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Books

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BOOKS FROM CROATIA

After a two-year absence from the Frankfurt Book Fair, this year the Croatian national exhibitor presents a selection of Croatian novelists, poets, essayists, non-fiction writers and illustrators. Organised by the Croatian Association of Publishers and Bookshops, we will be introducing the audience to the most important editions of Croatian publishers from recent years. Twenty-four publishers with over 160 titles will be taking part in the Fair. Besides, we will present a selection of ten fiction and four non-fiction titles chosen by the Commission for Books and Publishing of the Ministry of Culture, based on the proposals made by the Croatian Writers' Association and Croatian Writers Society. The novels include: *Zemlja bez sutona* by Marija Andrijašević, *Putujuće kazalište* by Zoran Ferić, *Voda paučina* by Nada Gašić, *Vošicki* by Marko Gregur, *Nadohvat* by Ena Katarina Haler, *Okretište* by Damir Karakaš, *Crvena voda* by Jurica Pavičić, *Mladenka kostonoga* by Želimir Periš, *Sine idemo kući* by Ivica Prtenjača, *Ljeta s Marijom* by Olja Savičević Ivančević. Non-fiction includes: *Ne možeš ti to* by Boris Perić and Tomislav Pletenac, *Ljubav oko svijeta* by Davor Rostuhar, *Potresi: divovi koji se ponekad bude* by Hrvoje Tkalić, *Magija na hrvatskome povijesnom prostoru* by Deniver Vukelić. The list of illustrators – Vanda Čizmek, Ivana Glušević, Klasja Habjan, Vedran Klemens, Agata Lučić, Andreja Peterlik Huseinović, Ivana Pipal, Klara Rusan, Ivan Stanišić, Stipan Tadić, Hana Tintor, Vendi Vernić, Hana Vrca and Dominik Vuković – was composed for the unfortunately unrealised Croatian appearance at the Montpellier Book Fair. Foreign publishers, editors and agents will get a chance to acquaint themselves with the results of the incentives scheme for Croatian authors' translations into foreign languages in a selection of books published in 2021 and 2022. Croatian publishers will also host several book promotions:

- Promotion of the English translation of the novel *Viljevo* by Luka Bekavac in the project Facing Insecurities in Contemporary Europe
- Promotion of the English translation of the novel *W* by Igor Štiks in the project Facing Insecurities in Contemporary Europe
- Promotion of children's editions by Dječja knjiga: *Božić velikih čuda*, *Čuvar trešanja*, *Povratak iz Zelenzemlje*, *Mama koja grije Sunce*, *Potruga za srećom* by Miro Radalj and Andrea Petrlik, *Zimzeleni Žučo* by Dragan Zlatović and Terra Badaj
- Promotion of picture books *BAO, o meni* by Kašmir Huseinović and Andrea Petrlik (Croatian-Chinese edition), *Ljeta* by Cao Wenxuan (winner of the Andersen Literature Award) and Yu Rong, and *Dječak u šetnji* by Peng Yuejun
- Promotion of editions by Kašmir promet: *Čarobna Mia* (The Wishing Shelf Book Awards 2021 UK) and *Mia i duga* by Hilary Hawkes and Andrea Petrlik and *Princ brojeva*
- Promotion of picture books from the series *PATAK I MEDO – Najbolji susjedi, Nezgodne zgode, Plivanje i druge nezgodne zgode*
- Croatian Cultural Community / Matica Hrvatska Wiesbaden branch: *Riječ* magazine, Bojana Meandžija: *Trčii! Ne čekaj me*, *Teološka Biografija Matije Vlačića Ilirika*, *Vjeroispovijest i dijaspore*, *Pappel/Topola* by Dalibor Marković



MARIJA ANDRIJAŠEVIĆ
Zemlja bez sutona
A Land without Sunsets

publisher: Fraktura
year: 2021
pages: 256
ISBN: 978-953358399-0
award: tportal 2022
rights sold: world rights available
English sample translation available
represented by: Fraktura / Tena Novak
E: tena@fraktura.hr

Marija Andrijašević was born in Split, in 1984. She completed the three-year course at the School of Commerce in Split in 2001, and the fourth grade in the evening school at the School of Commerce in Zagreb in 2008. She earned her master's degree in Comparative literature and Ethnology and cultural anthropology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb in 2015. She attended and completed the two-semester program of the Center for Women's Studies in Zagreb 2016. Her poetry collection *davide, svašta su mi radili* was awarded the Goran award for young poets in 2007. Her novel *A Land Without Sunsets* was awarded with the prestigious Tportal prize in 2022.

A biologist, more accurately a collector of seeds from endangered areas, Glorija Sutton arrives in Split to pay a visit to her father in between two field trips. This visit will inevitably mean returning to father's native place of Vrij, the hamlet of Sutoni, somewhere in the Dalmatian hinterland near the Cetina river. Over there she meets Jadran, her childhood friend, his daughter Alta, one or two invasive species, but also a task to replant trees. All of Glorija's attempts to live in the moment for at least a second will be overgrown with the ivy of memory and her roots stemming deep

from the past. From these pages, her life inundates us with experiences and emotions as dense and fragrant as Dalmatian plants: seductive, prickly, viscous and, finally, under the heat of the sun, wild and spontaneous.

Only danger brings salvation, which is why there is no place potentially more therapeutic for Glorija, a woman whose mother exists only in family myths, to finally face and reconcile with her father Žarko, to say to her father's shadow at least in her head all those things left unsaid leading eventually to understanding and forgiveness. For Žarko was not an easy man. And neither was Glorija's life, which took her from Sutoni, to Siromašna in Split, to fame in science. All this would never have happened were it not for her father Žarko. And the seed of love Grandpa planted inside her ages ago. For this insight, peace and a few well-buried graves had to be dug over. *A Land without Sunsets*, a debut novel by Marija Andrijašević, a winner of the Goran Award for young poets, seems to be made of fragrant resin from a Mediterranean tree which has the ability to heal the wounds of the Sutton family tree and firmly stick to the readers.



