





**Magvető**  
**Publishing**  
Rights Guide  
London 2017



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## Literature with a Hungarian accent

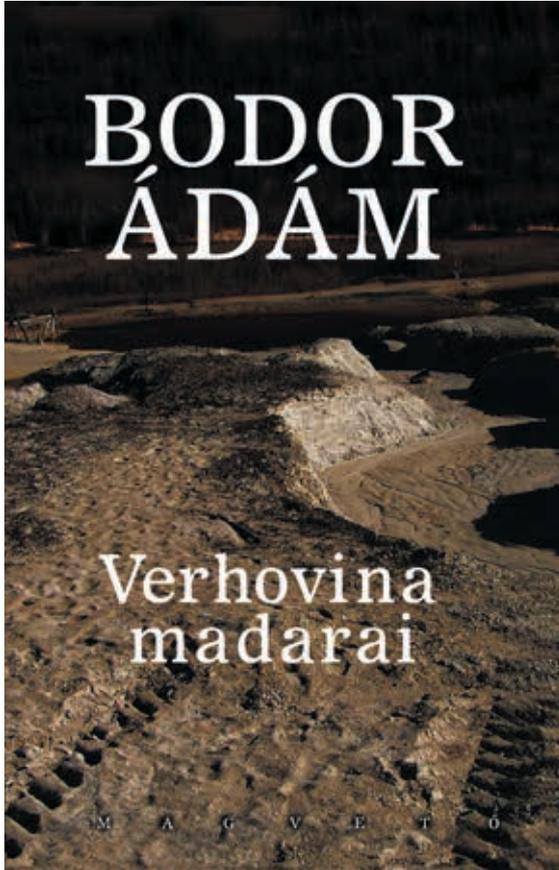
Magvető Publishing is the most prestigious publisher of literature in Hungary. Six-time winner of the Hungarian Publisher of the Year award, Magvető is proud to be the home of Imre Kertész, the only Hungarian Nobel literature laureate; László Krasznahorkai, winner of the 2015 International Man Booker 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 Gavalda, 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  
Publisher



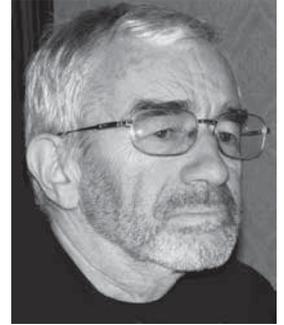


Home to nine hot springs, Verhovina used to be rich in natural beauty yet it has become a waste land, with only a few dozen inhabitants left. Trains to Verhovina are scarce; the timetable was cancelled. One day, even the birds disappeared from the region. The village has virtually lost contact with the 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. From 1955 to 1960 he was a student at a Protestant theological college and worked for a while at the Diocesan Library of the Transylvanian Protestant Church. 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

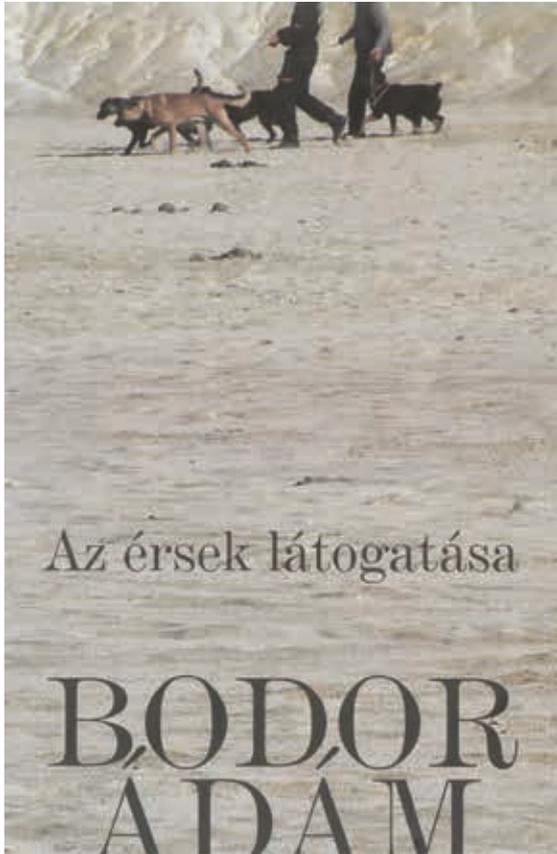
ISBN 978 963 14 2873 5  
2011, hard cover with jacket  
256 pages, 135×197 mm  
2990 HUF

#### Rights sold

French, Cambourakis  
Polish, Czarne

English excerpt and  
complete French and Polish  
texts available

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 Tarkovsky'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)

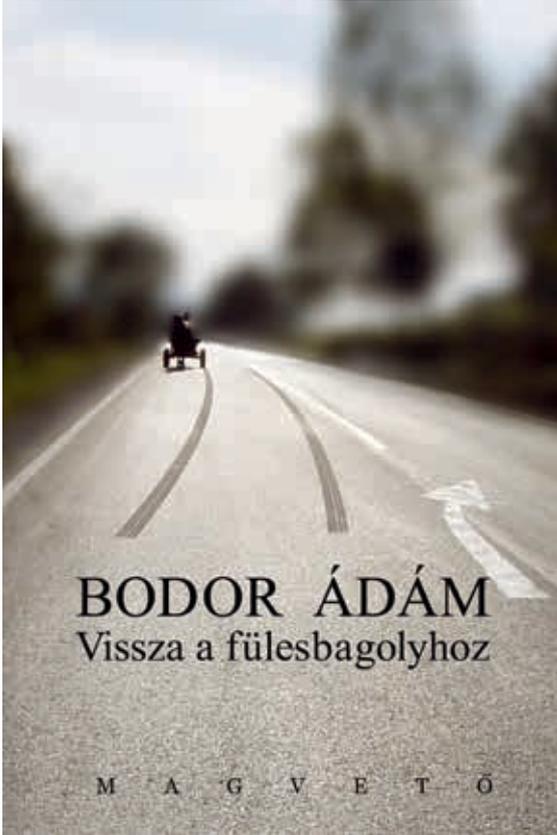
*"For me, practically all areas of life were determined by being convicted as a political prisoner and having spent two years in prison... I am happy that it happened. To be sure, mine has been the life of a person bearing an existential stigma, but in the background it was charged not with the clinging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

Product details

ISBN 978 963 14 2588 8  
2007, hard cover with jacket  
128 pages, 120x190 mm  
2290 HUF

Rights sold

German, Ammann  
Polish, Czarne  
French, Robert Laffont  
Spanish, Acantilado  
Romanian, Polirom  
Croatian, Meandarmedia  
Czech, Havran



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.

