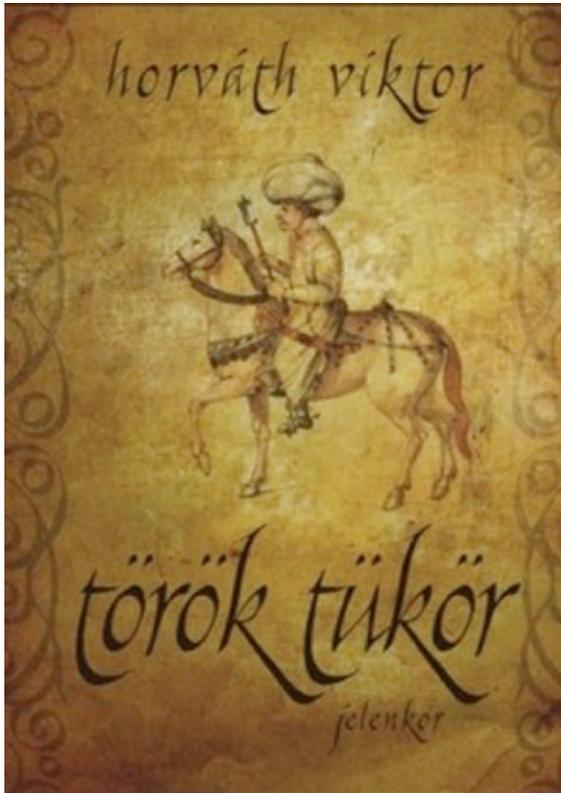
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**VIKTOR HORVÁTH**

**Turkish Mirror**

Novel

*Winner of the European Union Prize for  
Literature 2012*



*Turkish Mirror* takes the reader on an adventurous journey back in time to 16th century Hungary, when the country was still a new suzerainty of the victorious Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent, an unstable borderland situated between two great empires, a colourful cavalcade of calendars, taxation systems, languages, writings and sacred writings; kings and emperors, mighty sultans, Hungarian nobles and Ottoman Beys, merchants, city burghers, village magistrates – and from time to time, even angels and djinns and peculiar flying machines. In the novel, we see the city of Pécs gradually giving way to the world of the *Thousand and One Arabian Nights* where camels walk the streets, apricots and dates hang from the trees in abundance, thieves roam the woods, and the first mosque and Turkish bath are built. Indeed, the great charm of *Turkish Mirror* lies in its uninhibited flair for storytelling, while its ingenuity lies in showing us the world of Hungary through the eyes of the occupying Ottoman Turks, which is thus presented as a complex, puzzling multinational land froth with danger and ruled by complex power relations as opposed to the Padishah's civilized and refined empire. Thanks to this surprising point of view, the reader suddenly finds himself on a terrain where everything that was familiar is now foreign and exotic. (Judith Sollosy)



**Viktor Horváth**

was born in 1962 in Pécs, Hungary. He has worked as art event organizer, journalist, grammar school teacher, and visiting lecturer at the University of Pécs, teaching poetry and translation. He has published two novels, as well as several books of short stories, poetry translations and essays.

“For the author, Pécs is the place of multiculturalism, a notion often evoked in a shallow and deprecating manner. People of the same faith but of different nations, people of the same language but coming from different parts of the world, people of different fates are struggling to survive in the same earthly confinement.”  
(József Tamás Reményi, *Népszabadság*)

*“You can have no idea, my heir to the true faith, what this prosperous city was like when I was a boy, so listen, for I am now going to tell you.”*

**Product details**

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Jelenkor, Pécs, 2009, hard cover

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Macedonian, Goten

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Czech, Vetrne Mlyny

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**VIKTOR HORVÁTH**

**Moebion**

Novel



Having found salvation, Satan returns to Heaven. We see the world of humankind through his eyes. In this philosophical horror story with a splash of sci-fi and computer games, the priest-king of the Empire of External Power suspects that something terrible has happened to him, but cannot remember what it was. Everything points to the Empire's very existence being under threat. An inquiry is set up to find out what has happened, while the reader has the creeping impression that the Empire of External Power is Hell, and its high priest is Satan—making him the protagonist and the narrator of the novel. It transpires that the high priest has gone under cover to the territory of his arch-enemy, the Empire of Internal Power, to give up the battle against salvation, and put an end to the ravings of his ego, unbalanced as it is by constant rebellion. A variation of an ancient myth, the story has a futuristic setting, and is speckled with adventure, battles, and love, but encapsulates a theological problem whose ultimate stake is Humankind. The title Moebion comes from the strip named after its inventor, Professor Möbius, and refers to infinity.



**Viktor Horváth**

was born in 1962 in Pécs, Hungary. He has worked as art event organizer, journalist, grammar school teacher, and visiting lecturer at the University of Pécs, teaching poetry and translation. He has published two novels, as well as several books of short stories, poetry translations and essays.

**Awards**

European Union Prize for Literature 2012 for his novel *Turkish Mirror* (*Török tükör*, 2009), sold in Croatian, Polish, Italian, Czech, Bulgarian, Serbian, Macedonian and Turkish

*Satan finds salvation, and returns to Heaven*

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1430 78 3

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166 pages, 235x280 mm

4990 HUF



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LÁSZLÓ POTOZKY

Products of Combustion

Novel

*A new revolution in Eastern Europe?  
What if...?*



*Products of Combustion* takes place in 2017, in the unnamed capital city of an unnamed Eastern European country at the time of a revolution. The events and the actors are uncannily real: a government that is gradually becoming authoritarian; paralytic opposition politicians on the left; violent ones on the far right; and young people who spend their days arguing about politics, going to demonstrations, and are increasingly radicalized. The narrator is a 28-year-old man, a loner and a drifter, who meets Nikka, a student who is fervently involved in politics, and drags her new boyfriend first to demonstrations, then to clashes escalating after a number of young people die in a fire at a rock concert (an event based on the Colectiv nightclub fire in Bucharest, 2015). The revolution that ensues is modelled on the Euromaidan protest movement in 2014 in Kiev. While the fanatically liberal Nikka fights against oppressive power, oppressively trying to mold her boyfriend's character, the narrator becomes a fighter in a far-right paramilitary troop. Other characters include the narrator's brother, a policeman who finds himself on the opposite side of the barricade as his brother; a young intellectual who is transformed into a power-hungry marionette as soon as he rises to power; and an Israeli ex-soldier who leads the neo-Nazi rebels' brigade.



#### László Potozky

was born in Csíkszereda (today Miercurea Ciuc, Romania), and currently lives in Budapest. He went to university in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) and Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş), studying communication, journalism, and drama writing. Since 2009 he has published prose pieces in quality literary journals, and two volumes of short stories.

#### Awards

Focus Medical Short Story Competition 2<sup>nd</sup> prize 2014  
Tibor Bálint Award 2012  
Narraton Short Story Competition Prize 2013  
EMIA Debut Award 2011  
György Méhes Debut Award 2011  
Gyula Szabó Memorial Award 2010  
Pál Békés Award 2015

*"...but you shouldn't forget, even in this hugely ecstatic moment, that this is the part of Europe where there never was and never can be freedom except to the extent that it is allowed by the free ones."*

#### Product details

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LÁSZLÓ POTOZKY

Sharp

Novel



A novel that defines a generation, strong in tone, and drenched in blood. The narrator is a young man, a university student in present-day Transylvania who maps out for us his life and his personal psychology. The only thing he can latch onto is pain, and the tiger stripes he scores into his own thighs with nail scissors. His girlfriend is a student too, and for some time now she has been making money from prostitution—not for fun, or out of curiosity, but out of genuine necessity, so she can pay for her lodgings and studies. Where exactly they slip up, where they slide from being penniless students into actual crime, how they clamber out of it, and what happens next—these are the questions answered, or deliberately left open, by László Potozky.



#### László Potozky

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György Méhes Debut Award 2011  
Gyula Szabó Memorial Award 2010  
Pál Békés Award 2015

*The best analgesic is pain itself*

*Twenty-somethings in Transylvania today – to stay or to leave?*

#### Product details

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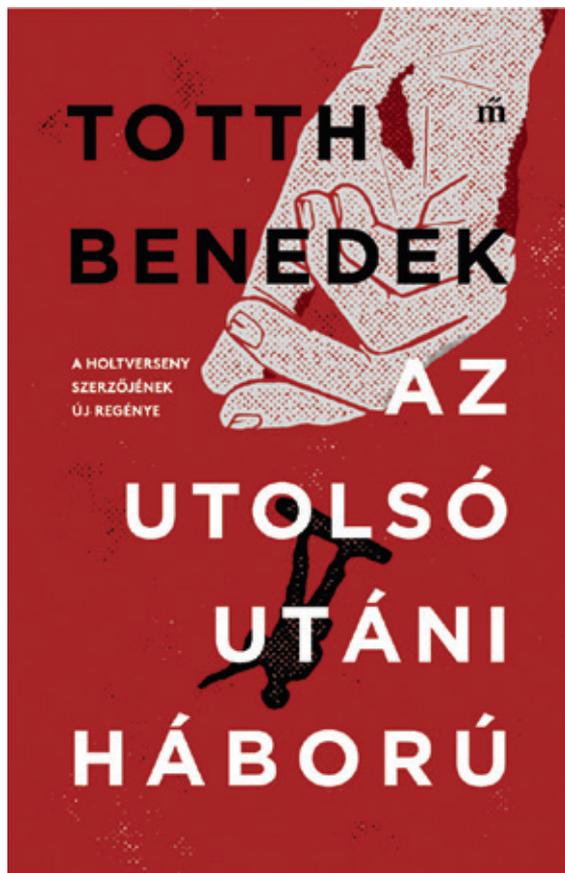
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**BENEDEK TOTTH**

**The War After the War to End All Wars**

Novel



Benedek Tóth's new novel is a post-apocalyptic adventure story about a young boy who sets off with a wounded American paratrooper to find his younger brother who may or may not be dead. The unnamed narrator of the story is hiding with his friends in a shelter in a city that had been bombed to ruin in a war between Russian partisans and American commandos. Life in that city is an endless series of brutal suffering, torture and death, until the boy meets a wounded American paratrooper. In that world, there are no allies, only enemies, yet when bombs start to fall again, the boy realizes that he has a chance to survive only if he hooks up with the American soldier. So he decides to save him.

Will they manage to get out of the city? What is awaiting them outside the borders? What will keep them alive when everything has been destroyed?

Benedek Tóth's new book is likely to become as successful as his first, *Dead Heat*, which became a true-blooded cult novel and was awarded the Margó Prize in 2015. *The War After the War to End All Wars* is a coming-of-age story, a war adventure story, and the vision about total war of a generation brought up in peacetime.



**Benedek Tóth**

was born in 1977 in Kaposvár. His first book, *Dead Heat*, became a cult novel, and has been translated into several languages.

**Awards**

Margó Award 2015 for Best First Book of Prose of the past year  
Visegrad Fund Fellowship in Bratislava 2015

*"The dead are not interested in the living."*

**Product details**

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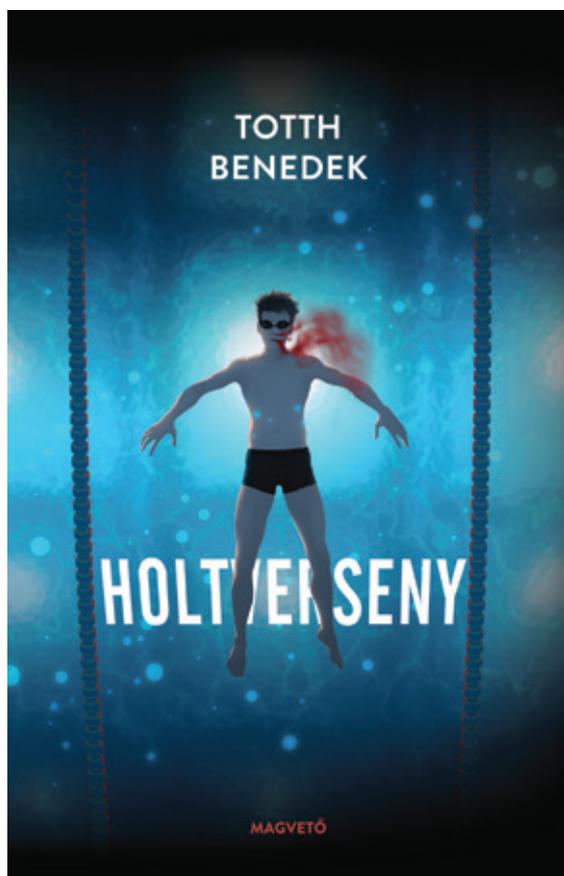
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**BENEDEK TOTTH**

**Dead Heat**

Novel



On a deserted bypass somewhere in the Hungarian countryside a sports car full of teenagers races through the pitch black night. A threatening enough start for a novel, yet even so, what follows is unexpected. Neither the readers nor the characters can expect the kid-glove treatment from Benedek Totth in this, his first novel. Elements of the teenage novel, the detective story, the psychological thriller, and the Bildungsroman mingle in this strange text, which is oppressive (yet at times humorous), and cruel (though not for the sake of it). If anyone recognizes today's Hungary, with its more or less abandoned teenagers, loitering mostly unhappily, sometimes sad but more usually angry—then they've got the picture. Yet this is less a social critique than a highly personal confrontation with the teenager we all once were, or might have been, in this dismal place (no country for old men), where even wild boars are not what they seem.