ENA KATARINA HALER
Nadohvat
Within Reach

publisher: V.B.Z.
year: 2019
pages: 462
ISBN: 9789535201854
award: Ksaver Sandor Gjalski Prize 2020; Ivan and Josip Kozarac Prize 2021
rights sold: Macedonia
English sample translation available
represented by: V.B.Z. / Sandra Ukaločić & Nikolina Dadić
sandra.ukalovic@vzb.hr nikolina.dadic@vzb.hr

Ena Katarina Haler was born in Osijek, Croatia in January 1996. After graduating high school (science and mathematics course), she studied Architecture and Urban Design at Faculty of Architecture in Zagreb, Croatia. During the course of studies, she published her first novel 'Nadohvat', which was her first published work ever. The novel won two awards in 2020: 'Ksaver Sandor Gjalski' for the best work of prose fiction and 'Ivan and Josip Kozarac' for the best literary work of the year. During the year 2022, the novel is published also in North Macedonia. Currently, she is completing her master's degree in Architecture, in the field of Architectural Design and is working as a journalist and literary critic.

Nadohvat (Within Reach) is the first contemporary Croatian literary text which uses a strong female voice and docufictional approach to tell a real-life story about controversial events from Croatian history. Realistically narrated and full of lyrical touches, this novel convincingly portrays the rural life in the region of Banovina during the deeply tragic circumstances of World War II. Then the scope of the story ex-

pands to encompass the entire city of Zrin, former seat of the noble house of Šubić Zrinski, while some episodes vividly depict the salon atmosphere in war-time Zagreb.

In her debut novel, Ena Katarina Haler confidently portrays the war trauma of several generations, without politicization, pathos or unnecessary passages. Haler's novel is spatially and temporally expansive, extensive in both volume and subject matter – a novel about war and evil which enters the world in different ways – and at its core, a personal narrative about growing up and two generations of wise women.

Nadohvat is a touching confessional, benevolent and healing, a text which bolsters thinking, opens up old wounds, and in return provides solace, even cure. Authentic documentation of rural living in Banovina during a period of constant interchange between war-time and peace-time; Ena Katarina Haler skillfully penned a powerful antiwar novel.



ZORAN FERIĆ
Putujuće kazalište
The Travelling Theatre

publisher: V.B.Z.
year: 2020
pages: 476
ISBN: 9789535203384
awards: Ksaver Sandor Gjalski Prize 2021
rights sold: Germany, Serbia, Slovenia
English sample translation available
represented by: Corto Literary Agency / Diana Matulić
E: diana@cortoliterary.com

Zoran Ferić (Zagreb, 1961) graduated Croatian language and literature and works as a professor in a high school. He's among the most widely read and acclaimed contemporary Croatian writers. His first short stories are being published in newspapers from 1984, but his first collection *Mišolovka Walta Disneya* (*Walt Disney's Mousetrap*) is first published relatively late, in 1996. His second short story collection *Andeo u ofsajdu* (*An Angel in Offside*), published in 2000 received the prestigious Ksaver Šandor Gjalski Prize in 2000 and the Jutarnji List Award for the best work of prose fiction. For *Walt Disney's Mousetrap* he received the first and the last Dekada Prize founded to praise the fiction written in the past decade.

His third book and the first novel *Smrt djevojčice sa žigicama* (*The Death of the Little Match Girl*) is published in 2003. Two years after he publishes his second novel *Djeca Patrasa* (*The Children of Patras*). His novel *Kalendar Maja* (*Maya Calendar*) is published in 2011 and by then received several Awards – the Jutarnji List Award for the best work of prose fiction in 2011, the annual Vladimir Nazor Award, and Kiklop Prize for the best novel of the year. *Na osami blizu mora* (*Alone by the Sea*), published in 2015, received Fran Galović Award. *Putujuće kazalište* (*The Travelling Teater*) is his latest novel, published in December 2020.

He is also the author of two collections of newspaper columns: *Otpusno pismo* (*The Letter of Discharge*) and *Apsurd je zarazna bolest* (*Absurdity is an Infectious Disease*). In 2019 he published *San ljetne noći* (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), a children's book illustrated by Dominik Vuković, and received the coveted Grigor Vitez Award, one of the most prestigious literary prizes for young adult and children's literature in Croatia.

His novels were translated into English, German, Polish, Ukrainian, Slovenian, Bulgarian, and Italian, and his short story collections were translated into English, Hungarian, Polish, Slovakian, Spanish, Italian, French, Czech... A president of the Croatian Writers Society, he works and lives in Zagreb.

The Traveling Theatre, the fifth novel by Zoran Ferić, a readers' favorite and one of the most awarded and acclaimed Croatian Publishers, is an epic family saga, a personal autofiction that spans over the 20th century of both Croatia and Europe.

Three generations of one family from Zagreb, in nine chapters that could be read as standalone novels, touch upon all three wars fought in this part of the world, including pivoting historical events such as the October Revolution and the Strymian Front that saw some of the toughest and bloodiest fights during WWII. From Petrograd, Paris, and Tangier to Hrvatska Dubica, Srijemska Mitrovica, and Zagreb, the personal destinies of the characters meet each other towards the very end of the novel in Zoran, its narrator.

The second part is dedicated to Zoran's parents. Unhappy and unfulfilled in their marriage, while at the same time preoccupied with each other, and crushed by their own difficult upbringing and traumas, the inheritance they've left to their only son is one of the unresolved burdens: insecurity, overthinking, destruction. The characters we meet are bursting with complexity, and are portrayed with a lot of love, wittiness, melancholy, and an overall insightful approach.