#### Product details

ISBN 978 963 14 3328 9

2015, hard cover with jacket

416 pages, 115×187 mm

3490 HUF

#### Rights sold

German, Ammann

English, Polygon (selection)

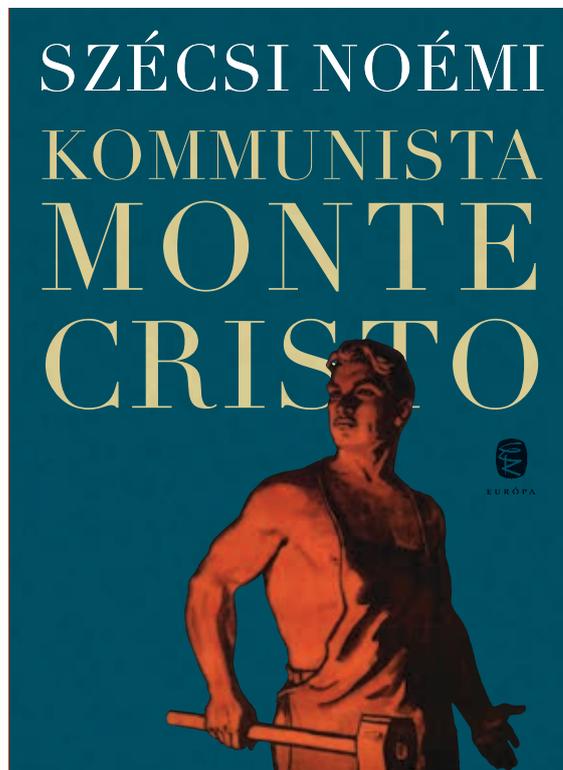
Spanish, Acantilado

Polish, Czarne

Romanian, Kriterion (selection)

Czech, Dauphin

*European Union Prize for Literature, 2009*



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).

#### Product details

ISBN 978 963 0799 15 7

Európa Publishing, 2014, hard cover  
with jacket

420 pages, 210×140 mm

3490 HUF

#### Rights sold

Macedonian, Ili-ili

Serbian, Zavet

Bulgarian, Ergo

Croatian, Naklada Ljevak

Turkish, Tekin

Italian, Mimesis

English excerpts available

**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.

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

**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)

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1433 70 8

2016, hard cover with jacket,

296 pages, 125x197 mm

3490 HUF

English excerpts available

## 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.

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

## Product details

ISBN 978 963 1431 76 6

2016, hard cover with jacket,

312 pages, 125×197 mm

3490 HUF

## Rights sold

Turkish, Alakarga

Russian, KompasGuide



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.

*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

ISBN 978 963 1428 52 0

2016, hard cover with jacket,

292 pages, 142x220 mm

2990 HUF

#### Rights sold

Croatian, Naklada Jurcic

## 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*

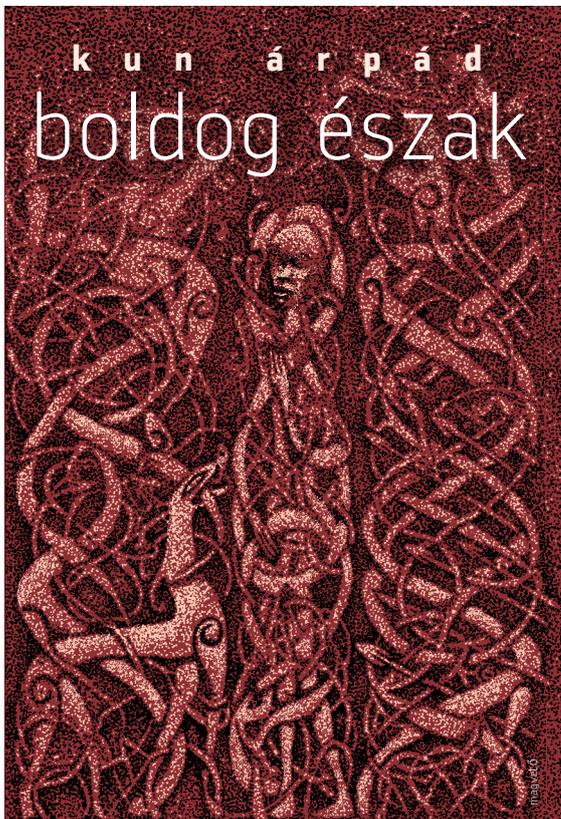
## Product details

ISBN 978 963 1434 14 9

2016, hard cover with jacket

420 pages, 140x215 mm

3990 HUF



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.

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

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

#### Product details

ISBN 978 963 1431 23 0

2013, hard cover with jacket

440 pages, 140x215 mm

3490 HUF

#### Rights sold

French, Galaade

Czech, Volvox Globátor

Turkish, Alakarga

Serbian, Dereta

Spanish, Trope Editores

English, German and Norwegian excerpts and complete Spanish and Turkish texts available

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

## The Best Headsman in the Land

Short stories



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.