**Benedek Totth**

was born in 1977 in Kaposvár.

**Awards**

Margó Award 2015 for Best First Book of Prose of the past year  
Visegrad Fund Fellowship in Bratislava 2015

*"Trainspotting in the swimming pool.  
A whack in the face that'll leave you  
reeling from the shock."  
(György Dragomán)*

*Winner of the Margó Award 2015 for  
Best First Book of Prose*

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ÁRPÁD KUN

Hope to See You Home Again

Novel



A family of four sets out to cross Europe in an old Suzuki. They are leaving Hungary to find home in the 'happy north.' Similarly to Karl Ove Knausgaard's *My Struggle*, the narrator of Árpád Kun's new book shares the author's name and personal history, yet this is not an autobiography but a true-blooded novel. In an era of displacement and migration, here is a novel which documents the emigration of a young Hungarian couple to Norway. As the family is making the decision to leave, the protagonist starts to travel back in time, to his childhood, his university years and his attempts to land a job in Budapest, Brussels and Bordeaux. A fascinating guidebook about finding our own path without ceasing to love our ancestors, *Hope to See You Home Again* is also a novel about young people in Hungary at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



**Árpád Kun**

was born in 1965 in Sopron, near the Western border of Hungary. Since 2006 he has been living in Norway with his wife and four children. He works in a village as a home care aide for the elderly. He has written four volumes of poetry and two novels.

*The story of a young Hungarian couple's emigration to Norway*

Product details

ISBN 978 963 1434 14 9

2016, hard cover with jacket

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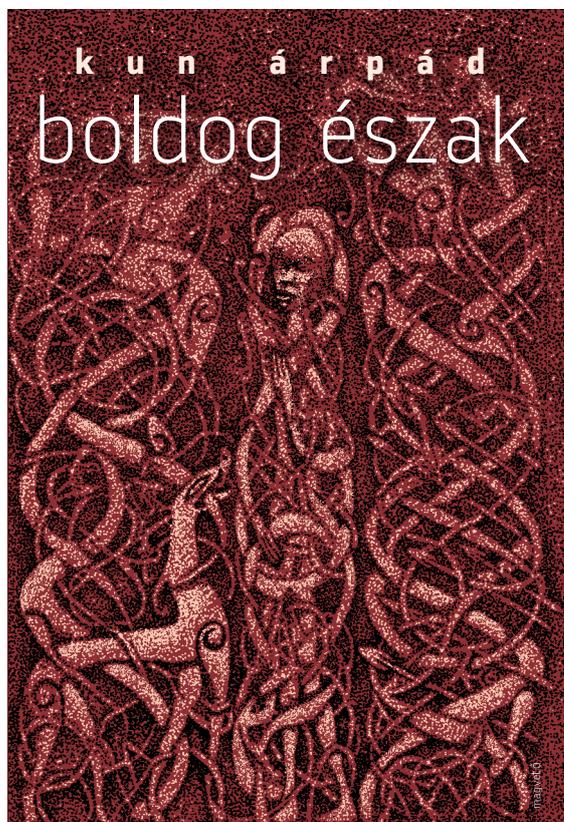
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ÁRPÁD KUN

Happy North

Novel



The hero of this novel, Aimé Billion, is a real outsider who feels as a stranger not only in Africa or Europe, but even in his own body. Of Yoruba, Vietnamese and French descent, he is considered a white man by Africans, and an African by white people. Aimé spends the first thirty-eight years of his life in Benin, where he works as a nursing assistant. He then moves to Norway, a country where even neighbours are strangers to each other. Yet it is there that he finds happiness in an extraordinary love relationship. From traditional voodoo practices to the intricacies of life in the most affluent welfare society, Aimé charts everything with the same affability and curiosity. *Happy North* is a novel in which magic realism meets 'plain' realism to bring strange worlds to the reader and make them heart-achingly familiar.



**Árpád Kun**

was born in 1965 in Sopron, near the Western border of Hungary. Since 2006 he has been living in Norway with his wife and four children. He works in a village as a home care aide for the elderly. He has written four volumes of poetry and two novels.

*A beautiful tale on being a stranger  
and finding a home*

*Winner of the Aegon Award 2014  
for outstanding literary achievement*

**Product details**

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440 pages, 140x215 mm

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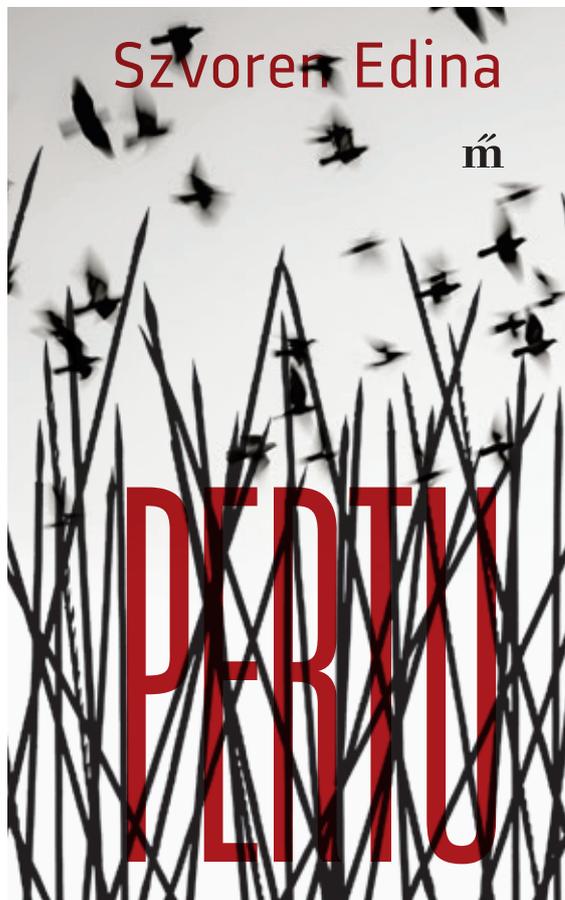
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**EDINA SZVOREN**

**On Intimate Terms**

Short stories

*European Union Prize for Literature 2015  
for her second book of short stories*



Praised as one of the most important Hungarian books of the last decades, *On Intimate Terms* is the first volume by Edina Szvoren, the most compelling short story writer in Hungary today. These powerful and weird stories chart human relations with rare sensitivity. Szvoren maps out the themes of family traumas, the bleak holidays of childhood, the lack of a father, and loneliness in her own peculiar way.

Each sentence by Szvoren creates a world that is unmistakably hers. She writes about bodies, distances and alienation. Yet we read about souls, closeness and identity. This is what Szvoren's great and authentic performance consists in. Her language is not unadorned yet it is lean. Her narrative optic changes perspectives from one moment to another. Extreme long shots turn into extreme closeups, to use film terminology.

Edina Szvoren's prose is tragic and glorious in all its simplicity and ordinariness. In this narrative world both the setting and the characters are locked up; their every utterance and every move is determined. In her best sentences Edina Szvoren seems to make a physiological-mental X-ray image of her characters. She sees through their saturated emptiness. We cannot call this narrative attitude indifferent—this is a compassion that knows no mercy.

The great critic and editor Pál Réz has remarked about Szvoren's talent that she "pays attention most of all to the humiliated and the insulted (whether it is herself or someone else). Szvoren, however, goes one step beyond the religion of compassion of the great Russians: she almost transforms human solidarity into eroticism... This is very original and very beautiful." In spite of (or with) all their repulsiveness, bodies start to attract each other.

Edina Szvoren's smothered, austere yet emotionally rich stories remind the reader of the taste of a bitter tablet, chewed rather than swallowed whole.

*She writes about bodies, distances and alienation. Yet we read about souls, closeness and identity.*



**Edina Szvoren**

was born in 1974 in Budapest. She teaches music theory and solfeggio. She has been publishing short stories since 2005.  
<http://szvoredina.ewk.hu/>

**Awards**

European Union Prize for Literature 2015 for her collection of short stories *There Is None, Nor Let There Be* (Nincs, és ne is legyen, 2012)  
Tibor Déry Award 2010  
Sándor Bródy Award 2011  
Attila József Award 2013  
Artisjus Award 2013

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Tel.: (+36) 30 291 4324

**EDINA SZVOREN**

**The Best Headsman in the Land**

Short stories

*On the shortlist of the Aegon Award 2016,  
for outstanding literary achievement*



Is one supposed to be overjoyed if the best executioner in the country moves in next door? How does a mother feel if she is only allowed to meet her child for breastfeeding—a child who lives with the blind father? Is life with a tailor's dummy preferable to life with flesh-and-blood people? Reading Edina Szvoren's latest stories about inadequate relationships, absurd secrets, unspeakable pain and intense longing, the reader is overcome simultaneously by dread, sympathy, and surprise. Hopelessly at odds with our parents and children, longing to be with, or away from, our partners, we still somehow manage to get on in the world. We are foreigners in our own stories, yet this is where we have to set up home. Will we ever get used to all this actually fitting together? Edina Szvoren's stories show the claustrophobic familiarity of our relationships, with sparks of a dark humour and hints of the absurd.



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was born in 1974 in Budapest. She teaches music theory and solfeggio. She has been publishing short stories since 2005. <http://szvoredina.ewk.hu/>

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Tibor Déry Award 2010  
Sándor Bródy Award 2011  
Attila József Award 2013  
Artisjus Award 2013

*These are human gestures; this is not hell*

*European Union Prize for Literature 2015 for  
her second book of short stories*

**Product details**

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**DÉNES KRUSOVSZKY**

**The Land of Boys**

Nine tales about the male condition



One of Hungary's best young poets, Dénes Krusovszky has written a remarkable collection of short stories. From Budapest to Prague and New York, his male characters struggle with their past, their masculinity, their fatherhood or their wasted talent. As these boys and men grow into their roles and make decisions with more or less success, they often grapple with their inability to articulate what is happening to them. In these well-crafted and intellectually stimulating pieces, Krusovszky examines human problems with nuance and sensitivity, be it family breakdowns, the dynamics of romantic relationships or the difficulties of reconciling artistic ambitions with bourgeois life.



**Dénes Krusovszky**

was born in Debrecen in 1982. He is a poet, critic, editor and translator, co-founder and editor-in-chief of *Versum*, a forum of international poetry ([versumonline.hu](http://versumonline.hu)). <http://krusovszky.hu/>

**Awards**

Attila József Award 2012  
Artisjus Award 2010  
Junior Prima Award 2008

*"...possibly the most important author of his generation."* Népszabadság

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**ANNA SZABÓ T.**

**Crash Test**

Short stories

*Three reprints in six months*



The characters in these stories are men and women who live here and now, among us. In Anna Szabó T.'s condensed, highly charged prose, characters give monologues—and sometimes engage in dialogues—that capture moments in which the essence of a life or of a relationship comes to light. The elevator man in a hospital is seen as Charon, the Ferryman of the Dead; a tired working mother sleeps through a bank robbery; disillusioned with flesh-and-blood relationships, people opt for silicon companions. In her first prose volume, eminent poet Anna Szabó T. writes mercilessly yet at the same time empathically about the loneliness and the heart-rending cold war of couples, about resignation, secret desires and people's struggle for external and inner beauty, with some hope glimmering here and there.



**Anna Szabó T.**

was born in 1972 in Kolozsvár (Cluj Napoca), and moved to Hungary with her family in 1987. She is a writer, poet, and translator (her translations include works by William Shakespeare, James Joyce, Sylvia Plath, W. B. Yeats, John Updike, Stuart Parker, and Clive Wilmer). She has published many volumes of poetry and children's books. She lives in Budaörs with her husband György Dragomán and their two sons.  
szabotanna.com

**Main Awards**

Translator of the Year for Children's Books 2012  
Akademie der Künste Berlin—Junge Akademie Fellowship 2006  
Vackor Award 2003  
Attila József Award 2002  
Tibor Déry Award 2000  
Sándor Petőfi Award 1996

*How much can a relationship take?  
Can you possess someone without  
breaking them? A body is fragile.  
A body is strong.*

*"Yesterday was the first day for six years  
when I felt that I wanted something.  
But if wanting something is like this,  
then I prefer not to as it feels like being  
split, from my throat to between my  
legs."*

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**RÓBERT MILBACHER**

**The Betrothed of the Virgin Mary**

Novel



In a village somewhere in Hungary, a place where everything that can happen to a human being does in fact happen, Józsika Bizdó, the eccentric of the village notes down everything that he sees or hears around him into a checked notebook. These stories reveal how gossip, taboo, superstition and the religious beliefs of a village community demonstrate the workings of trauma, amnesia and collective memory. Buoyant, dirty and funny, Milbacher's prose creates a world not unlike the Macondo of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, a model of human communities.