Every motif, every narrative line, image, and sentence of this monumental work get summed up at the very ending, which defies the laws of physics by capturing one moment, one small blink of time in a way only great literature can. From the first line to the last, the readers can live through

The Traveling Theater, absorbing it as if reading about themselves and their own families.

In the words of one literary critic, "Ferić's novel is, indeed, a statement of an author in his most mature and creative phase, an author who can simply do anything he wishes for – be serious when needed and uncompromising and crazy when he wants to. It's also a catalog of his poetics, his obsessive themes, and an interpretation guide of every work of he's written so far."



DAMIR KARAKAŠ
Okretište
Turning point

publisher: Disput
year: 2021
pages: 140
ISBN: 978-953-260-414-6
awards: 2021 Meša Selimović Award, traditionally presented at Cum Grano Salis International Literary Meeting in Tuzla for the best novel published in the languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia.
represented by: Agent: Vito D'Onghia, London
E: vito@ampimargini.com

Born in 1967 in the village of Plašćica near Brinje, province of Lika. He spent a few years working in Zagreb and Split as a journalist, in 2001 he moved to Bordeaux, France and from 2002 to 2007 he lived in Paris and played the accordion for a living. In Paris he studied French at Sorbonne Nouvelle, held performances and exhibited conceptual art. Since his teens he has been publishing cartoons and illustrations in newspapers, first across former Yugoslavia, and he also won several awards for his cartoons. His published works include a book a travelogue *Bosanci su dobri ljudi* (1999), a novel *Kombetari* (2000), a short story collection *Kino Lika* (2001), a novel *Kako sam ušao u Europu* (2004), a story collection *Eskimi* (2007), a novel *Sjajno mjesto za nesreću* (2009), a story collection *Pukovnik Beethoven* (2012), a novel *Blue Moon* (2014), a novel *Sjećanje šume* (2016), a novel *Proslava* (2019) and a novel *Okretište* (*Turning Point*, 2021), which will this autumn be staged at the Croatian National Theatre in Split, directed by Dino Mustafić. Director Dalibor Matanić name a namesake film based on his novel *Kino Lika*, which received multiple awards in Croatia and abroad, and his novel *Proslava* will soon get a screen adaptation, directed by Bruno Ankočić and mentored by the Oscar-winning director Pawel Pawlikowski. His plays are performed in Croatia and internationally. He has won several important literary awards (Tportal Award for best Croatian novel, Miroslav Krleža Fric Award, Kočićevo pero Award, Meša Selimović Award for best novel from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Premio ITAS in Italy et.). His works have been translated into a dozen languages and the novel *Eskimi* was the first ever Croatian novel to be translated into Arabic. Since this year he is included in

Croatian language eight grade elementary school textbooks and third grade high school textbooks. He has three daughters and lives in Zagreb.

Turning Point (*Okretište*) – About the novel Writer Damir Karakaš bravely, honestly and in all his vulnerability expresses a feeling of helplessness, paranoia and rage, portraying a struggle between a desire for revenge and returning to normal life after an attack which nearly cost him his life. He decided to come to terms with accumulated anger and an utterly human impulse for revenge by writing a novel: a trauma should be given an art form to forgive, and one should forgive in order to forget. For that reason, this was by far the toughest writing experience for Karakaš, as he says, in this literary life and death fight he literally felt pain with every typed letter. As this novel testifies, his dreams are still frequented by his forefathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, all former soldiers, bringing their weapons, demanding an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth until this injustice is resolved, since he has done nothing wrong and is guilty of nothing. To set the record straight, because he has to decide 'whether he is man whom the waiter in a bar serves drinks on his table, or a frog to be served drinks on the floor'. *Turning Point* is, as the author claims, a novel about the impossibility to do anything – apart from writing a novel about such a situation. This is an autofiction novel, Karakaš's most intimate text thus far, dealing with the protagonist's serious mental and physical trauma, his way of coping with it and finding mechanisms to regain his trust in people and daily life. But there is neither spectacle nor true crime in the novel; to Damir Karakaš literature has always been language, instead of a mere description of events.



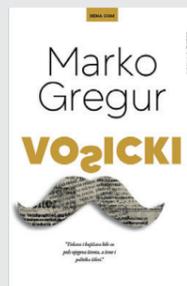
NADA GAŠIĆ
Voda paučina
Water, Spider's Web

publisher: Sandorf
year: 2021, original publication date 2010
pages: 476
ISBN: 978-953-351-361-4
awards: Vladimir Nazor Prize 2011
rights sold: Italy, Ukraine, Slovenia
English sample translation available
represented by: Sandorf / Ivan Sršen
rsreniv@gmail.com

Nada Gašić worked as an editor and translator from Czech and Russian. Her translation of a major work of world literature, Jaroslav Hašek's *The Good Soldier Švejk*, in which she used the Zagreb vernacular, was published in 1996. In 2007 she published her first novel *A Quiet Street, an Avenue of Trees* (*Mirna ulica, drvored*), which was shortlisted for all the literary prizes in Croatia and awarded the prize for the best first novel in that year. In 2010 she published her second novel, *Water, Spider's Web* (*Voda, paučina*), which was awarded the prestigious City of Zagreb prize in 2011, and the Vladimir Nazor Prize, the most important state prize for the arts, for the best book of the year. In 2020 she published her third novel *Nine Lives of Mrs Adela* (*Devet života gospođe Adele*), which was an instant bestseller dealing with consequences of COVID-19 pandemic and of a devastating earthquake in Zagreb in spring 2020.

In 2022 she published her first collection of short stories *The Last Thing They Saw* (*Posljednje što su vidjele*).

Water, Spider's Web is a crime story in which the combination of politics and crime reveals social differences. A wedding, a murder and another in the background, the relationships of three sisters, married life, a conscientious police inspector are all stages of a complex novel, based in some ways on the pathology of society reduced to the micro level of a neighborhood and a family. In spite of all its complexity and fusion of seemingly disparate elements, playing with form and escape from classical narration and pure genre, *Water, Spider's Web* has lost none of its simplicity and fluency, an unusual and praiseworthy feat that only very intelligent narrators manage to perform.