### 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

*These are human gestures; this is not hell*

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

### Product details

ISBN 978 963 1432 53 4

2015, hard cover with jacket

192 pages, 120x197 mm

2990 HUF

English, German and French excerpts available

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

## ZOLTÁN DANYI

### The Carcass Remover

Novel



Is it possible to break free from the memory of war? Can one do anything but *not* break free from it? Having gone through the Yugoslav War, the narrator of the novel is trying to come to terms with the experience and start life anew. His path takes him to Split, Budapest and Berlin, and the ever-tempting apple of America is always beckoning, but he eventually finds the answer to his questions in a dusk in Temerin, Serbia. Zoltán Danyi's novel is a grotesque, shocking and upsetting story of how human existence can—and how it cannot—be disassociated from its circumstances, be they appalling or noble. Rather than just another book about the Yugoslav War, *The Carcass Remover* attempts to find a language which is capable of piecing together a world broken to pieces, while being aware of the fact that what is broken will never be completely healed. It is also a deeply European—and painfully topical—book that shows how conflicts that seem local and far away from the 'civilized world' can escalate.



#### Zoltán Danyi

was born in Senta, Vojvodina (Serbia) in 1972. Besides *The Carcass Remover*, he has several volumes of poetry and a book of essays on Béla Hamvas to his name.  
<http://danyi.on.neobee.net/>

#### Awards

Miklós Mészöly Award 2015  
for *The Carcass Remover*  
Miklós Radnóti Award 2010  
Ervin Sinkó Award 2002

*Miklós Mészöly Award 2015*

#### Product details

ISBN 978 963 1432 58 9

2015, hard cover with jacket

264 pages, 125×197 mm

2990 HUF

German and English excerpts available

## 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

## Product details

ISBN 978 963 1431 93 3

2014, hard cover with jacket

224 pages, 123x184 mm

2690 HUF

English and German excerpts available

## Crash Test

Short stories



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

See her children's books on pages 50–51

*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."*

**Product details**

ISBN 9789631434361

2016, hard cover with jacket

248 pages, 123 × 184 mm

2990 HUF

**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*

## Product details

ISBN 978 963 1433 84 5

2016, hard cover with jacket

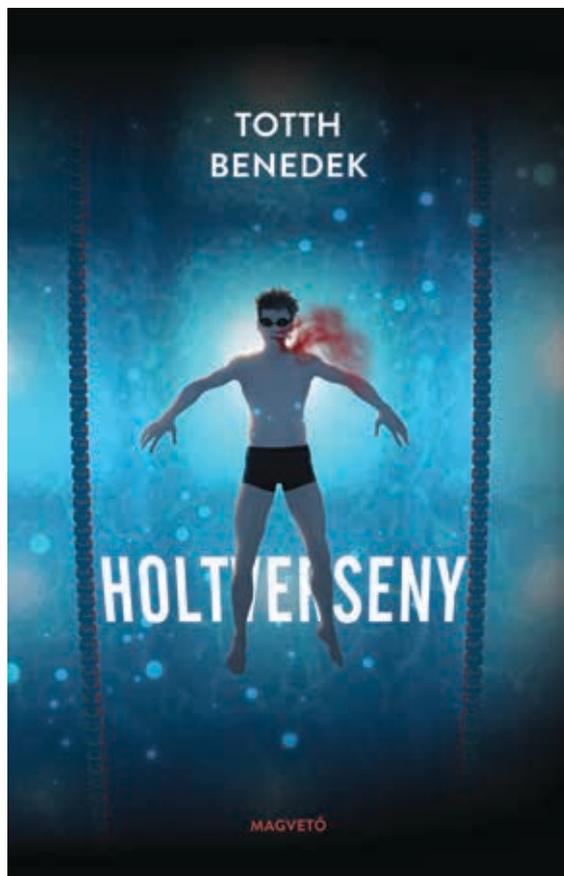
272 pages, 125x197 mm

2990 HUF

## Dead Heat

Novel

*Participant of the first international Book Pitch  
at Leipzig Book Fair, 18 March 2016*



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. He is a noted translator of literature—among others, he has translated novels by Cormac McCarthy. *Dead Heat* is his first book.

**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*

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1429 06 0  
2014, hard cover with jacket  
248 pages, 125 × 197 mm  
2990 HUF