**Róbert Milbacher**

was born in 1971 and lives in a small village close to Pécs. He is a literary historian and lecturer at the University of Pécs. This is his first book at Magvető.

*Winner of the Margó Award 2016  
for Best First Book of Prose*

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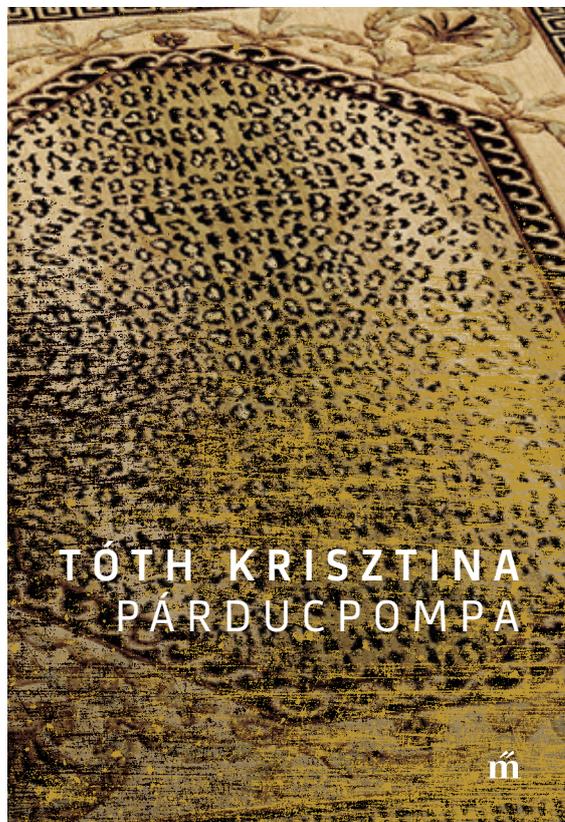
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KRISZTINA TÓTH

**Panther's Pomp**

Short stories



The forty-odd stories in Krisztina Tóth's new volume all take place in Hungary today, with ordinary Hungarians, some fortunate, others less so, as characters. In her signature style—acute observation and precise description—Tóth illuminates nooks and crannies that we don't usually get to look into. Her stories tell tales of poverty, illness, migration, the presence of the powers-that-be in human relations, the distressing fact of the lack of solidarity and graceful moments of solidarity. *Panther's Pomp* is a collection of poignant scenes and stories that will hopefully contribute to making its readers better human beings.



**Krisztina Tóth**

is one of Hungary's most highly acclaimed poets and writers. She has won a great number of awards, and her poetry, as well as her short stories have been translated into many languages. She lives in Budapest where, apart from writing, she leads seminars on creative writing. She is a noted translator of, among others, literary fiction, children's literature and song lyrics from French. [www.tothkrisztina.hu](http://www.tothkrisztina.hu)

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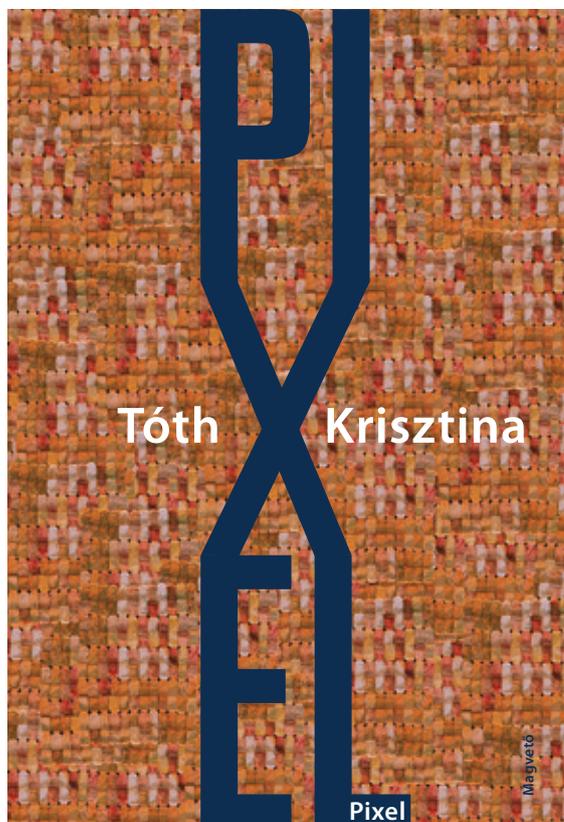
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KRISZTINA TÓTH

Pixel

A novel in short stories



In her highly anticipated second book of short stories after the successful *Barcode (Vonalkód, 2006)*, Krisztina Tóth goes further and further in exploring the invisible threads that connect relatives and strangers alike, determining our lives in dramatic, comic or tragic ways without us being aware of it. Each one of the thirty chapters can be read as an individual short story, telling tales of love, loss, failed attempts at communication or self-determination, in a snapshot that reveals a decisive moment in someone's life when his or her destiny is forever changed—or the moment when it is decided that it is never, ever going to change...



**Krisztina Tóth**

is one of Hungary's most highly acclaimed poets and writers. She has won a great number of awards, and her poetry, as well as her short stories have been translated into many languages. She lives in Budapest where, apart from writing, she leads seminars on creative writing. She is a noted translator of, among others, literary fiction, children's literature and song lyrics from French. [www.tothkrisztina.hu](http://www.tothkrisztina.hu)

*The invisible threads that connect relatives and strangers*

**Product details**

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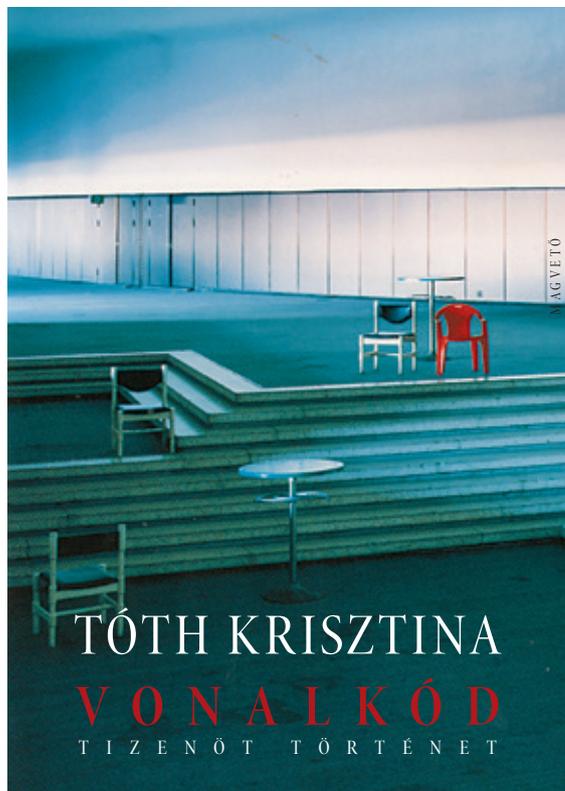
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## KRISZTINA TÓTH

### Barcode

Short stories



This is the first work in prose from a remarkable poet. It contains fifteen short stories, each having a subtitle containing the expression line/bar. The narrator of the stories is either a young girl or a young woman, depending on the reader's interpretation of each story, and some may see her as the same person all the way through. However, every action is seen from a woman's point of view: childhood acquaintances, school camps, love, children, deceit, and journeys set against the backdrop of the 'socialist' era towards its close.



### Krisztina Tóth

is one of Hungary's most highly acclaimed poets and writers. She has won a great number of awards, and her poetry, as well as her short stories have been translated into many languages. She lives in Budapest where, apart from writing, she leads seminars on creative writing. She is a noted translator of, among others, literary fiction, children's literature and song lyrics from French. [www.tothkrisztina.hu](http://www.tothkrisztina.hu)

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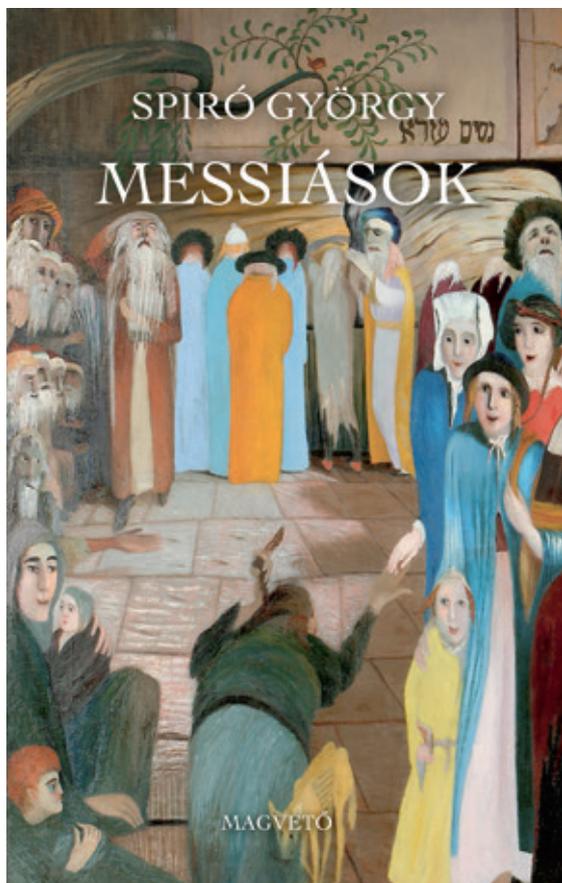
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**GYÖRGY SPIRÓ**

**Messiahs**

Novel

*Angelus Prize (Poland)  
for Best Eastern European novel, 2010*



The characters in this novel, taking place in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, are all historical figures. They include the greatest Polish poets, Mickiewicz and Słowacki, who founded a strange sect in Paris, together with a few dozens of their compatriots. These Polish emigrants believed that Andrzej Towiański, a Pole who arrived in Paris from the Russian Empire, is none other but Jesus Christ incarnate, who came down to the earth again in order to write the Newest Testament with his own life, and facilitate a new Redemption, led by the Polish people.

The novel, which narrates the rise and fall of the sect, has two protagonists: one is the prophetic poet, Adam Mickiewicz, the other is a certain Gerson Ram, son of a Jewish printer who rebels against his father and his religion, and becomes a follower of Towiański in Vilna (then a Polish city occupied by the Russians). Towiański's sect was at the same time an archaic and a very modern organization, the origins of which can be traced back to centuries of European (German and French) mysticism, and which also anticipated 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century ideas. It is not by chance that some Italian members of the sects joined the Fascist movement. Towiański himself lived to a very old age, and his followers supported him financially until his death.

Starting with the defeat of the Polish uprising, the story follows the Polish refugees through German states to Paris. We spend some time in Rome and Jerusalem, then take part in the Paris revolution of 1848, following Mickiewicz's legion to Italy, and ending our journey in the company of Poles and Russians in Istanbul, in 1855.

*Messiahs* has had several Hungarian editions, and its Polish translation received the prestigious Angelus Prize in Wrocław, awarded to the best Eastern European novel of the year in 2010.

*"What happens if we mix  
Dostoyevsky with Sterne?  
A tragicomedy about the Towiański  
sect by a Hungarian author."  
(Juliusz Kurkiewicz)*

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**György Spiró**

was born in 1946 in Budapest. He is one of Hungary's leading contemporary authors, a writer, dramatist, and eminent translator and scholar of Polish literature. Spiró is one of the most frequently played contemporary playwrights of Hungary. His novel *Captivity* (2005) was the literary sensation of the year, earning the author the Aegon Prize for best book of the year. Spiró's works have been translated into English, Czech, Finnish, Hebrew, Polish, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Turkish. His prizes include the Attila József Prize (1982), the Déry Prize (1993), the Madách Prize (1994), the Ernő Szép Prize (1997, 2004), the Milán Füst Prize (2005), the Kossuth Prize (2006), the Aegon Prize (2006), the Angelus Prize (2012), the Artisjus Prize (2012), the Perla Honorowa Prize (2013), and the prize for Best Hungarian Drama of the Year (2015).