MARKO GREGUR
Vošicki
Vošicki

publisher: Hena.com
year: 2020
pages: 424
ISBN: 978-953-259-229-0
awards: Vladimir Nazor 2020 and Fric Award 2020
rights sold: Macedonia
English sample translation available, full Italian translation
represented by: Hena.com / Uzeir Husković
hena-com@hena-com.hr

Marko Gregur was born in Koprivnica in 1982. He studied economics, public relations and media, international relations and diplomacy and journalism. He writes poetry, short stories and novels. His short stories and poetry were published in magazines such as *Glimmer train* (USA), *The Antigone Review* (Canada) and numerous other magazines in region. He won the prize for the best unpublished manuscript by authors up to 35 years Ivan Vitez Trnski, awarded by Croatian Writers' Association from Podravina and Grigorje region and also the Prozak Prize for the best unpublished manuscript by authors up to 35 years. He was one of 20 awarded authors on the short story contest *Sea of Words* (Barcelona, 2010) open in 43 euromediterranean countries. His prose writings were published in young Croatian prose writers anthology *No door, no knocking*. Gregur is the president of the organizational board of the Galovičeva jesen international literary festival and founder and organizer of the Alpe Adria Young Writers Festival.

He is the editor-in-chief of the literary magazine *Artikulacije* and works as a general secretary in Croatian Writers' Association. In 2020 he was awarded the prestigious Croatian literary award Fric for astounding work of fiction with the novel *Vošicki*, and in 2021 he won Vladimir Nazor Prize with the same novel.

Books: *Lirska grafomanija / Lyric graphomania*, 2011; *Peglica u prosincu / Fiat 126 in December*, 2012; *Divan dan za Drinkpoly / A Beautiful Day for Drinkpoly*, 2014; *Kak je zgorel Presvetli Trombetassicz / Bonfire of the Illustrious Trombetassicz*, 2017; *Mogla bi se zvati Leda / Your Name Could Be Leda*, 2018; *Vošicki / Vošicki*, 2020.

Extensive, yet concise, because it contains experiences for many lives, Vinko Vošicki's romanesque biography follows the life of this Czech immigrant from his arrival to Koprivnica, Croatia, in 1909, until his death in a cellar without electricity and water, in 1957. Vošicki was a publisher-enthusiast, idealist and a believer in the power of books and literature. He is remembered today for publishing the works of Karl May, August Cesarac and Miroslav Krleža when no one else dared to publish them. This act hasn't really helped him at all in times of Independent State of Croatia, and, surprisingly, not even in times of Yugoslavia.

Awarded with prestigious awards Fric and Vladimir Nazor, Marko Gregur's new novel is, in addition to depicting the life of Vinko Vošicki, a literary monograph of the city of Koprivnica, a lexicon and a gallery of extraordinary characters and families. It is, in the end, a great story about a real man living in the wrong times, about two world wars and about countless political upheavals.



JURICA PAVIČIĆ
Crvena voda
Red Water

publisher: Profil knjiga
year: 2017
pages: 348
ISBN: 9789533136011
award: Ksaver Sandor Gjalski Prize 2018, Fric Award 2018, Le Point du Polar européen 2021; Transfuge 2021; Grand Prix de Littérature Policière 2021; Prix Mystère de la critique 2022; Libr'à Nous 2022.
rights sold: Germany, France, Italy
English sample translation available
represented by: Agullo / Nadege Agullo
E: nadege.agullo@gmail.com

Jurica Pavičić (Split, 1965) worked as a film critic and journalist for different Croatian newspapers. His first novel, *Plaster Sheep* (1997), a social thriller about the harbour city of Split during the Yugoslav war, is considered a ground-breaking novel in contemporary Croatian literature, marking the beginning of the so-called reality narrative. Swiss magazine *Fact* gave it third position on Top 10 list of the best crime/suspense novels of the year. *Witnesses*, a film based on this novel (directed by Vinko Brešan) was screened in competition of Berlin Film Festival, and won several international awards. Pavičić first theater play, *Poisoner*, won the national Marin Držić Award for best theater text.

In 2006, he published his fifth – and according to critics – best novel: *Little Red Riding Hood* (2006). From late 2000s on, Pavičić shifts toward writing short fiction. For his contributions to journalism, he was awarded with Marija Jurić Zagorka Award, Veselko Tenžera Award, Miljenko Smoje Award, and Croatian Journalists' Association Award for journalist of the year.

Books: *Ovce od gipsa, Plaster Sheeps*, 1998; *Nedjeljni prijatelj, A Sunday Friend*, novel, 2000; *Vijesti iz Liliputa, New from Liliput*, 2001; *Minuta 88, Minute 88*, 2002; *Split by Night*, 2003; *Kuća njene majke, Her*

Mother's House, novel, 2005; *Crvenkapica, Little Red Riding Hood*, 2006; *Patrola na cesti, Highway Patrol*, 2008; *Postjugoslavenski film – stil i ideologija, Post-Yugoslav Cinema: Film and Ideology*, 2011; *Nove vijesti iz Liliputa, New News From Liliput*, 2011; *Brod u dvorištu, Boat in a Courtyard*, 2013; *Žena s drugog kata, Woman From the Second Floor*, 2015; *Klasici hrvatskog filma jugoslavenskog razdoblja, Classics of Croatian Cinema from Yugoslav Period*, 2017;

Red Water, Crvena voda, 2017; *A Book About South, Knjiga o jugu*, 2018; *Skupljač zmija, A Snake Collector*, 2019; *Son of Prometheus, Prometejev sin*, 2020; *Tri kuće, tri prijatelja, Three Houses, Three Friends*, 2022; *Mater Dolorosa*, 2022.