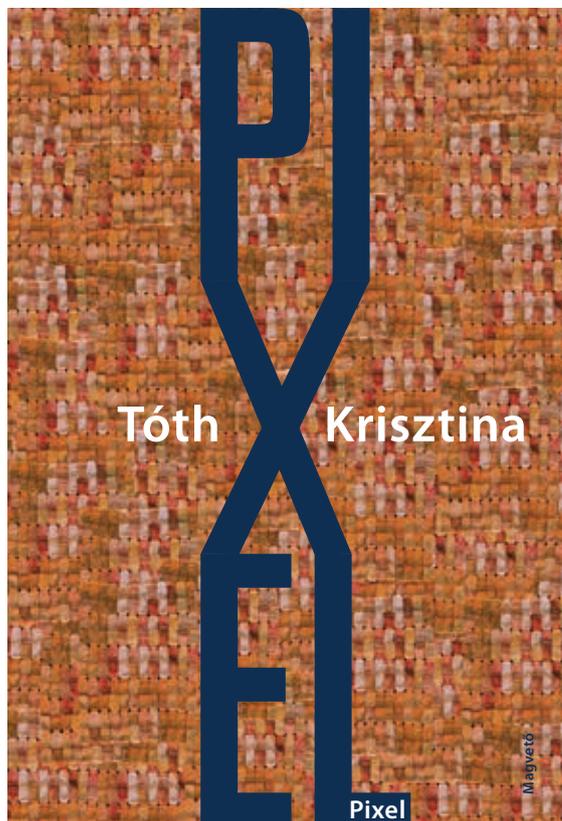
**Rights sold**

Slovakian, Zeleny Kocúr  
French, Actes Sud  
English, Biblioasis, Canada

English excerpts and  
complete French text  
available

## 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)

See her children's books on pages 52–55

*The invisible threads that connect relatives and strangers*

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1433 86 9

2011, hard cover with jacket

168 pages, 123×184 mm

2490 HUF

**Rights sold**

German, Nischen Verlag

Macedonian, Ili-Ili

Slovenian, Lud Literatura

Polish, Studio Emka

Turkish, Dedalus

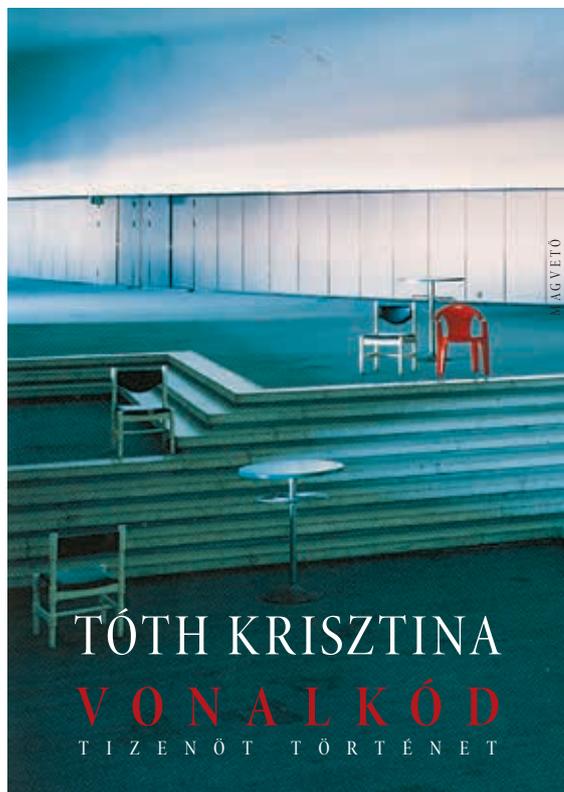
Swedish, Tranan

English excerpts in Best European Fiction 2015

English excerpts, complete German text available

## 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.

## Rights sold

French, Gallimard  
 German, Berlin Verlag  
 Spanish, El Nadir  
 Bulgarian, Ergo  
 Czech, Fra  
 Czech, Tympanum (audio book)  
 Finnish, Avain  
 Serbian, B92  
 Polish, Książkowe Klimaty

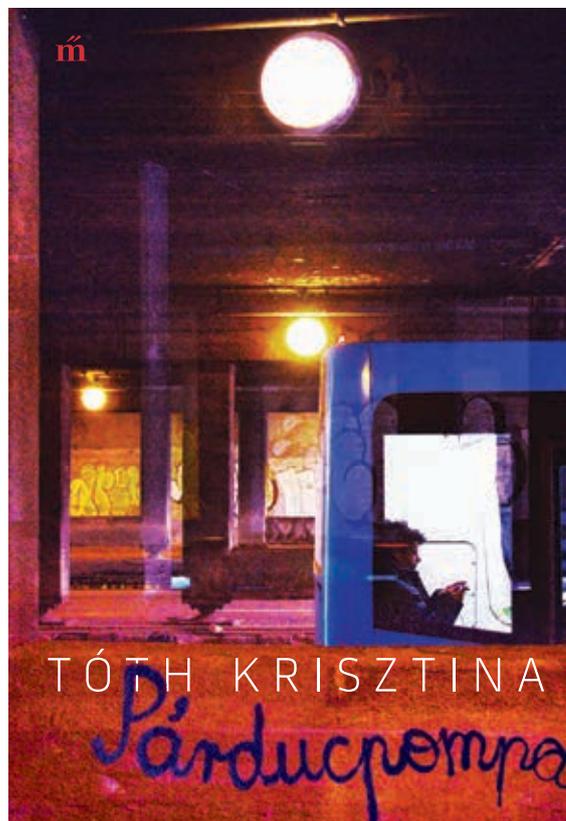
## Product details

ISBN 978 963 1425 12 3  
 2006, hard cover with jacket  
 188 pages, 123×184 mm  
 2490 HUF

English and Italian excerpts,  
 complete German and  
 French text available

## 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.

## Product details

ISBN 978 963 14 3521 4

2017, hard cover with jacket

144 pages, 123x124 mm

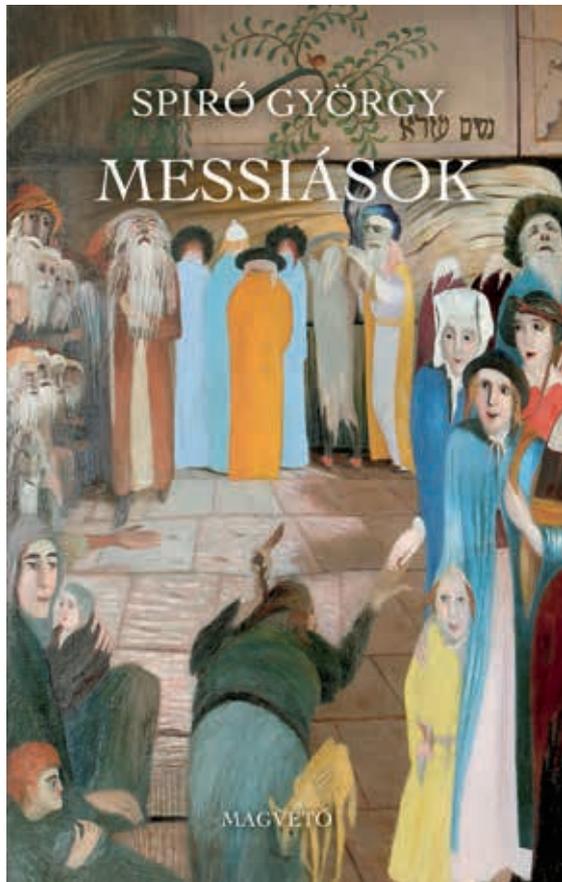
2999 HUF

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

**GYÖRGY SPIRÓ**

**Messiahs**

Novel



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, follow Mickiewicz's legion to Italy, and end 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)*



**György Spiró**

was born in 1946 in Budapest. He is one of Hungary's leading contemporary authors, a writer, a dramatist, a translator and a scholar of Polish literature. Spiró is one of the most frequently played contemporary playwrights of Hungary.