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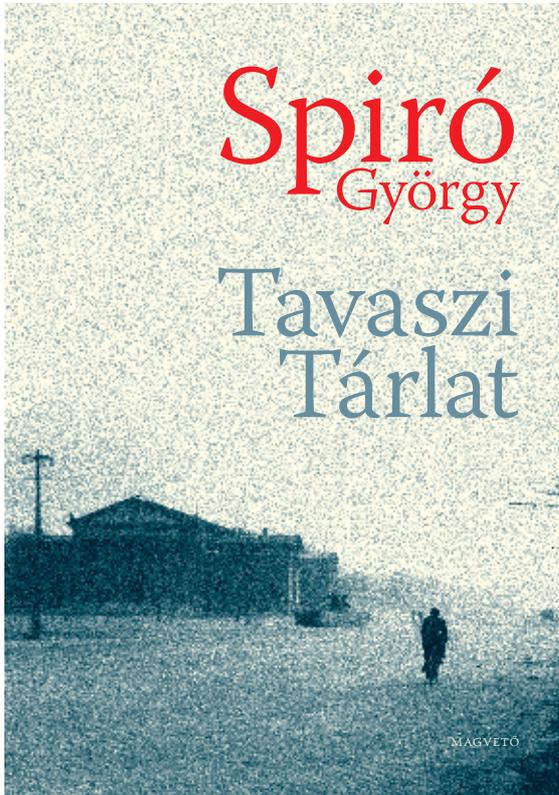
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**GYÖRGY SPIRÓ**

**Spring Collection**

Novel



*Spring Collection* by one of Hungary's most renowned authors, György Spiró, is a Kafkaesque novel about an ordinary man in the Hungary of the 1950s, a 'good communist', an idealist who believes in the Party, suddenly finding himself the target of ridiculous accusations which nonetheless and gradually almost ruin his whole life in this era of dictatorship. Spiró's genius consists in translating the essence of a dictatorial regime into a perfectly normal, everyday story. The reader, together with the Everyman protagonist of the novel, spirals helplessly deeper and deeper downwards, drawn in by the uncompassionate, relentless entity that is the dictatorial regime of the 1950s in Hungary. Together with the protagonist, we experience, even if we do not necessarily understand the absurd logic of, the mechanisms of absolute power. It is a frightening representation of how utterly incidental absolute power can be in crushing the individual, without even noticing it.



**György Spiró**

was born in 1946 in Budapest. He is one of Hungary's leading contemporary authors, a writer, dramatist, and eminent translator and scholar of Polish literature. Spiró is one of the most frequently played contemporary playwrights of Hungary. His novel *Captivity* (2005) was the literary sensation of the year, earning the author the Aegon Prize for best book of the year. Spiró's works have been translated into English, Czech, Finnish, Hebrew, Polish, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Turkish. His prizes include the Attila József Prize (1982), the Déry Prize (1993), the Madách Prize (1994), the Ernő Szép Prize (1997, 2004), the Milán Füst Prize (2005), the Kossuth Prize (2006), the Aegon Prize (2006), the Angelus Prize (2012), the Artisjus Prize (2012), the Perla Honorowa Prize (2013), and the prize for Best Hungarian Drama of the Year (2015).

*A Kafkaesque novel on absolute power and the individual*

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**GYÖRGY SPIRÓ**

**Wife Contest**

Novel



*Wife Contest* is a funny, scathing socio-political satire. The novel purports to be a biography of the future Queen of Hungary, from her early childhood to her eventual elevation as the winner of a nation-wide TV show called 'Wife Contest'. While the book takes place in a near-future Hungary, it is definitely a read for non-Hungarians as well, as it describes general maladies that beset the early 21<sup>st</sup> century: declining standards of education, focus on entertainment, extremism in politics, lingering ethnic violence—issues that apply to a great many societies.



**György Spiró**

was born in 1946 in Budapest. He is one of Hungary's leading contemporary authors, a writer, dramatist, and eminent translator and scholar of Polish literature. Spiró is one of the most frequently played contemporary playwrights of Hungary. His novel *Captivity* (2005) was the literary sensation of the year, earning the author the Aegon Prize for best book of the year. Spiró's works have been translated into English, Czech, Finnish, Hebrew, Polish, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Turkish. His prizes include the Attila József Prize (1982), the Déry Prize (1993), the Madách Prize (1994), the Ernő Szép Prize (1997, 2004), the Milán Füst Prize (2005), the Kossuth Prize (2006), the Aegon Prize (2006), the Angelus Prize (2012), the Artisjus Prize (2012), the Perla Honorowa Prize (2013), and the prize for Best Hungarian Drama of the Year (2015).



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**IMRE ORAVECZ**

**The Ditch of Ondrok**

Novel



In this story of three generations in a Hungarian village, Oravecz records the history of the disintegration of rural culture. In the author's native Szajla, a village that has gained almost mythic proportions thanks to Oravecz, we follow the Árvai family, from a grandfather who had fought in the War of Independence against the Habsburgs in 1848 to a grandson who becomes 'unfaithful to the land' and leaves the country in hope of a better fortune. A lost world comes alive as Oravecz depicts the life of peasants in stunning detail—everyday life and festivities, birth and death, love and loneliness, as well as the dilemma of staying or leaving.



**Imre Oravecz**

was born in Szajla, a village in north-eastern Hungary in 1943. Oravecz is a major poet and writer. He has been awarded a number of prestigious prizes, including the Kossuth Prize (2003), the Artisjus Prize (2008), the Prima (2015) and the Aegon Prize (2016). Oravecz started publishing poetry in 1962. From the 1960s until the regime change, he defected from communist Hungary to Western Europe and to the US several times. Since 1995, he has been a lecturer at the Péter Pázmány Catholic University, teaching German literature and Native American culture. His two novels published by Magvető are the first two parts of a trilogy about the disintegration of the Hungarian village. The third part is forthcoming in 2018.

*"Oravecz records the history of the disintegration of rural culture as though he was retelling the myth of Atlantis." (Lajos Jánossy)*

**Product details**

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**IMRE ORAVECZ**

**California Quail**

Novel



Around the turn of the century, masses of poor Hungarians set off to America with the hope of making a fortune in the New World. István Árvai, his wife and two children are among them. They leave Hungary with the intention to make some money, then return and buy some land. However, the world they had left behind will be lost forever, ravaged by World War I and the Treaty of Trianon which left Hungary with roughly one-third of its pre-war territory and two-thirds of its population. Thus, István Árvai and his family (like Oravecz's grandparents) eventually decide not to return to their homeland.

Imre Oravecz spent years in the US in the 1970s, travelling back and forth between the US and Hungary, before eventually returning to settle in his native village, Szajla. He did extensive research about the life of Hungarian communities of workers on oil rigs in Toledo, Ohio and Southern California to produce this page-turner of a novel which narrates the life of these unsung people, hovering between homesickness and the desire to make a new home in the New World.



**Imre Oravecz**

was born in Szajla, a village in north-eastern Hungary in 1943. Oravecz is a major poet and writer. He has been awarded a number of prestigious prizes, including the Kossuth Prize (2003), the Artisjus Prize (2008), the Prima (2015) and the Aegon Prize (2016). Oravecz started publishing poetry in 1962. From the 1960s until the regime change, he defected from communist Hungary to Western Europe and to the US several times. Since 1995, he has been a lecturer at the Péter Pázmány Catholic University, teaching German literature and Native American culture. His two novels published by Magvető are the first two parts of a trilogy about the disintegration of the Hungarian village. The third part is forthcoming in 2018.

*Hungarian emigrants in America  
in the 1910s*

**Product details**

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**NOÉMI KISS**

**Mother of Twins**

Novel



What does it mean to give birth, and how does it feel to be born? This exquisite book by Noémi Kiss is subtitled 'foetal prose.' A rhythmic succession of narratives, monologues, notes and meditations describes the whole process of birth, from artificial insemination to labour, ending with the first birthday of the twins. Some of the stories are told from the perspective of the mother, others from that of the twins. Birth is present in this book as a physiological reality and spiritual miracle, with its various stages of hoping, pain and helplessness, and the hard-earned moments when mother and child manage to find a common language. As a result of a cosmic yet banal process, 'I' and 'you' merge into 'we.' Confronting a number of taboos about pregnancy and child-rearing, the book of Noémi Kiss is liberating reading.



**Noémi Kiss**

was born in 1974. She is a writer, critic and literary scholar.

*"Mother of Twins describes the happy and liberating yet at times harrowing months of pregnancy and the first year after the birth of the children with extraordinary power and lyricism."  
(Orsolya Kolozsi, Könyvesblog)*

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**NOÉMI KISS**

**Tattered Jewel-box**

Travelogue



The inclination to travel: to set off to faraway lands, to leave behind the familiar world, one's home—only to look for what is familiar in the place that attracted us precisely because of its strangeness and otherness. Rather than visiting glamorous cities, Noémi Kiss visits the peripheries of Eastern Europe: Bukovina, Backa and Galicia. As she is open-minded enough to allow for otherness, she returns from her trips with more than just herself. Her Eastern Europe is sensitive, diverse, full of contradictions and enduring. It is her attention that sets off the historical lustre of shabby places, opening larger vistas than the present state of dilapidation and scarcity. And it is her openness that makes us believe that Ukraine is home not only to the most beautiful and the ugliest woman in the world but the middle of the world as well.

“She is sufficiently disrespectful, a free soul but never arrogant—not the one to know more than the other person or the story that a village or a hill has to tell. She neither judges nor ‘surveys’ from above—instead of poising on any sort of intellectual pinnacle, she is up to her neck in the whirl of it all... Although thoroughly intellectual, she is not inclined to intellectualizing, while her remarks are intelligent and witty. This is an original spirit, sometimes piqued, often funny, always intelligent and feminine, ready to blush, ready to pale.” (Viktória Radics, Magyar Narancs)



**Noémi Kiss**

was born in 1974. She is a writer, critic and literary scholar.

**Product details**

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184 pages, 123x184 mm

2490 HUF

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German, Europa Verlag

English excerpts available

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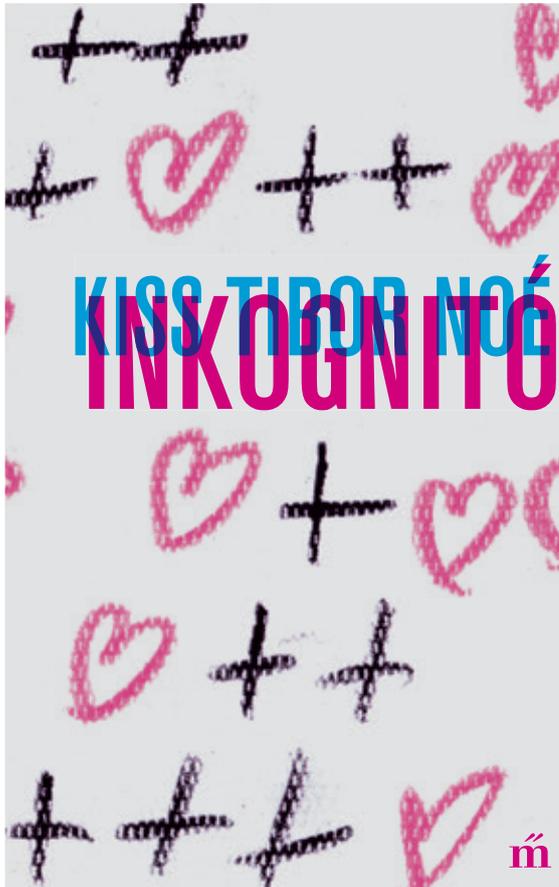
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TIBOR NOÉ KISS

Incognito

Novel

*Besides being the story of a brave coming out in 1990s Hungary, Incognito is a remarkable debut of a promising writer, a novel which traces the inner development of an individual.*



*Incognito* is a gripping account of how a young boy, a keen soccer-player who lives in the outskirts of Budapest discovers the stranger—the Other—in his own personality and body. The novel tells the story of how Tibor finds his alter ego, Noémi, in himself, and how he manages to accept, and make people around him accept, this newly-found identity. Besides being the story of a brave coming out in 1990s Hungary, *Incognito* is a remarkable debut of a promising writer, a novel which traces the inner development of an individual. Tibor Noé Kiss has found a melancholy rhythm, a sensitive and gentle yet powerful prose, and an original perspective to match his topic, the growth of a young man, and the woman in him.

While *Incognito* is specifically about the life of a transgender person in society, his interactions and sexuality, the temptation of suicide, the desire to be known and loved, and the painful awareness of the impossibility of it, it is also an account of the pain and solitude of our human condition, which happens to be concentrated here in the protagonist's gender insecurity.



**Tibor Noé Kiss**

was born in 1976 in Budapest and lives in Pécs. Before studying sociology, he was a footballer. His first novel *Incognito* was published in 2010.