Red Water is a story of the 17-years old girl who went missing after the local fishermen's festivity in a small Dalmatian town in September 1989. During next months and years, due to a social upheavals (fall of communism, political changes, war...) the missing girl case is forgotten, and her family (mother, father and twin brother) is left alone in a pursuit to find her. Novel follows a timespan of 27 years, and observes the destiny of the people involved in a case (family members, suspects, communist policeman and others).



ŽELIMIR PERIŠ
Mladenka Kostonoga
The Boney-legged Bride

publisher: Ocean more
year: 2020
pages: 448
ISBN: 978-953-332-107-3
award: T-portal 2021 and Kočić pen 2020
rights sold:
English sample translation available
represented by: Želimir Periš

Želimir Periš was born in 1975 in Zadar, Croatia. He was member of ZaPis, an association of Zadar based writers, where he organized literary events and runs creative writing workshops. He was one of the organizers of Kalibar Festival of Literature in Zadar. His stories, plays and poems were published in several languages and adapted to theatre plays and radio dramas.

His novel *Mladenka kostonoga* won "T-portal" literary prize for best novel of the year in Croatia and Kočić's pen, Petar Kočić foundation Banja Luka – Beograd for excellence in literature.

He is author of *Fierce woman*, board game that promotes contributions of great women to society.

Published books: *Mučenice* (Martyrs), stories, 2013; *Mima i kvadratura duga* (Mima and squaring the debt), novel, 2014; *Mima i vaše kćeri* (Mima and your daughters), novel, 2015; *X*, poetry, 2015; *Mladenka kostonoga* (Boney-legged bride), novel, 2020.; *Straška postavlja teška pitanja, Straška izvrcje neistine* (Fierce asks difficult questions, Fiercey exposes falsehoods), picture books, 2021.

The Boney-legged Bride follows (primarily) the fate of the "witch" Gila. She

practiced healing and herbalism in the 19th century. The novel follows her travels from Herzegovina through Dalmatia, Lika, Istria, and finally Imperial Austria and Vienna, and the time of the action extends nonlinearly through the 19th century.

A complex postmodernist collage plays with a contemporary understanding of the term "witch". Back then, a woman who practiced healing in Croatian villages was called healer / powerful mother / fairy woman / witch. In the novel, we follow several "medical cases" that Gila solves, and they more often involve the mental disorders or even just common-life challenges of "patients", rather than their physical illnesses. The novel mystifies and demystifies both the concept of "witchcraft" but also the very concept of writing a novel.

The Boney-legged Bride is structurally complex but nevertheless playful novel. Fifty-two chapters with six more appendices that make up this "distracted book" of dashed timeline play an unusual story woven of beliefs and superstitions, narrations and fables in the rhythm of an oral ten-part folk song, comic, mocking, grotesque and at the same time melancholy.



IVICA PRTENJAČA
Sine, idemo kući
Let's Go Home, Son

publisher: V.B.Z.
year: 2021
pages: 156
ISBN: 978-953-52-0422-0
awards: Vladimir Nazor Prize and V.B.Z. Award for Best Unpublished Novel of 2021
rights sold: Macedonia, U.K.
English sample translation available
represented by: V.B.Z. / Sandra Ukalović & Nikolina Dadić
sandra.ukalovic@vzb.hr nikolina.dadic@vzb.hr

Ivica Prtenjača was born in 1969 in Rijeka. He had many odd jobs, played handball, and even studied. His books of poetry and fiction include, among others, *Pisanje oslobada* (Writing Liberates), *Uzimaj sve što te smiruje* (Take Anything That Makes You Calm), *Brdo* (The Hill), *Tiho rušenje* (Quiet Demolition), and *Plivač* (The Swimmer). His award-winning novel *The Hill* is being made into a feature film. His books have been translated into several languages, he won a number of literary awards, and his work was included in anthologies. Ivica lives in Zagreb where he works as a radio host and freelance writer.

There's three of them. They have no names, just family roles superseded by destiny. One foreshadowed death, a struggle for the dignity of a man who's got just days and nights to live. Perhaps a couple of months, not a year, they are gone and none to be had. And three old photographs accidentally stuffed into a

hastily packed travel bag. Father, terminally ill, is gasping for breath in a Zagreb hospital. It's the first pandemic spring and his son and the son's mother visit him every chance they get. And then, like in a movie, the son moves heaven and earth and does everything he can to take his dad back to his Dalmatian terrace just as the cherries blossom and the swallows' nests are full of *young biddies*.

In *Let's Go Home, Son* novel, Prtenjača deals with loss, short-lived hope and memory, his voice is that of a child, the one that asks questions, but also a mature voice of a man who makes difficult decisions. Those voices overlap in a rhythmical exchange of scenes and images from the past and the present, comprising an elegy in which love reverberates like the sound of the cymbals. There's three of them, and they have no names. Sometimes they seem alone in this world.



OLJA SAVIČEVIĆ IVANČEVIĆ

Ljeta s Marijom

Summers with Maria

publisher: Fraktura

year: 2022

pages: 176

ISBN: 978-953358506-2

Translation rights sold: Serbia (Booka)

French sample translation available

represented by: Corti Literary Agency / Diana Matulić

Olja Savičević (Kaštel Lukšić, 1974) is one of the best Croatian contemporary authors and a representative of the so called 'lost generation'. She graduated from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science in Zadar. Her first poetry collection was published when she was 14 years old, and since then, she published thirteen works: six poetry collections, a short story collection, three novels and three picture books. Politically and socially engaged, Olja's work has been included in a number of Croatian anthologies and international selections. Her writing has been translated into eleven languages: German, English, Spanish, Italian, Bulgarian, Dutch, Swedish, Macedonian, Slovenian, Hungarian and French, with excerpts of her prose and poetry translated and published into over thirty languages world-wide. For her works, Olja received a number of coveted national, regional and international awards. In 2020, her novel *Farewell, Cowboy* was awarded the French award Prix du premiere for the best debut novel translated in French. *Farewell, Cowboy* was wonderfully received by readers as well: a great success in the region, the book was adapted into a stage play. Her second novel, *Singer in the Night*, received the British Pen Award. Her short stories collection *To Make a Dog Laugh* won the prize for best author under thirty-five awarded jointly by *Vijenac*. The poetry collection *Mamasafari and Other Things* was shortlisted for the "Kiklop Award for Best Collection of 2012", awarded annually by the Pula Book Fair. Reviews of Olja's works have been published in the following newspapers and magazines: *The Guardian*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Berliner Zeitung*, *Die Zeit*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *La Republic*, *The Independent*, *The Irish Times*, *Corriere della Serra*, *The Atlantic*, *The Publisher Weekly*, *De Volkskrant*, *Jelenkor*.