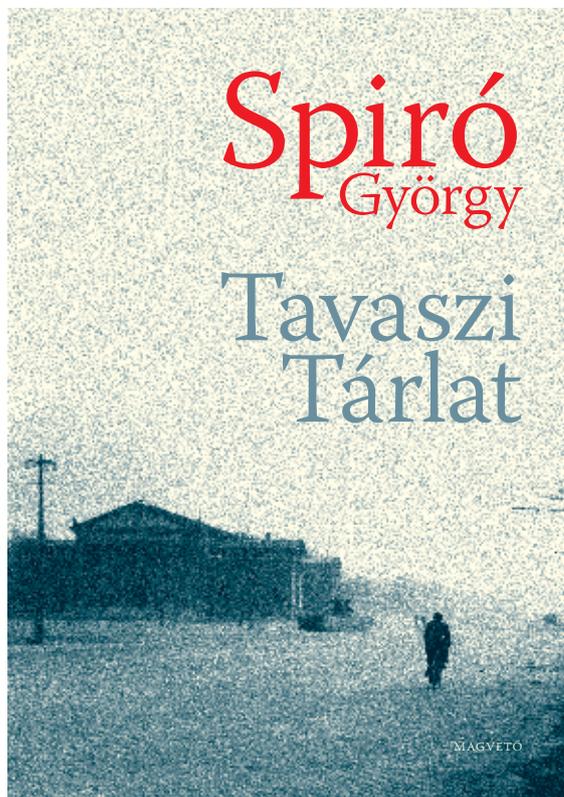
**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 14 2552 9  
2007, hard cover with jacket  
648 pages, 145x225 mm  
3990 HUF

**Rights sold**

Polish, WAB

German excerpts and  
complete Polish text  
available



*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.

*A Kafkaesque novel on absolute power and the individual*

#### Rights sold

Spanish, Acantilado  
Catalan, Quaderns Crema

Italian, Guanda

Finnish, Avain

German, Nischen Verlag

Slovak, Kalligram

Bulgarian, Gutenberg  
Publishing

Turkish, Dedalus Publishing

Serbian, Sezam Book

French, Galaade Éditions

Polish, Czytelnik

#### Product details

ISBN 978 963 1428 41 4

2010, hard cover with jacket

288 pages, 134x185 mm

2990 HUF

English and French excerpts,

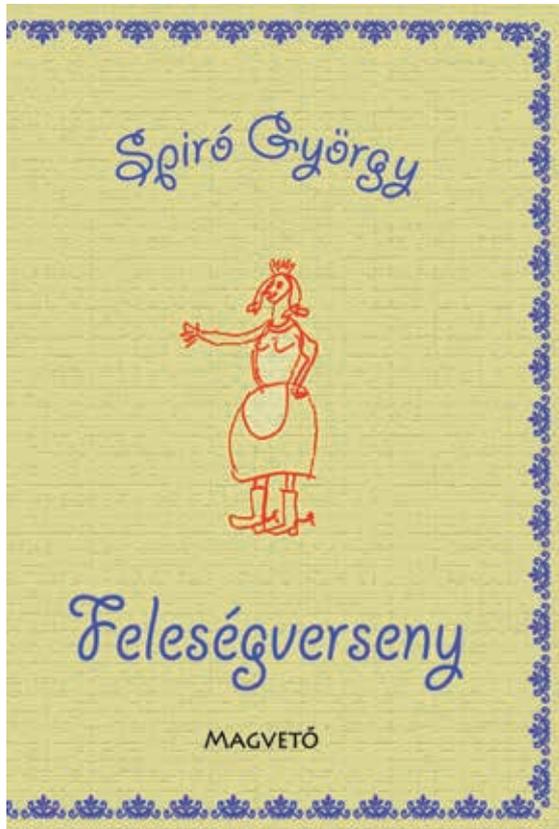
complete German, Slovak,

Italian, Spanish and Polish

translations available

## 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.

## Product details

ISBN 978 963 1427 21 9

2009, hard cover with jacket

340 pages, 145x225 mm

2990 HUF

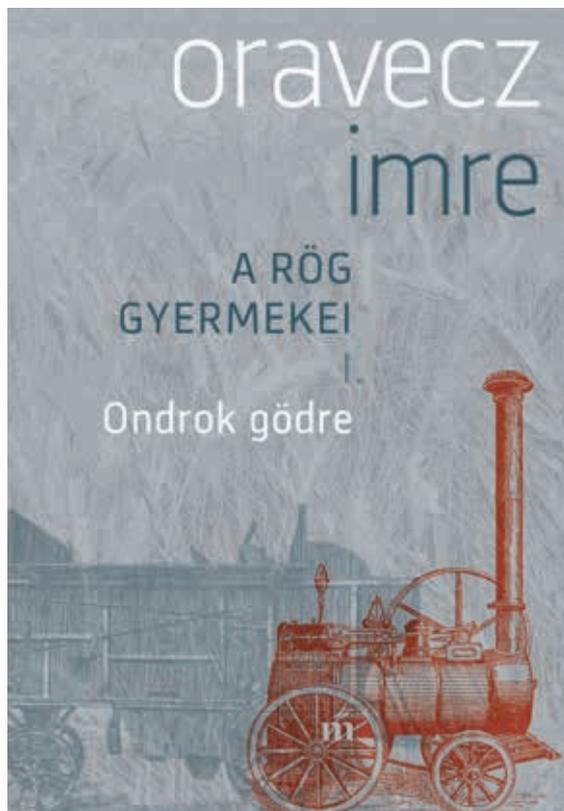
## Rights sold

Czech Republic, Malvern

English excerpts available

## 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**

ISBN 978 963 1433 95 1

2016, hard cover with jacket

392 pages, 135×195 mm

3990 HUF

English excerpts available

## 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.

## Product details

ISBN 978 963 1435 04 7

2016, hard cover with jacket

648 pages, 135x197 mm

4999 HUF

English excerpts available

## 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)

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1430 81 3

2013, hard cover with jacket

108 pages, 123x184 mm

1990 HUF

English and German excerpts  
available



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)