<http://kisstibornoe.blogspot.hu/>

**Award**

Pál Békés Award 2014

*"I'm a transvestite, there's nothing special about this. That is what I should answer when they ask me, but they don't ask me even though they would love to ask me, and I would love to answer, too... I want to make it clear. I'm a transvestite, but not in that sense. There is nothing special about this. I'm a transvestite, but not that kind."*

*"I think nobody has ever crossed that pedestrian bridge in a woman's suit. Only me. That's what I call a unique experience."*

**Product details**

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**TIBOR NOÉ KISS**

**Get Some Sleep**

Novel



The stories in this volume take place at a dilapidated poultry farm which has seen better days. Some people still linger there, their personalities slowly vanishing, like a haematoma. Living from day to day, between a forgotten past and a blind present, these characters do not even appear on the map. Does anything ever happen to them? Yes, and quite a lot, at that. The narrator of these stories scans and illuminates this desolate land like a subtle, invisible drone. From the mosaic pieces of *Get Some Sleep* a novel of stasis takes shape, which describes the desperate patterns of passive, vegetative beings with merciless clarity and an occasional taste of melancholy.



**Tibor Noé Kiss**

was born in 1976 in Budapest and lives in Pécs. Before studying sociology, he was a footballer. His first novel *Incognito* was published in 2010.  
<http://kisstibornoe.blogspot.hu/>

Award

Pál Békés Award 2014

*"Pink knickers on the ground. On the knickers, teddy-bears, bunnies and fawns are sleeping. The knickers fell out of a sports bag. She won't be coming back for them."*

*Pál Békés Award 2014*

**Product details**

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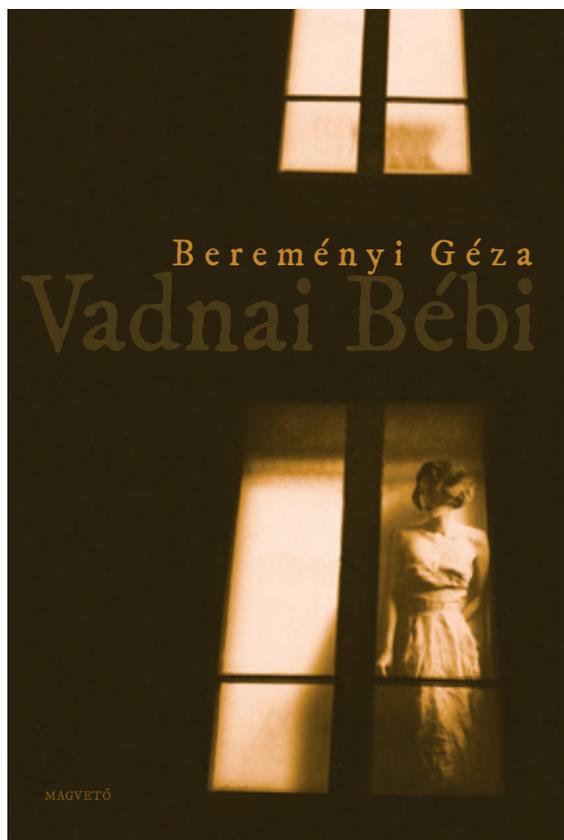
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**GÉZA BEREMÉNYI**

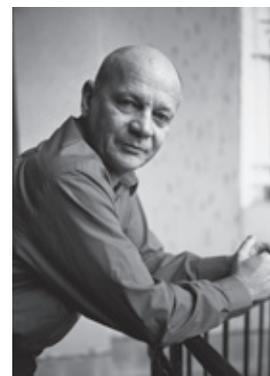
**Baby Vadnai**

Novel



This novel is an extraordinary story about an unforgettable woman—a story that took place in the Budapest of the 1940s, full of glamour as well as mortal dangers. In chapters alternating between the past and the present—the grey, boring and eventless Budapest of the 1970s—the author tells the story of Baby Vadnai, a beautiful, rich and fashionable young woman, and the investigations of Dobrovich, a budding writer and member of a ‘tribe’ of young intellectuals in Communist Hungary. Dobrovich and a friend, Doxa, the legendary loiterer, madman and visionary of the ‘tribe,’ suspect they might be brothers, and Dobrovich starts to make investigations about their father. A story of passionate love and hate unfolds, with the milieu of Budapest in the 1940s—the siege of Budapest, the persecution of Jews and the glittering social life of the high classes—in the background.

*Baby Vadnai* is a historical novel in which both wartime and Communist Budapest are powerfully evoked. Not many writers are better placed to describe the atmosphere of the 1970s than Géza Bereményi, author of the lyrics of Tamás Cseh, the signature singer of that era. The hopeless boredom of the 1970s when any action seemed pointless is contrasted to the remarkable story of Baby Vadnai and his admirers and lovers—a story which speaks with demonic power about the irrationality of love, about desire transformed into burning hate, and which also shows mercilessly how people act in wartime. As the adult sons are searching for a mother and a father, they also shed light on how we repeat, in our character and choices, the fate of our ancestors. This pulsing and exciting novel, much of which is based on reality, gives fascinating answers to these questions and others.



**Géza Bereményi**

Born in 1946 in Budapest, Bereményi graduated in Budapest as a Hungarian and Italian teacher in 1970, and in the same year published a volume of short stories entitled *A svéd király* (The Swedish King). He wrote and later directed films, wrote plays and song lyrics, the latter mainly for Tamás Cseh, a singer and performer who became a cult figure in the 1970s. He has been awarded many prestigious prizes, including the Kossuth, the Attila József and the Béla Balázs Prize.

*A love story in wartime Budapest  
as seen from the bleak 1970s*

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 14 3122 3

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296 pages, 123 × 184 mm

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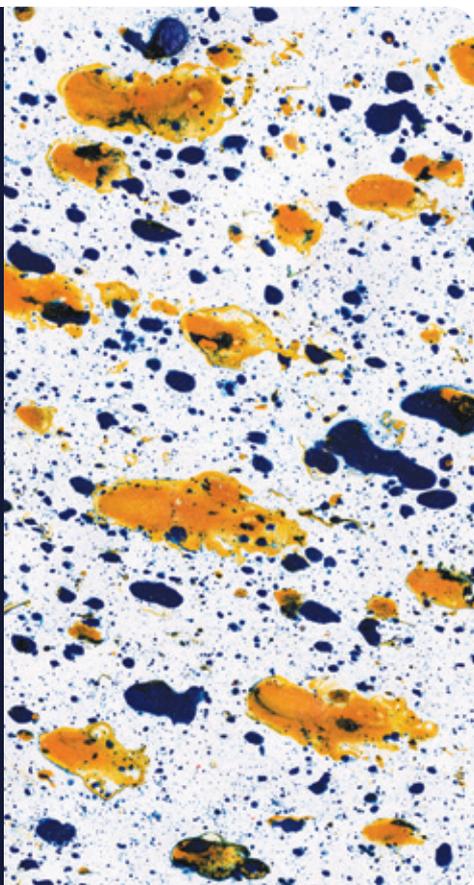
## SÁNDOR TAR

### Our Street

Novel

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TAR SÁNDOR: A MI UTCÁNK



Sándor Tar's novel takes place in a village in post-1989 Hungary. Though the place is clearly identifiable as a Hungarian village, and the time as the decades following the hopeful and happy years of the regime change when hurried and corrupt privatization led to the increased deprivation of many, the inhabitants of Crooked Street are the eternal insulted and injured. Yet *Our Street* is far from being a drab sociographic novel. Written with an irresistible sense of humour, empathy and a keen eye for detail, these minimalistic stories portray wasted lives with rare beauty. Alcoholics, unemployed and handicapped people, pensioners, Tar's "protagonists are characterized by a sense of intertwined ridiculousness and tragedy that marked the fates of Charles and Emma Bovary." (László Szabolcs, *The Quarterly Conversation*)

"Tar once described sociography as a genre that too often becomes an 'exotic travelogue read by white people in grave shudder.' His efforts not to color his portraits with drama or irony is what keeps the otherwise nearly proverbially Eastern European stories of aggression, alcohol, and self-reflection realistic." (Diána Vonnák, *Visegrad Insight*)



### Sándor Tar (1941–2005)

A factory worker in Debrecen, Tar became well-known in literary circles when he wrote a sociographic study about Hungarian workers in the GDR at the age of 35. He garnered prestigious prizes for his novels and short stories, including the Attila József and the Sándor Márai Prize. In the late 1990s, it was revealed that he had been an informant for the communist secret police from 1976, writing reports on his closest friends, including well-known writers and academics. A perpetrator and a victim, he became an outcast, and died at the age of 64.

*Eastern Europe after the regime change  
– the losers of democracy*

*"Sándor Tar never left the place that his  
fellow-writers gradually abandoned.  
He is someone who still knows why the  
pub suddenly falls silent." (Ádám Bodor)*

#### Product details

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2017 (first edition: 1995, hard cover), paperback

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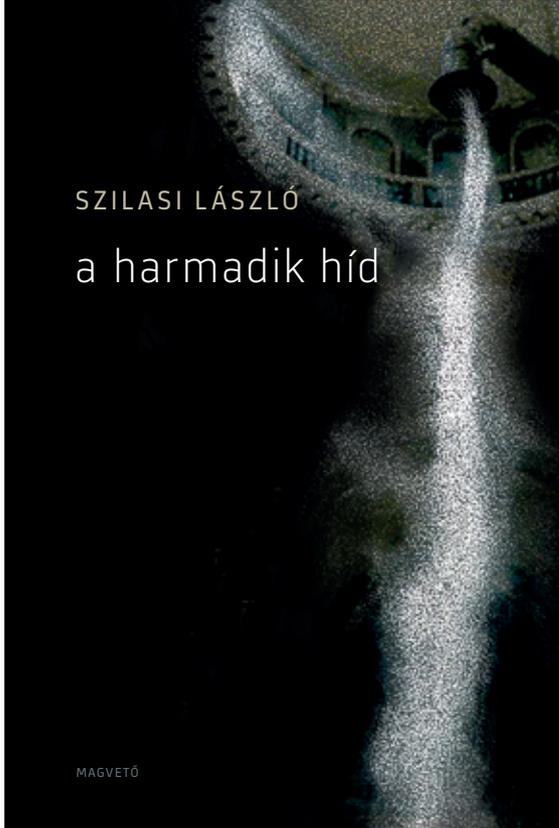
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LÁSZLÓ SZILASI

The Third Bridge

Novel



*The Third Bridge* is the story of one long night. Meeting at a school reunion thirty years after graduation, the characters relive the bygone decades. The events—including a murder and a mysterious disappearance—are mediated through the subjective, emotional viewpoint of a former émigré to Canada, and the leaner, more rational angle of a detective returned from Germany, with the two stories at times contradicting each other. But the real hero of *The Third Bridge* is Peter Foghorn, the former golden boy of the class, a favourite with the girls, who was expected to achieve great things, and whose life and death is a matter of conjecture among the former classmates.

As the story of Feri, the former émigré unfolds, we learn that after returning from Canada, burnt out and penniless, Feri spent some time together with Foghorn as members of a group of homeless people in the town of Szeged. Leaving moralizing aside, László Szilasi maps the rituals, survival strategies and desires of various castes of homeless people as accurately as possible. Though we never learn how exactly Foghorn ended up as a busker and leader of a homeless community under the pseudonym of 'Robot,' we can certainly identify most of the other characters of the novel who came of age in the 1980s as products of the chaos which ensued after the regime change and which caught people brought up in a Communist regime completely unawares. The mysterious figure of Foghorn represents failed promises, but also a certain kind of freedom—the unwillingness to take part in the nasty games of post-Socialist society.



**László Szilasi**

Born in 1964 in Békéscsaba, László Szilasi is a literary historian, working as associate professor at the University of Szeged. His books include *Szentek hárfája* (Saints' Harp, 2010), an 'intellectual crime story' that takes place in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and *Amíg másokkal voltunk* (While We Were with Others, 2016), three novellas about three Hungarian writers. His prizes include the Rotary Literary Prize (2010) and the Déry Tibor Prize (2013).