Summers with Maria spans across a period of hundred years, more precisely across one hundred summer seasons from 1921 to 2021: through them, the author narrates the lives of her heroines, five women of the same family who all go by some variant of the titular name: Marieta, Mary, Masha, Mariola, Mara... We meet the oldest among them, Marieta, born in the dawn of the 20th century, as a sixteen-year-old faced with unplanned pregnancy. A century later, Mara, the youngest, travels across Europe digitally sketching the family tree of her female ancestors.

In less than 200 pages, Savičević manages to paint a vivid fresco of a century of female emancipation, as effortlessly as flipping the pages of a family album. In a

series of colorful fragments, we meet our heroines through their tiny and immense milestones: their first periods, war years, courtships and friendships, family gatherings, joys and tragedies, journeys and displacements, memories and dreams of their brighter future. Much like Alice Munro's *Lives of Girls and Women*, *Summers with Maria* tells a universal tale of mothers and daughters by telling about the everyday lives of women in a small Dalmatian coastal town. The focus is on the intimate and the unknown; great historical events are never narrated, yet always echoed. It is a private history of women on the Balkans and the Mediterranean, tackling gender and national identities, one's roots and private exiles, girlhood and womanhood as well as wars, lagers, political turmoil and its consequences on women's intimate lives. Like her heroine Mariola, that may function as author's alter ego, Olja Savičević reconstructs the reality with the help of fiction; using oral history, archive tapes, photographs, documents and letters, she crafts a poetic chronicle, a yearbook bursting with life, a universal history of women's experiences.

Reviews and praises:

"Olja Savičević Ivančević is a poet, a fact the reader is very well aware of: her use of language is skilful, economic, clear, and most importantly, seductive. *Summers with Maria* is a tale of (non)belonging, comings and goings, about the corrosive effect of time on the illusions of the youth. Like a river, it flows, yet stays in place". Magdalena Blažević, a writer in *Express magazine*

"As in Savičević' earlier works, the centre of this literary universe is the Mediterranean, which shines most in the summer. The summer is one of the key motives not only in the title, but in the overall atmosphere of the novel that the author creates, masterfully as ever. All is bursting with senses, everything you can touch, read, smell. Everything in *Summers with Maria* is rich and opulent, everything is "magical, soft and marvellous" even though we know well it is not and that paradox is its essence, and summers exist so we could see things clearer, more rooted in reality." Jagna Pogačnik, a literary critic, *Kritika HDP-a*

"Reading *Summers with Maria* feels exactly like you're sitting among the women from the prologue, waiting for the men to stand up and go away, and you're not listening to their stories, you're absorbing them, and every story is grand and important, as are all Marias to whom they belong to are." Antonija Radić, author's agent



BORIS PERIĆ, TOMISLAV PLETENAC

Ne možeš ti to

You can't do it

publisher: Naklada Ljevak

year: 2020

pages: 224

ISBN: 978-953-355-354-2

English sample translation available

rights: world rights available

Boris Perić, born in 1966 in Varaždin (Croatia), graduated German Language and Literature and Philosophy at the Philosophical Faculty in Zagreb. He is a writer, literary translator and journalist with various Croatian and foreign newspapers, journals and magazines. In addition to many of his own books he has published a large number of translations, including works by Martin Heidegger, J. W. von Goethe, Peter Handke, Hermann Hesse, Thomas Bernhard and Günter Grass.

Professor Tomislav Pletenac was born in 1967. In Varaždin. He graduated at the Technical Faculty in Maribor (Slovenia) and then ethnology and museology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb (Croatia). His PhD thesis (University in Zagreb) investigated the postcolonial framework of East European ethnology. Later his work was focused on theoretical psychoanalysis, genocide studies and popular culture. Last year he started to work as professor of Visual Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb. Apart of numerous articles in scientific journals he wrote studies on fantastic creatures of Istria and Kvarner, Balkan vampires (with co-author Boris Perić) and urban anthropology of Zagreb. Additionally, he wrote again in collaboration with Boris Perić four books of literary essays: *You Cannot Do It* (anti self-help), *Textbook for Extremists*, *Croatian Political Animals* and *Forced to Think: How Rock 'n' Roll Can Help You to Think Less*. Tomislav Pletenac also translates Nick Cave lyrics to kajkavian language and occasionally performs them on piano.

The book "Ne možeš ti to"/ "You can't do it" presents a series of theoretical-literary reviews of established patterns of errors, misconceptions and failures. It offers outlines of theoretical "history of failure" from ancient civilizations to the neoliberal spirit of today. Failure should not be understood as a category reserved exclusively for business ventures and entrepreneurship as such, because experience teaches us that everything in life can be imprinted into its coordinates, instructions and formulas - from personal, emotional, and even sexual failures, all the way to those in the arenas of high politics, media or - why not? - everyday, largely unprofitable, crime.