#### Product details

ISBN 978 963 1426 99 1

2009, hard cover with jacket

184 pages, 123×184 mm

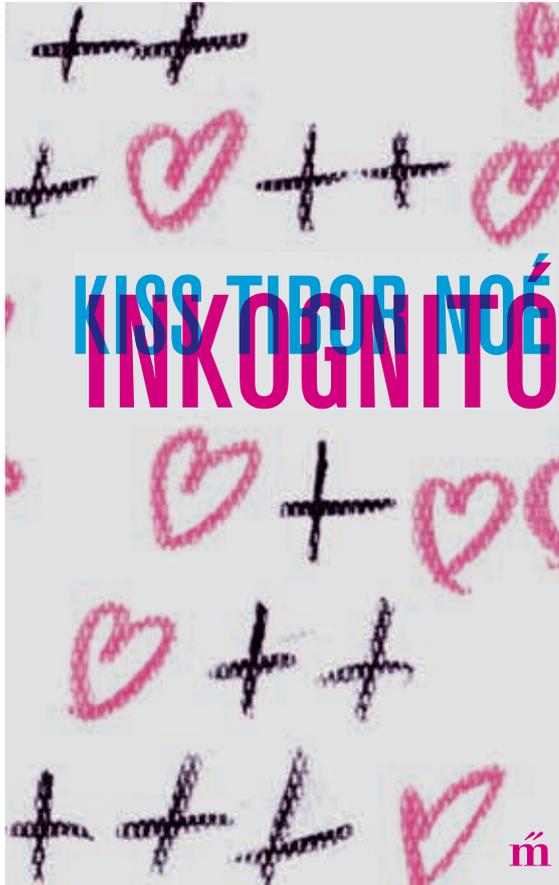
2490 HUF

#### Rights sold

German, Europa Verlag

English excerpts available

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

ISBN 978 963 1434 80 4  
 2016, hard cover with jacket  
 148 pages, 125×197 mm  
 2690 HUF

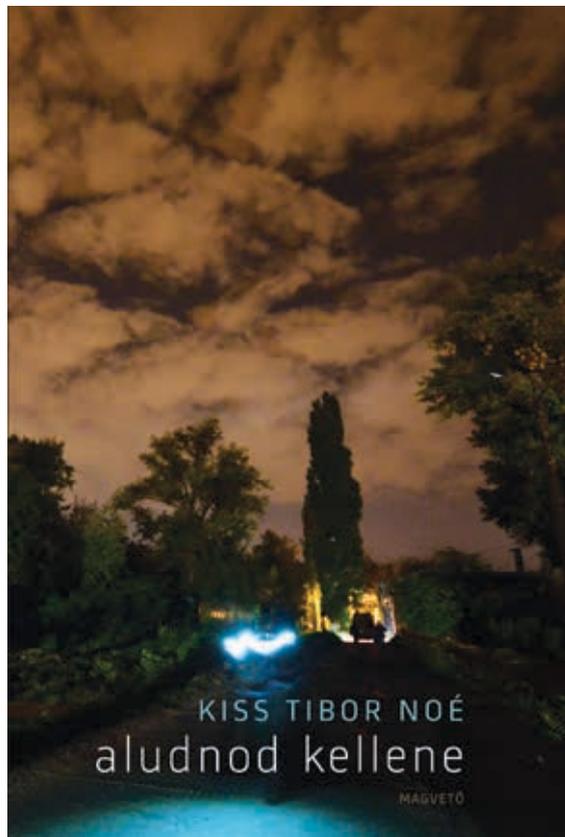
#### Rights sold

Polish, Książkowe Klimaty

English and French excerpts available

## 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.

*"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

ISBN 978 963 1431 73 5

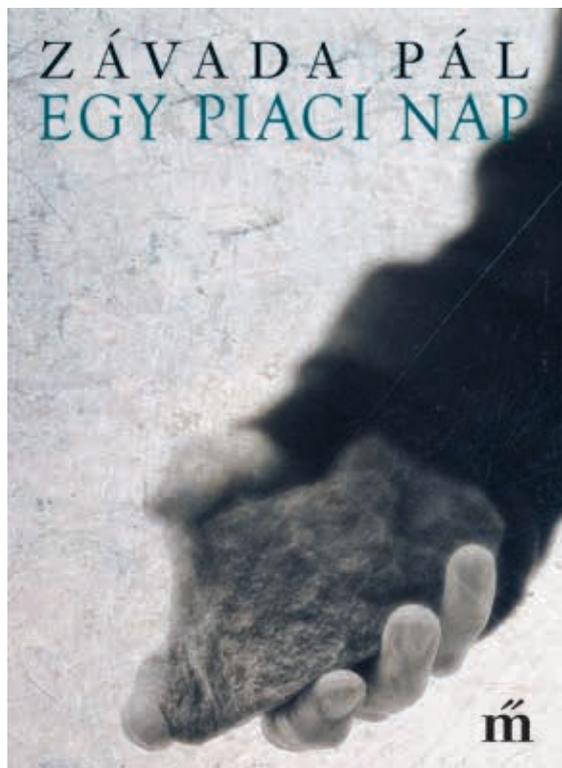
2014, hard cover with jacket

144 pages, 125x197 mm

2690 HUF

## Rights sold

Czech, Protimluv



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.