*Homelessness can happen to anyone*

Product details

ISBN 978 963 14 3166 7

2014, hard cover with jacket

352 pages, 125 × 197 mm

3490 HUF



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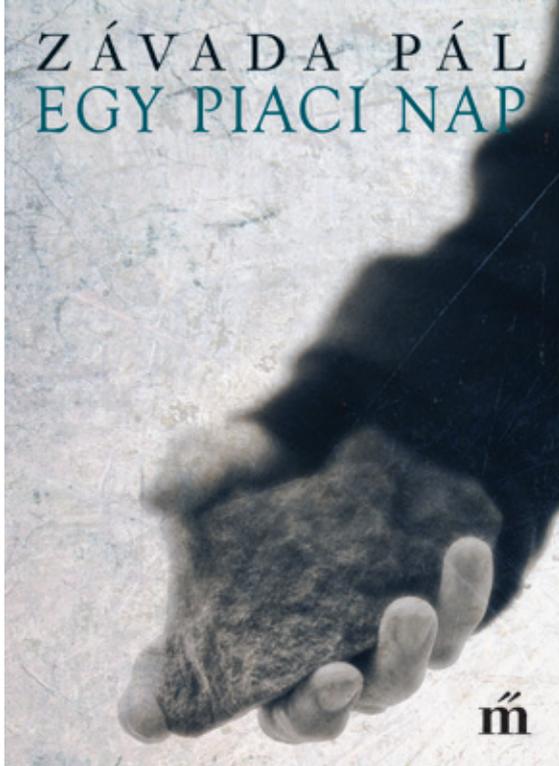
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**PÁL ZÁVADA**

**A Market Day**

Novel



How do people come to be part of a lynch mob? To be more precise: what makes passers-by in a village and customers at a market turn against their neighbours who had just come back from death factories? Pál Závada's new novel tries to give an answer to this question through the story of the anti-Semitic pogroms of 1946 in Hungary. One market day the narrator, daughter of a respected village shopkeeper and wife of a teacher, witnesses an attack against a Jewish egg-seller, which degenerates into bloodshed. The violence is led by local women, and neither women nor children are left unscathed. After the pogrom an investigation is started. During the enquiries prior events come to light, and the reader gets an insight into the conditions of life during and after the war, as well as the events that led up to the tragedy. The novel focuses on people and the distortions in human relationships for which history is partly responsible—history that can put any of us to the test at any moment, even today.



**Pál Závada**

was born in a Hungarian-Slovak family in 1954 in Tótkomlós, in the south-eastern corner of Hungary. A sociologist by training, Závada is the author of six novels for which he has won numerous awards.

*How do people come to be part of a lynch mob?*

**Product details**

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200 pages, 123x174 mm

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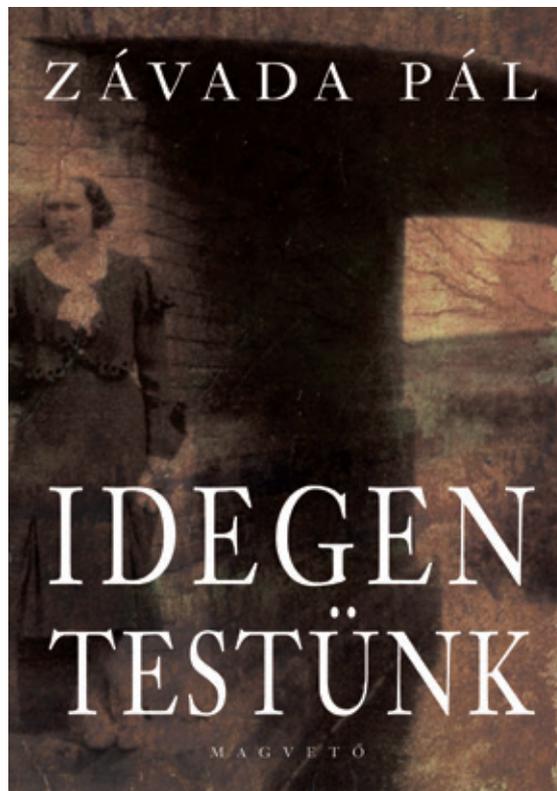
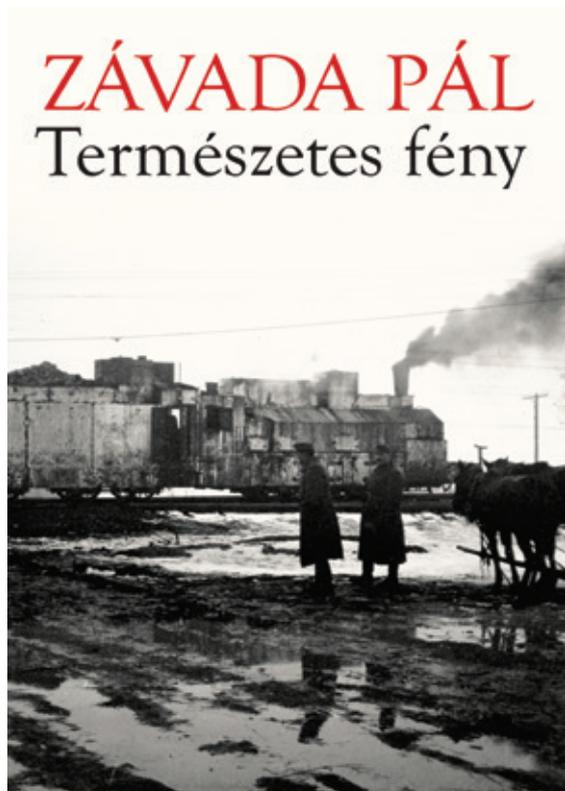
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## PÁL ZÁVADA

Two novels about World War II



### Pál Závada

was born in a Hungarian-Slovak family in 1954 in Tótkomlós, in the south-eastern corner of Hungary. A sociologist by training, Závada is the author of six novels for which he has won numerous awards.

### Natural Light

Novel, 632 pages with b&w photos, 2014

Pál Závada's magnum opus is a novel about World War II, as well as the years leading up to it and following it. The story narrates the life of inhabitants of a large Slovak-populated village in Hungary, at home and in various locations in Central and Eastern Europe. Amid a multitude of characters, the story of two families stands out. Though the children of the former judge and those of the Jewish photographer grew up together, their lives take very different turns. In *Natural Light* the reader is swept along by existing, lost, and even imagined photos, letters, diaries and fictitious work-camp reports, and confronted with the everyday experience of the war. Meanwhile, some become perpetrators, others victims.

#### Rights

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English excerpts available

### Our Alien Body

Novel, 390 pages, 2008

The novel is set in a photographer's studio in September 1940, at a gathering of relatives, friends and lovers, all linked by the single figure of the hostess, Janka Weiner—her cousin who works in a fashion boutique, her seminarian brother, a military attaché, a young poet, a reporter, girlfriends, and journalists. Some of these people have German, others Hungarian or Jewish roots, others are less simple to define. They are simultaneously enthralled by news of regained territory, lost in World War I, and shocked by the newly introduced race laws. Where have they come from, and what will become of them when the war is over?



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ZSÓFIA BÁN

## When There Were Only Animals

Short stories



How many images do we have of ourselves? Of others? Of our culture? In her book, Zsófia Bán finds many ways, and as many captivating stories to ask and answer these questions.

What is a picture? An image? Is it the shift in life, love, and chemistry, as one person replaces the other in the snapshots of a love triangle's unexpected events? Or the flickering attraction between a taxi driver and a passenger, doomed because some things are just too hard to change? Is it the intimate secret behind the first ever X-ray picture and its laconic caption made by Wilhelm Röntgen in 1895?

From the jigsaw pieces of recurring motifs and characters throughout the book, we can also discover a family history played out in 20<sup>th</sup> century Eastern Europe and outposts of exile from Antarctica to South America, told from the perspective of mothers and daughters.

*When There Were Only Animals* is a book about relationships. It is wonderful, passionate, and clever. And very entertaining.



### Zsófia Bán

was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1957 and grew up in Brazil and Hungary. A writer, essayist and critic, she made her fiction debut in 2007 with *Esti iskola—Olvasókönyv felnőtteknek (Night School: A Reader for Adults—* published in German by Suhrkamp Verlag). Her stories have been widely anthologized. Her work as an essayist, fiction writer, and critic has been awarded several prizes. <http://www.banzsofia.net/>

*A passionate book about relationships*

*Shortlisted for Der Internationaler  
Literaturpreis 2014*

#### Product details

ISBN 978 963 1430 10 3

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216 pages, 123x184 mm

2690 HUF

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Verlag—Shortlisted for Der

Internationaler Literaturpreis

2014

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## JUDIT SZANISZLÓ

### She Lets Me In

A story in snapshots



Judit Szaniszló's book is like an Eastern European *Bridget Jones's Diary*. The world of a thirty-something woman in Hungary unfolds from this book, with familiar, everyday problems—loneliness, relationships, life in an office—presented from a fresh and original perspective. Szaniszló, who is also a blogger, writes clear and simple stories in a style that is immediately accessible and yet of high literary quality—one reviewer dubbed it as 'a literary reality show.' These are cheeky, acerbic and sensitive stories, leaving the reader curious as to what will become of the protagonist, with whom it is easy to identify and whom it is easy to like.



#### Judit Szaniszló

was born in Miskolc in 1977 and lives in Budapest, making a living as editor at a publisher of trade books. She started blogging in 2002, and has been publishing short prose pieces in prestigious literary journals since 2008. In 2008, Örkény Theatre performed a one-act drama written from her blog entries.

#### Award

György Petri Award 2015  
Pál Békés Award, 2017

*An Eastern European Bridget Jones's  
Diary in the style of Jonathan Franzen*

*György Petri Award 2015*

#### Product details

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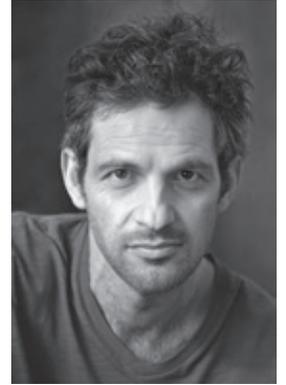
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GÉZA RÖHRIG

The Man Who Kept His Roots in His Shoe

Poems

As the protagonist of *Son of Saul*, Géza Röhrig impersonated a member of a Sonderkommando in Auschwitz who will go to any lengths in order to bury his child. As a poet, Géza Röhrig descends into darkness—into depths illuminated only by language and by faith; where the origin and the end, the roots and the grave are not merely juxtaposed: they are one. Röhrig's volume of poetry is at the same time brutal and sensitive, devastating and informal. His main subject is the fragility of identity. How can we find a home, inside ourselves, without stumbling in our roots? Röhrig leads us into a forest of individual and family tragedies, holding our hands all the while. Murder, loss of parents, betrayal. Wounds. Being an outcast. These poems show the complexity of a victim who is at times evil and beastly, and who is also an, even if ever dwindling, human being. The locations and the characters are typically Hungarian, yet Röhrig's stories, replete with biblical imagery, are universal.



**Géza Röhrig**

was born in Budapest in 1967, and lives in New York. He has published seven collections of poetry. Röhrig was the protagonist of László Nemes's film *Son of Saul*, winner of the Grand Prix at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film, and the Oscar Prize for Best Foreign Language Film.



*How can we find a home,  
inside ourselves, without  
stumbling in our roots?*

Product details

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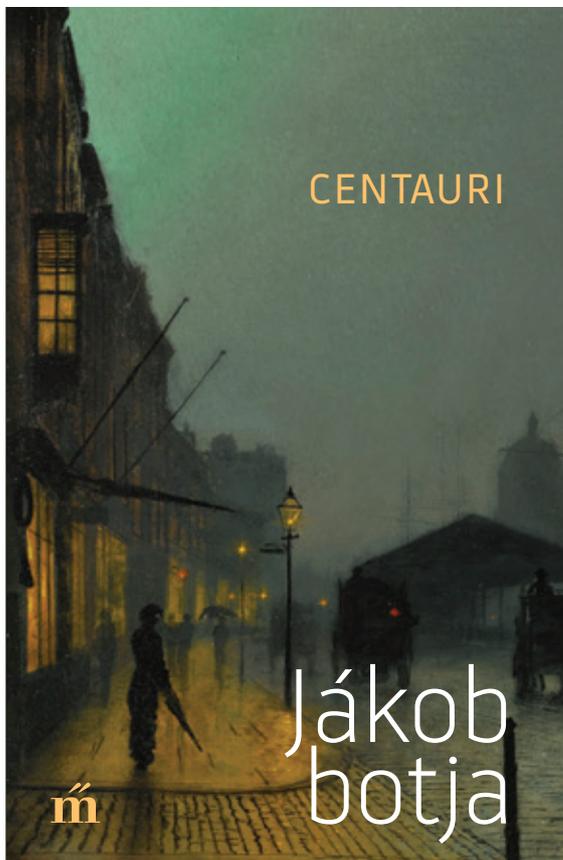
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*Finding love and adventure  
in the footsteps of Jack London*

**CENTAURI**

**Jacob's Rod**

Novel



San Francisco in the 1890s. A young man has had enough of the oppressive world of the family household and a society that offers little to him, and chooses a life of adventure and experience. Wandering around on land and sea, encountering love and passion, he finally grows into an adult. This novel invites the reader to join the protagonist on a magic journey to the unpredictable landscapes of human nature. It is a kaleidoscope-like narrative that can be read as a Bildungsroman, a novel of adventure, or a love story. Though at times the events and characters evoke the life of Jack London, this book is not about the American writer but about how to become Jack London.

**Centauri**

is a pseudonym for a writer born in 1972 who has been publishing short stories since 2006 in literary journals. He has two novels and a volume of short stories to his name.