"Ne možeš ti to"/ "You can't do it" - quite understandably - requires, in addition to the basic text, a series of detours, which, like a slightly expanded glossary, explain basic concepts that we often think we understand, even though we are not really aware of their true meaning (for example: the difference between morals and ethics, the relativity of the moral imperative, the concept of work and work ethics in different socio-economic systems and ideologies, etc.) It is the authors' intention that the text retains the necessary humorous undertones until the very end.

Why should we always be happy, dream of success or compare ourselves with others? This unique philosophical tract with literary undertones demystifies our hysterical search for true happiness. And it does so in a hilarious way...



DENIVER VUKELIĆ

Magija na hrvatskome povijesnom prostoru

Magic in the Croatian historical space

publisher: Školska knjiga

year: 2022

pages: 752

ISBN: 978-953-0-62025-4

rights sold: world rights available

English sample translation available

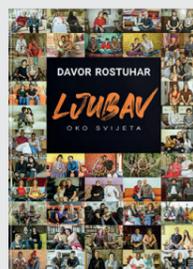
Deniver Vukelić was born in 1980. in Zagreb, Croatia. He graduated from the Classical Grammar School in Zagreb, has M. A. in History and Croatian Language and Literature, and PhD in Ethnology and Anthropology (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of University of Zagreb). He is History editor in chief in the Croatian publishing house Školska knjiga since 2013. Main topics of scientific research interest are magic and magical practices, witch trials, Neopaganisms and Old Faiths, religion and cultural history.

Books:

Magija na hrvatskome povijesnom prostoru, 2021; *Utjecaj magijskih predodžaba na oblikovanje hrvatskoga kulturnoga identiteta*, 2018;

This book is full of amazing anthropological, ethnographic and ethnological data and exciting historical facts. In this richly equipped volume of 752 pages the author shows how magical systems, models and practices influenced Euro-

pean culture and cultural identity, including some of the never before published research of Croatian history of magical practices and beliefs. In addition, it puts into a scientific context a number of controversial phenomena, among which are practices of Satanism, Voodoo, witchcraft and pays attention to public charismatic magical practitioners of various profiles. Undoubtedly, it is an exciting work and has already attracted a lot of attention from the professional public, as well as from a wide readership. It is an excellent read for "everyone who wants to know who is who - from the Balkans *baialacs* and *baialices*, *grabanciash*, to muslim *shiribazis* and African *babalawas*, or to explore how history distinguished charlatans from magical practitioners, herbalists from witches, shamans from sorcerers, useful ancient wisdom from malignant magical practices and much much more". The book was published by Croatian publishing house Školska knjiga d. d., first edition in 2021. and second edition in 2022.



DAVOR ROSTUHAR

Ljubav oko svijeta

Love Around the World

publisher: Klub za ekspedicionizam i kulturu

year: 2021

pages: 400

ISBN: 9789534935002

rights sold: Germany, Serbia

Full English translation available

Davor Rostuhar was born in Zagreb in 1982. He has been working as a writer and photographer since 2001, and has been a member of the Croatian Association of Freelance Artists since 2008. He worked as a journalist and photographer for numerous magazines, such as *National Geographic Croatia*, *Meridijani*, and *Geo*. Since 2013, he has been focusing on his own projects which take several years to develop. All of his projects are part of the Club for Expeditionism and Culture, of which he is co-founder and president. He published eight books, four of which have been translated to English, and one also to Serbian and German. Also, he is an author of two documentary films.

Books: *Samo nek se kreće*, 2003; *Na putu u skrivenu dolinu*, 2006; *Džungla*, 2009; *Degustacija slobode*, 2012; *National Geographic: Hrvatska iz zraka*, 2014; *U zemlji zmaja*, 2015; *Polarni san*, 2018; *Ljubav oko svijeta*, 2021

Translated books: *The Journey's Magic*, 2012; *National Geographic: Croatia from above*, 2014; *Polar dream*, 2018; *Love Around the World*, 2021

Movies: *Polarni san (Polar dream)*, 2018; *Ljubav oko svijeta (Love Around the World)*, 2021

After Andela and Davor married, they set out on a remarkable honeymoon—traveling for a year around the world while exploring love in a vast array of cultures. Their journey took them across six continents and 30 countries, from Bushmen in the African savanna to urban couples in the world's biggest metropolises, from traditional polygamous harems to modern polyamorous communities, from hunter-gatherers deep in the Amazon rainforest to indigenous tribes on the idyllic shores of the Pacific, from those who have never found love to those who have, in love, found everything. They spoke with renowned scholars and, faced with daunting challenges, also analyzed their

own relationship, all to discover the true nature of love and whether it is universal. What they came up with, in the words of editor Kruno Lokotar, is "a book that heals with love and aspires to heal love."

An intimate essay, a travel diary and an ethnographic study – all in one, this book presents an inspirational exploration that takes readers on a passionate journey through different aspects of the meanings that love has in today's world.

Love Around the World was the most selling book in Croatia in 2021, month after month, with over 13.000 copies sold! After people would buy it for themselves, they would often also buy it as a gift – for Valentine's Day and birthdays, for newlyweds and for wedding anniversaries, for friends and family members. But *Love Around the World* also proved to be a valuable part of corporate gift packages and has been used as such by various corporations in Croatia.

"This is a truly magnificent book—packed with touching and fascinating stories of love around the world. The people, the settings, their words: it's elegant, authentic, charming and hopeful. And what an astonished achievement by the authors—to capture romance in so many corners of the globe." – Dr. Helen Fisher

Love Around the World is translated to English, Serbian, and soon a German translation will be available.

On Goodreads, *Love Around the World* has a high rating of 4.62, making it one of the highest rated books in contemporary Croatian literature.

This book is a part of a larger project, which also resulted in a film that was the most viewed domestic film in Croatian theaters in 2021 and the third most viewed Croatian documentary ever. It also won numerous prizes, most of which have been Audience Awards.