*"I can tell the very moment when it struck me, with piercing clarity, that from now on shutting my eyes in horror protects me from nothing. I can run home and bury my head in the pillows because I loathe what they're doing—but it does me no good."*

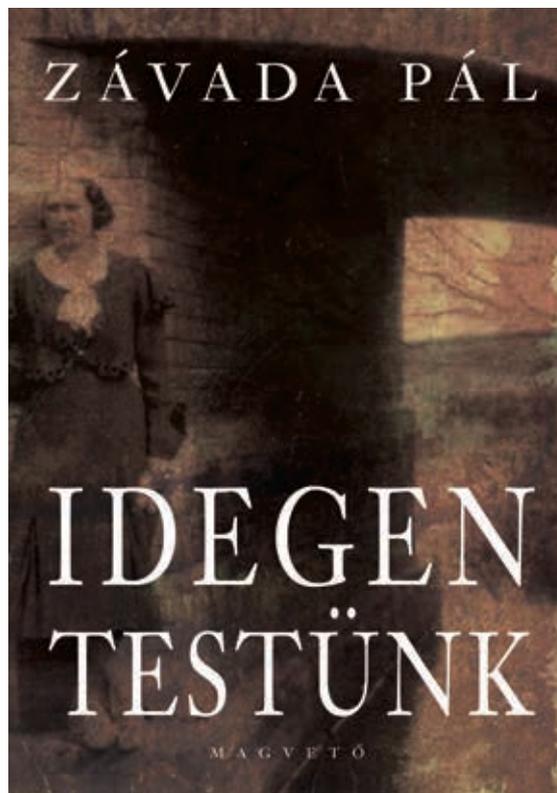
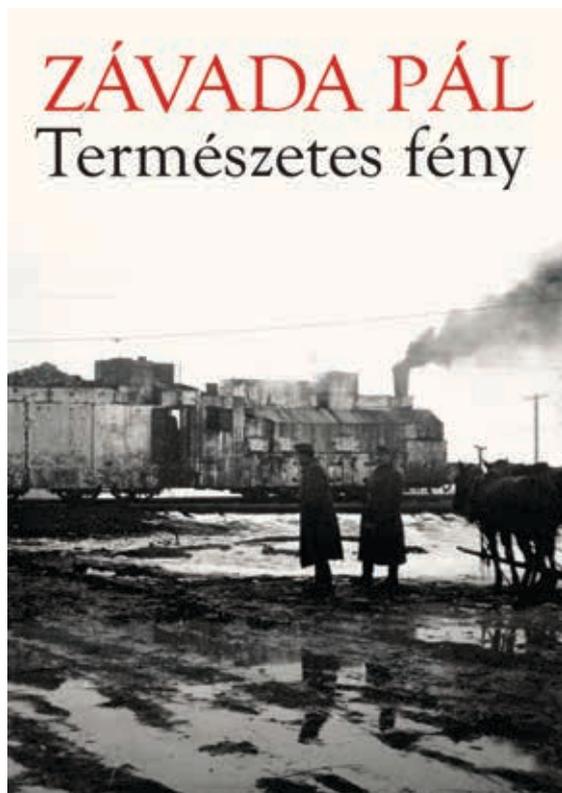
#### Product details

ISBN 978 963 1433 86 9

2016, hard cover with jacket

200 pages, 123×174 mm

2990 HUF



### 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

Photo copyrights are cleared, and sold with text rights,  
photo files are handed over free of charge  
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?

## 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

2012, hard cover with jacket

216 pages, 123×184 mm

2690 HUF

## Rights sold:

German, Suhrkamp

Verlag—Shortlisted for Der

Internationaler Literaturpreis

2014

English excerpts,  
complete German  
translation available

## 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 archenemy, 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.