*How to become Jack London*

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1432 44 2

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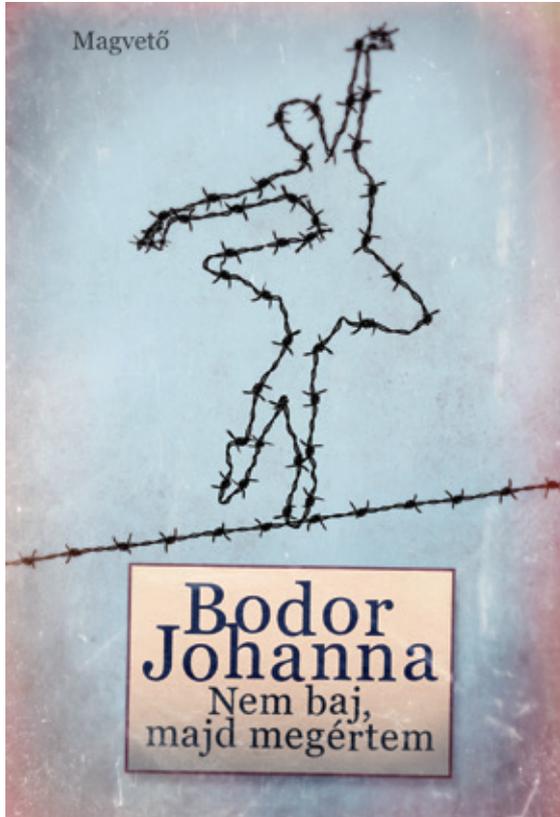
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**JOHANNA BODOR**

Never Mind, I'll Get It Eventually  
Memoir

*A young girl in Ceaușescu's Romania*



An extraordinary, upsetting and profoundly honest story about communist Romania in the 1980s, this book is the memoir of a young girl and a witness account of a dark era. She is only 18, and she wants to become a ballet dancer. As Romanian citizens of Hungarian nationality, her family has a plan: she enters into a sham marriage with a Hungarian, and her parents will soon follow her to Hungary and relative freedom. Due to an unexpected turn of events, her parents make it to Hungary first, and she stays in Romania all on her own, confronted with Ceaușescu's state bureaucracy. This, then, will be her life setting for the following year when some of the most important events of her young life are about to take place: her ballet exam, her final year in secondary school. And the effective liquidation of all their former life in Romania.



**Johanna Bodor**

was born in 1965 in Kolozsvár (today Cluj-Napoca, Romania). She was a student at the National Ballet Institute of Bucharest between 1975 and 1984. A dancer, choreographer and university lecturer, Bodor has been living in Hungary since 1985.

*A real "Everyday Life in a Dictatorship for Dummies"*

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Books for Children

ALIZ MOSONYI

## Stories of the Old Miss and her Car

with illustrations by Zsuzsi Medve



'Once upon a time there was a car. The car belonged to the Old Miss, and it was shiny and clean inside and out, because Miss liked things to be tidy and clean, and she liked her old car too.' This is how Aliz Mosonyi's latest stories start—for young and old, drivers and pedestrians, travellers and armchair explorers. You'll come across drive-in cinemas, a postal worker, a queen, a porcelain dog and a real one, and everything else the Old Miss encounters on journeys in her old car.

Aliz Mosonyi's gentle humour is loved by children and adults alike. We recommend the car stories for children aged 3 and over. They could also be an excellent introduction to independent reading for beginners of five or six years old.

For children ages 3 to 6



### Aliz Mosonyi

was born in Keszthely. She studied music, and has worked as a journalist. She has been publishing children's books and anthologies of poetry since 1973. She has also written stage works, radio plays, and screenplays for animated films.

### Awards

IBBY Lifetime Achievement Award 2009  
Tibor Déry Award 1998

### Zsuzsi Medve

(illustrator)

was born in Beregszász (today Berehove, Ukraine) in 1965. She is a painter and graphic artist and has had many solo and group exhibitions.



Volt egyszer egy autó. Öreg kisszonyi öreg autója volt, de szép fényes, tiszta kívül-belül, mert a kisszonyi szerette a rendet meg a tisztaságot, és az öreg autóját is szerette. Egyszer talált az autójában egy fél pár kesztyűt. – Hát ez meg hogy került ide? Ké lehet? – gondolkodott a kisszonyi. – Csakis egy tolvaj. Bemészott, kimászott, a fél pár kesztyűjét meg elvesztette. Hogy fog most már tovább lopni, fél pár kesztyűben? Vissza kell neki adni. Megyünk, megkeressük. Mi ketten. Te meg én – mondta a kisszonyi az autójának, és elindultak. Nézték jobbra, nézték balra, hogy lássák, hol lopnak. Jó sok tolvaj láttak, kimásztak, bemészáltak, de mindnek megvolt a két kesztyűje. – Sehogy se találjuk – mondta a kisszonyi. – Most mi lesz? – És akkor végre megláttak még egy tolvajt. Nem lopott, épp csak hogy surrant, szomorú. – Ez lesz az – mondta a kisszonyi. – Tolvaj úr, megvan mind a két kesztyűje? – Csak a fél pár – mondta a tolvaj. – Tessék, itt a másik – mondta a kisszonyi. – Most lophat megint. – Köszönöm szépen – mondta a tolvaj. – Már megyek is. Zárja be jól az ajtaját.



*"...these few pages are perfect for a bedtime story, for tired parents, for little ones who want to laugh, travel, and have adventures, and Zsuzsi Medve's drawings with their colours and scents make them even more lifelike." Magyar Narancs*

### Product details

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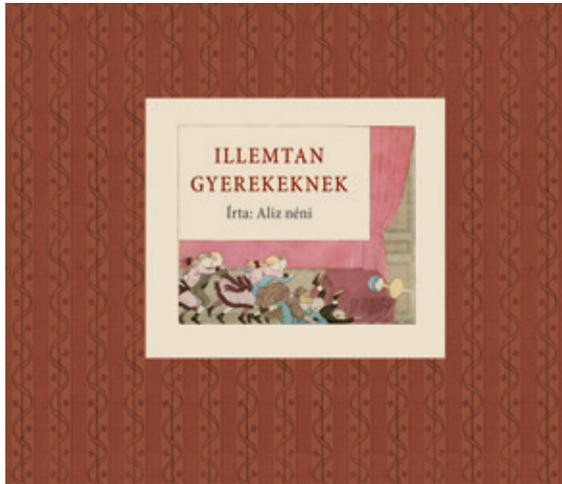
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ALIZ MOSONYI

Auntie Alice's Little Book of Good Manners

*How to be bored politely? A very funny self-help book for kids and parents*



'You should, you shouldn't!' How difficult it is for a small child to guess what they are and aren't supposed to do! If something's interesting, fun, and makes you laugh, you usually shouldn't do it; if you're supposed to do something, it's incredibly boring. Aliz Mosonyi's book of etiquette conjures up the old world of children, and the ancient world of adults—though in fact, it is about us. It is an adaptation of a popular, hundred-year-old children's etiquette book, to which Aliz Mosonyi has added amusing texts for today's children. She teaches us to wash our hands, blow our nose, greet people, be kind to guests, behave properly at a set table, listen to the teacher, etc., and makes us laugh at those who dry their hands on the curtain, crawl under the table to hide from guests, quarrel, pinch and bite—or simply don't know how to be bored politely. With the marvellous drawings of the famous French book illustrator Louis Maurice Boutet de Monvel (1850–1913).

For children age 4 and older

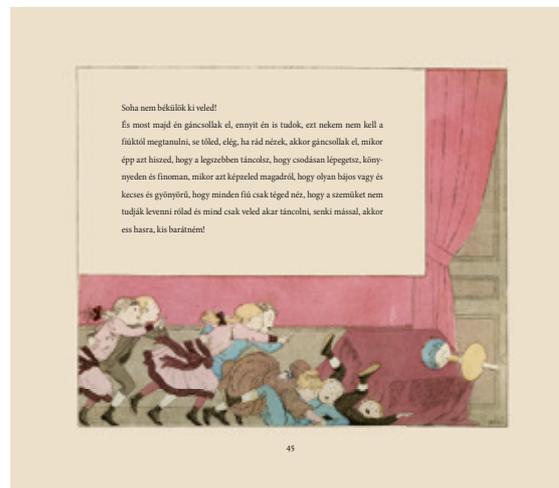
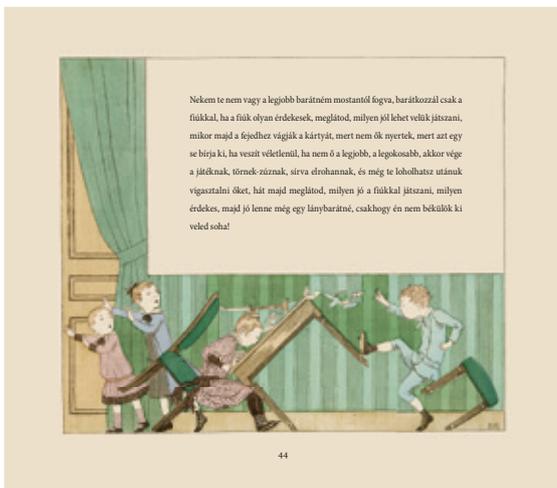


### Aliz Mosonyi

was born in Keszthely. She studied music, and has worked as a journalist. She has been publishing children's books and anthologies of poetry since 1973. She has also written stage works, radio plays, and screenplays for animated films.

### Awards

IBBY Lifetime Achievement Award 2009  
Tibor Déry Award 1998



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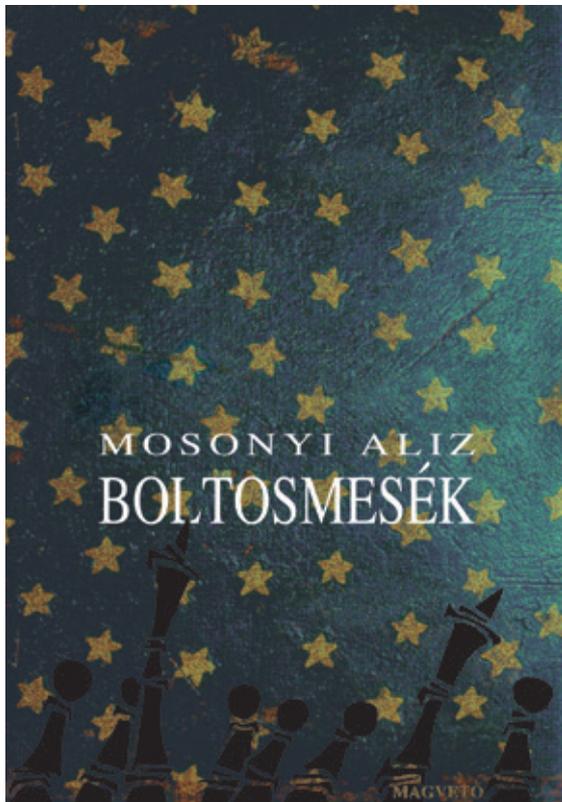
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ALIZ MOSONYI

Shop Stories

with illustrations by József Pintér



Eighty-one stories about shops that never existed. Though children will love these fairytales because of their absurdity and gentle humour, perhaps they are more for young people who have just begun to face the hurdles and trials of life: love, friendship, confidence, mourning, faithfulness, betrayal, deception, villainy, vanity, and old age. Written in an unmistakable style, with a quick, powerful rhythm and dramaturgy, these stories are perhaps best defined as 'lyrical grotesque.' The stories feature shopkeepers and customers, young and old lovers, a miserable shop assistant, devils, a wise doctor, a nasty baker, a talking dog, a shouting dragon, the ghost of a sugar lump, cakes, guardian angels, books, stamps, dolls, buttons, vegetable stews and many more. *Shop Stories* has been reprinted several times since its publication.

For readers ages 6 to 99



Aliz Mosonyi

was born in Keszthely. She studied music, and has worked as a journalist. She has been publishing children's books and anthologies of poetry since 1973. She has also written stage works, radio plays, and screenplays for animated films.

Awards

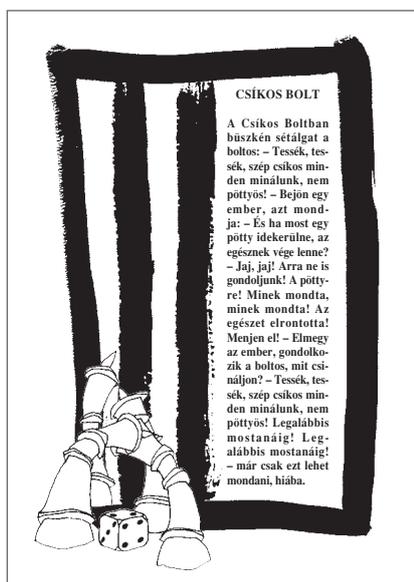
IBBY Lifetime Achievement Award 2009  
Tibor Déry Award 1998

József Pintér  
(illustrator)

was born in Budapest in 1963. He is a typographer, graphic designer and illustrator. He has been teaching typography at Visart Academy since 2006. He is the Art Director of Magvető Publishing.