HRVOJE TKALČIĆ

Potresi: divovi koji se ponekad bude

Earthquakes: Sleeping Giants

publisher: Naklada Ljevak

year: 2022

pages: 248

ISBN: 978-953-355-597-3

rights sold: world rights available

English sample translation available

Hrvoje Tkalčić is a professor and Head of Geophysics at the Research School of Earth Sciences, the Australian National University in Canberra. He was born and raised in Croatia, where he obtained the Diploma of engineering degree in Physics, speciality in Geophysics with Meteorology from the University of Zagreb. He received his PhD in geophysics from the University of California at Berkeley. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Scripps Institute of the University of California San Diego and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed research papers and the first book on the Earth's inner core, published by the Cambridge University Press in 2017. His research interests include the structure and dynamics of the Earth's interior using observational seismology and mathematical geophysics, from the crust to the Earth's centre. Professor Tkalčić is a Director of the Warrawunga Seismic and Infrasonic Array in the Northern Territory, Australia, run on behalf of the UN Comprehensive Nuclear Ban Test Treaty Organisation and the Australian Government. He participates in improving global coverage of seismic data by deployment in remote regions of the Earth, including its oceans. He received an inaugural award by AuScope for Excellence in research in 2016. He was elected a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 2020 for groundbreaking discoveries on Earth's inner core and

the development of innovative geophysics methods to study seismic structures and sources. In 2022, the Royal Astronomical Society in London awarded him the Price Medal for his breakthrough work in understanding the architecture of the seismic correlation wavefield and using his finding to provide the first unambiguous observational evidence that the Earth's inner core is solid.

From the pen of the world-renowned Croatian scientist Hrvoje Tkalčić, the book 'Earthquakes: Sleeping Giants' explains the phenomenon of earthquakes and the entire physical world that lies behind it. Through ten chapters, written in an exquisite literary style, this magnificent book takes the reader on a journey to the center of the Earth, discovering in the very heart of the globe the secrets of our universe. At the same time, Professor Tkalčić takes us on a journey through the Australian Outback, the awe-inspiring Southern Ocean, and even to Mars where today we can measure marsquakes.

'Earthquakes: Sleeping Giants' is rich in mythological reminiscences, describes some of the most breakthrough achievements in geophysics, and presents complex mathematical and physical problems. It manages to do all that in a manner worthy of great teachers and science communicators. With this book Hrvoje Tkalčić did for geophysics what Neil deGrasse Tyson did for astrophysics.



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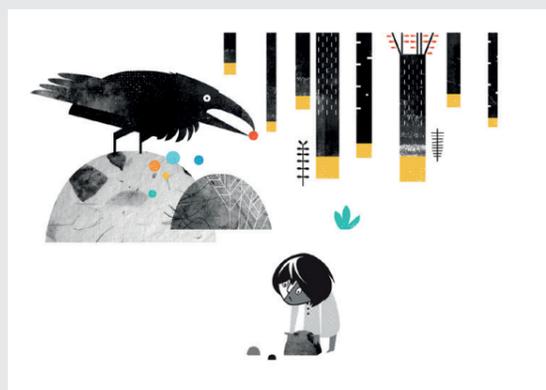
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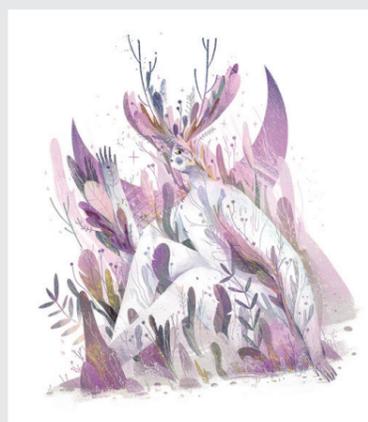
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	Wednesday 19 Oct 2022	Thursday 20 Oct 2022	Saturday 22 Oct 2022
12:00-13:00		Promotion of picture books BAO, o meni by Kašmir Huseinović and Andrea Petrlik (Croatian-Chinese edition), Ljeto by Cao Wenxuan (winner of the Andersen Literature Award) and Yu Rong, and Dječak u šetnji by Peng Yuejun, one of the most renowned and influential Chinese children's writers and Qu Lan. The picture book was edited by Kašmir Huseinović, Panda Books editions, Zagreb (with: Kašmir Huseinović and Andrea Petrlik)	
13:00-14:00		Promotion of the English translation of the novel W by Igor Štiks in the project Facing Insecurities in Contemporary Europe (with: Igor Štiks and Seid Serdarević, in English)	CROATIAN CULTURAL COMMUNITY / MATICA HRVATSKA WIESBADEN BRANCH: 1) Riječ magazine 2) Bojana Meandžija: Trčil Ne čekaj me 3) Teološka Biografija Matije Vlačića Ilirika 4) Vjeroispovijest i dijaspora 5) Pappel/Topola by Dalibor Marković
14:00-15:00	Promotion of the English translation of the novel August after Midnight (Viljevo) by Luka Bekavac, part of the project Facing Insecurities in Contemporary Europe (with: Luka Bekavac and Seid Serdarević, in English)		
15:00-16:00	Promotion of editions published by Dječja knjiga: Božić velikih čuda, Čuvar trešanja, Povratak iz Zelenzemlje, Mama koja grije Sunce, Potraga za srećom by Miro Radalj and Andrea Petrlik, Zimzeleni Žučo by Dragan Zlatović and Terra Badaj (with: Kašmir Huseinović and Andrea Petrlik)	Promotion of editions by Kašmir promet: Čarobna Mia (The Wishing Shelf Book Awards 2021 UK) and Mia i duga by Hilary Hawkes and Andrea Petrlik and Princ brojeva , from the series of picture books about Sivko the mouse by Kašmir Huseinović and Andrea Petrlik, from the Patak i Medo series – Najbolji susjedi, Nezgodne zgode, Plivanje i druge nezgodne zgode (with: Kašmir Huseinović and Andrea Petrlik)	

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