Zsuzsi Medve  
(illustrator)

was born in Beregszász (today Berehove, Ukraine) in 1965. She is a painter and graphic artist and has had many solo and group exhibitions.



Product details

ISBN 978 963 1420 98 2  
2002, hard cover with jacket  
88 pages, 125x177 mm  
1490 HUF

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**ANNA SZABÓ T.**

**The Spice Bird**

with illustrations by Eszter Schall

Information on the author on page 19



*A children's spice handbook, in the guise of an adventure story*

*"I have striven for a fusion style like that of world music, one which combines Uralic shamanism, Arabian tales, and Indian legends." Anna Szabó T.*

In Sparkle Valley, Hanna and Henne, the two mischievous children of King Pertu, are always bickering: every day all they have to eat is sunrays, and they're fed up with it. But their squabbling comes to an end when a genuine threat appears: somebody wants to eat the Sun! The king's faithful jester, the mysterious Spice Bird knows that the only way to save the kingdom is to make a hundred-spice sauce. They set out to hunt for the spices, and during their eventful journey, with a child called Sunbeam, they discover the colourful world of food flavours, at the same time learning about the power of friendship and faithfulness.

*The Spice Bird* uses Hungarian, Arabian and Indian myths and stories to teach children about spices. The uses and medicinal effects of the spices are carefully described, and some of the illustrations are done using montage technique with photographs of the plants and their fruit. Thus, the eventful story can also be used as a spice handbook.

For children ages 6 and older

**Eszter Schall (illustrator)**

was born in 1987. Since 2009 she has worked in illustration, graphic art for advertising, and gift and jewellery design.  
[www.schalleszter.com](http://www.schalleszter.com)

**Main awards**

Aranyvackor Children's Book Illustration Competition, Special Prize 2011  
Csodaceruza Children's Book Illustration Competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 2011  
Digital Painter of the Year, BPIX 2010  
Digital Painting Competition 2010



**Anna Szabó T.**

was born in 1972 in Kolozsvár (Cluj Napoca), and moved to Hungary with her family in 1987. She is a writer, poet, and translator (her translations include works by William Shakespeare, James Joyce, Sylvia Plath, W. B. Yeats, John Updike, Stuart Parker, and Clive Wilmer). She has published many volumes of poetry and children's books. She lives in Budaörs with her husband György Dragomán and their two sons.  
[szabotanna.com](http://szabotanna.com)

**Main Awards**

Translator of the Year for Children's Books 2012  
Akademie der Künste Berlin—Junge Akademie Fellowship 2006  
Vackor Award 2003  
Attila József Award 2002  
Tibor Déry Award 2000  
Sándor Petőfi Award 1996



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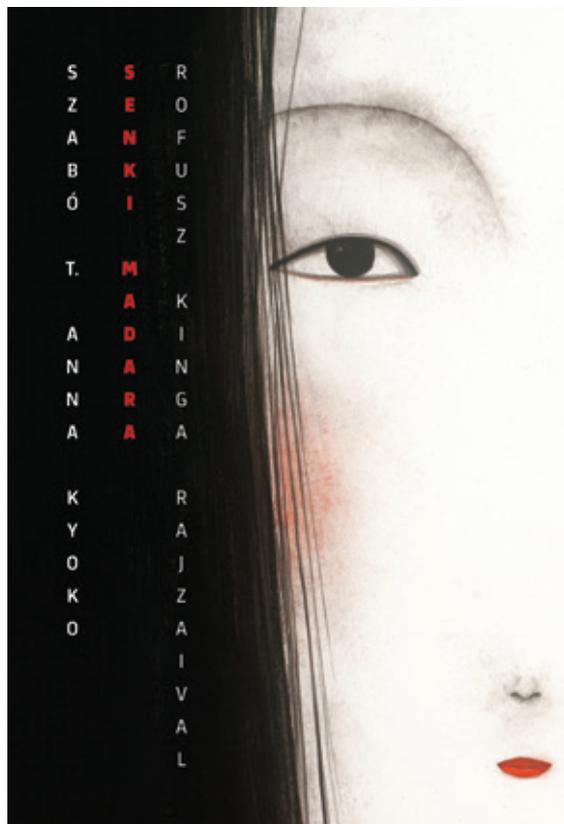
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**ANNA SZABÓ T.**

**Nobody's Bird**

with illustrations by Kinga Rofusz



First love lasts forever. It bears you aloft, reshapes you, teaches you about others and yourself. But what happens if the person we love has a secret? What if they don't want to belong to us completely? If they sacrifice themselves for us, but at the same time retain their freedom? Anna Szabó T. (her Japanese name: Kyoko) tells the story of love between a sensitive Hungarian boy and a mysterious Japanese girl painter, based on an Eastern legend, showing both the timeless idyll of teenage love and the everyday struggle of being an artist. This book is for everyone who is not afraid of the power of an embrace, and who is willing to learn the lesson: if you love a bird, be the sky, not a cage.

For readers age 12 and older  
Published jointly with Vivandra Publishers



**Anna Szabó T.**

was born in 1972 in Kolozsvár (Cluj Napoca), and moved to Hungary with her family in 1987. She is a writer, poet, and translator (her translations include works by William Shakespeare, James Joyce, Sylvia Plath, W. B. Yeats, John Updike, Stuart Parker, and Clive Wilmer). She has published many volumes of poetry and children's books. She lives in Budaörs with her husband György Dragomán and their two sons.  
[szabotanna.com](http://szabotanna.com)

**Main Awards**

Translator of the Year for Children's Books 2012  
Akademie der Künste Berlin—Junge Akademie Fellowship 2006  
Vackor Award 2003  
Attila József Award 2002  
Tibor Déry Award 2000  
Sándor Petőfi Award 1996

**Kinga Rofusz  
(illustrator)**

was born in 1970 in Budapest. She studied animation and gained a Masters at the Hungarian College of Applied Arts. She currently works as a book illustrator and directs animated films. In 2010 she won the Illustrator of the Year Award.  
[www.rofuszkinga.hu](http://www.rofuszkinga.hu)

*"If you love a bird, be the sky, not a cage."  
A short novel combining the Japanese and the  
Hungarian fairy tale worlds*

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1432 63 3  
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Complete English text,  
translated by George Szirtes, available



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## Torchlight Stories

with illustrations by Bíbor Timkó



The counterpart of the author's *Cloud Stories*, published in Spring 2017, *Torchlight Stories* contains five tales, illustrated with Bíbor Timkó's magical drawings. Krisztina Tóth's torchlight illuminates various hidden spots and unfamiliar creatures living in the city: for example, the tiny mouse who operates the only traffic light of the city with no electricity, and the secret snowman who lives in Lili's freezer in summertime. We are introduced to inhabitants of the metro—a huge, friendly centipede and a monster who eats children's boots—and we get a sneak peek into the nightlife of toys in the kindergarten.

For readers ages 4 to 100

**Krisztina Tóth**

is one of Hungary's most highly acclaimed poets and writers. She has won a great number of awards, and her poetry, as well as her short stories have been translated into many languages. She lives in Budapest where, apart from writing, she leads seminars on creative writing. She is a noted translator of, among others, literary fiction, children's literature and song lyrics from French. [www.tothkrisztina.hu](http://www.tothkrisztina.hu)

**Bíbor Timkó  
(illustrator)**

was born in Békéscsaba in 1977. She is a graphic artist. <http://bibor.org/>

## Product details

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KRISZTINA TÓTH

## The Girl Who Wouldn't Talk

with illustrations by Gabriella Makhult



### Gabriella Makhult (illustrator)

was born in Budapest in 1981, and graduated from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2005.  
<http://makhultgabi.blogspot.hu/>

Krisztina Tóth's tale is about a girl born in a washtub, her parents and her three siblings. Will an abandoned child find a home? Who will mother her, or father her? Will she ever see her Mum and Dad? How do brothers and sisters find each other? Their destinies are mysteriously linked by threads, just as stars are linked by invisible heavenly paths. Solitude, memory and reconciliation help the adopted girl find her way home. Meanwhile, the stars keep on shining over us all, wherever we have come from, and wherever we are going.

'Basically it is about a search for identity: who am I, who are my parents, how did I arrive in this family? And is the link biological or rather psychological? That's how I'd look at it, because if I say it's about adoption, that's narrowing things down too far. Incidentally, I think that's important. My mother was adopted too. And I also thought I'd like to adopt a child some time. Because I believe a person isn't just made of literature: somehow you have to construct your own life too. I thought mine would be complete if I took something that, indirectly, I received, and put it back into my own destiny. I think we are prone to overestimate the importance of blood relationships, because this has a strong tradition. My child is the one I "put" my love in, and who shines it back to me. It occurs to every teenager, "how did I get into this family, it's like they're not even my parents. I'm an alien, I've been dropped here, maybe they're not even my real parents. I don't actually look much like them." And I wanted to write something where someone begins an inner journey, their personality takes shape and they wonder: "Who am I, how did I come into the world, what is the role of the people who brought me up and who call themselves my parents?" All sorts of wonderful things happen to the girl in the book. And all sorts of trials, but she finds people to help her. In this sense it follows the logic and dramaturgy of a fairy tale.'—Krisztina Tóth

For children ages 9 to 12



### Krisztina Tóth

is one of Hungary's most highly acclaimed poets and writers. She has won a great number of awards, and her poetry, as well as her short stories have been translated into many languages. She lives in Budapest where, apart from writing, she leads seminars on creative writing. She is a noted translator of, among others, literary fiction, children's literature and song lyrics from French.  
[www.tothkrisztina.hu](http://www.tothkrisztina.hu)

## *Adoption—a search for Identity*

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**KRISZTINA TÓTH**

**Mum Had an Operation**

with illustrations by Viktória Hitka



'Everyone was there when Mum came home, as if we were celebrating a birthday. I even told Granddad it's a pity there's no birthday today, because there was a fine crowd of us. Granddad said that in a sense it was a kind of birthday: Mum was born again. Grown-ups always say that, "in a sense" when something is nothing like what they say. There was no cake, anyway.' There is a childlike clarity to the voice of Krisztina Tóth's central character, a girl who speaks about illness. If a parent falls ill, the trauma is difficult for the child to deal with. Writing about this could be gloomy, but Krisztina Tóth approaches this taboo topic with her customary fresh attitude. She explains to children what a tumour is, what it means to recover from illness, and that we can, indeed should, talk about everything. A humorous book that shows how to get through a family crisis, how to help children understand that nothing is frightening if we grown-ups speak about it clearly and simply.

For children ages 6 to 9



**Krisztina Tóth**

is one of Hungary's most highly acclaimed poets and writers. She has won a great number of awards, and her poetry, as well as her short stories have been translated into many languages. She lives in Budapest where, apart from writing, she leads seminars on creative writing. She is a noted translator of, among others, literary fiction, children's literature and song lyrics from French. [www.tothkrisztina.hu](http://www.tothkrisztina.hu)

**Viktória Hitka  
(illustrator)**

was born in Budapest in 1982, and graduated from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts. [www.viktoriahitka.com/](http://www.viktoriahitka.com/)

*"This is how to speak to children; this is how to speak of illness; this is how we can observe the world—the way Krisztina Tóth does."*  
Népszabadság

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1199 32 1

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KRISZTINA TÓTH

## A Story for Nose-blowers

with illustrations by Bíbor Timkó



'The Snotty family became homeless. They had to leave Pete's nose. They spread out and looked around so that they could go and infect someone before Pete threw the handkerchief into the waste paper basket. Bacty suggested they tried Dora's nose, but Bogiestein disagreed. "We're going further, to a safe place," he announced. Now they're on the prowl, looking for a spacious, comfortable nose they can all move into. Yours, for instance, looks pretty neat. Tell me, have you blown it today? More than once? Right nostril first, then the left? Yes? And do you wash your hands? Well then, they won't come to you, that's for sure.' Krisztina Tóth writes with her customary humour on an important topic, the bacteria that infect children, the mucus in their nose, and how to keep the microbes at bay. Bíbor Timkó's entertaining figures are loveable and help children understand what happens when bacteria infect them.

For children ages 3 to 6



### Krisztina Tóth

is one of Hungary's most highly acclaimed poets and writers. She has won a great number of awards, and her poetry, as well as her short stories have been translated into many languages. She lives in Budapest where, apart from writing, she leads seminars on creative writing. She is a noted translator of, among others, literary fiction, children's literature and song lyrics from French. [www.tothkrisztina.hu](http://www.tothkrisztina.hu)

### Bíbor Timkó (illustrator)

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