*Satan finds salvation, and returns to Heaven*

*New novel of winner of the European Union Prize for Literature 2012*

**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

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1430 78 3

2015, hard cover with jacket

166 pages, 235x280 mm

4990 HUF

## 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

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

*György Petri Award 2015*

## Product details

ISBN 978 963 1433 74 6

2016, hard cover with jacket

144 pages, 115×184 mm

2490 HUF

English excerpt available

## 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

ISBN 978 963 1433 72 2

2016, hard cover

96 pages, 100x170 mm

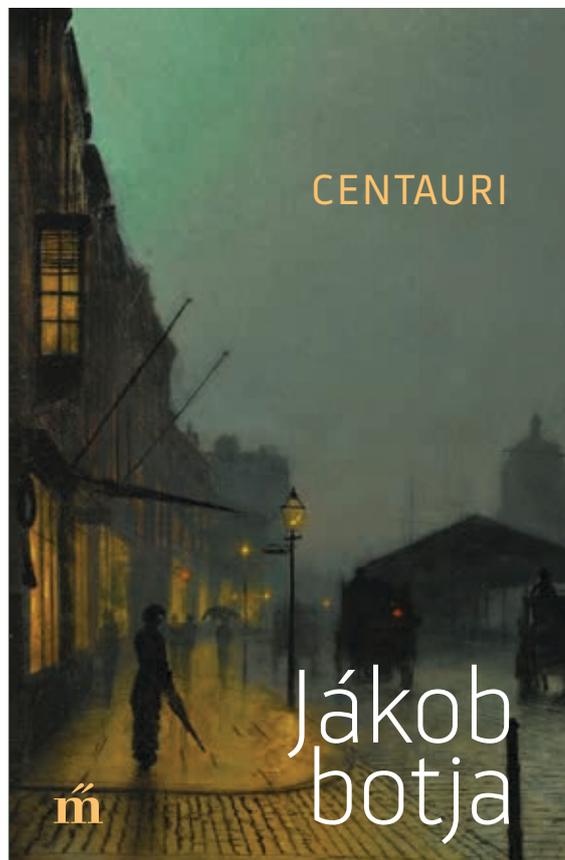
1990 HUF

*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

2016, hard cover with jacket

564 pages, 120x197 mm

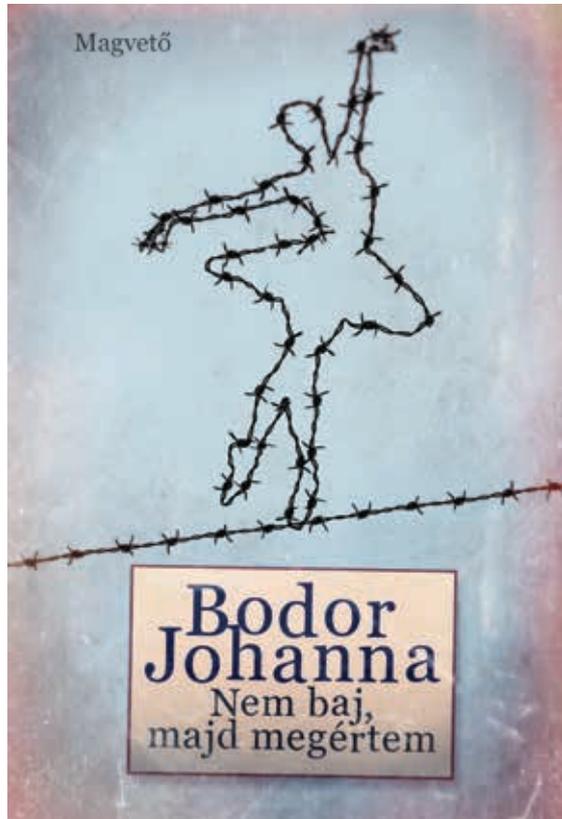
3990 HUF



*A young girl in Ceaușescu's Romania*

**JOHANNA BODOR**

Never Mind, I'll Get It Eventually  
Memoir



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"*

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1431 70 4

2016, hard cover with jacket

224 pages, 135×197 mm

2990 HUF

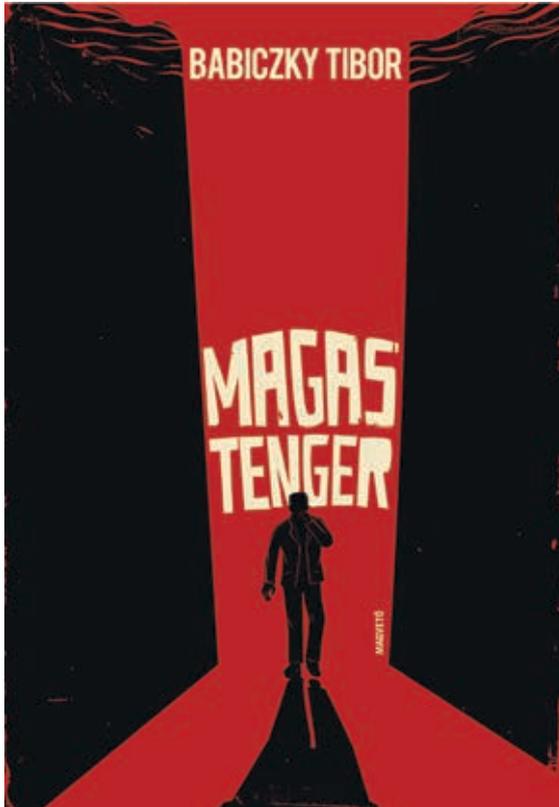
**Rights sold**

Polish, Świat Książki

German excerpts available

**High Sea**

Novel



A detective story of literary worth, *High Sea* is violent and dream-like, lively and monotonous, sensational and intellectual, cynical and touching. Far beyond a mere whodunit, it focuses on a lonely man, a detective who takes his profession lightly, giving occasional help to the forces of law and order. He prefers to listen to Metallica and Chopin, reflect on his own opinions, and muse on existential questions at the murder scenes. He chases criminals and takes statements from witnesses, but all the while his every thought is sheer pain, for the greatest criminal is he himself. Why? This is a mystery to be solved by the reader. Written in lyrical prose, *High Sea* is typically Hungarian and at the same time universal. Rather than a simple story about violent murder and nightmare, it is about the pulsating fear of life and the impossibility of absolution from sin. It is the struggle of a detective with crime and guilt. To be continued.

**Tibor Babiczky**

was born in 1980 in Székesfehérvár. He lives in Budapest and works as editor at Scolar Publishing Company. He has written two volumes of poetry and a novel. His poems have been published in English, Czech, French, Greek, Croatian, and Polish.

**Awards**

Shortlisted for the Margó Award 2015 for Best First Book of Prose

Visegrad Fund Fellowship in Bratislava, 2014

*"He couldn't have gotten very far, grumbled the detective. Go find the Son of God and bring him to me. I'd like to have a few words with him."*

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1430 05 9

2014, hard cover with jacket

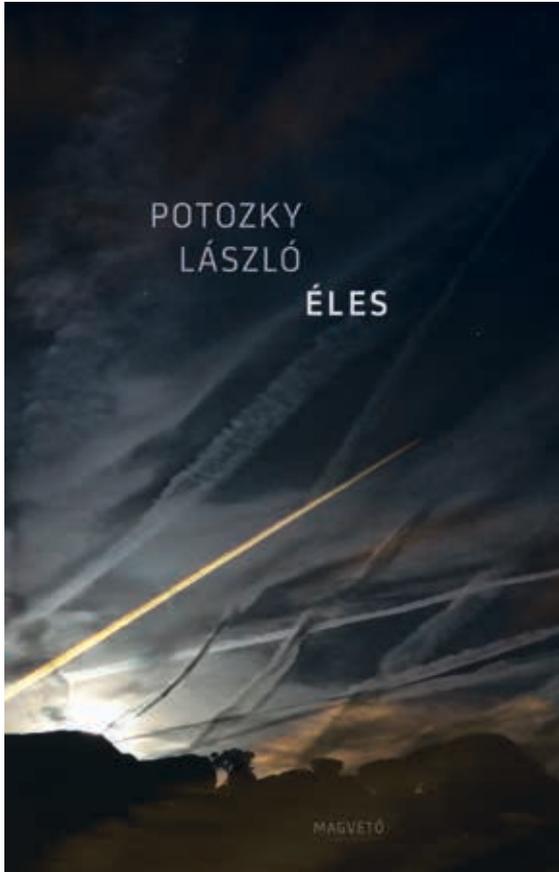
180 pages, 123x180 mm

2490 HUF

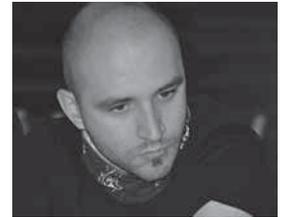
English excerpt available

## 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**

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

*The best analgesic is pain itself*

*“Sharp is more than just a love story: this is a story in which a young adult tries to find his way, but the scene broadens to give us a description of an era and society...”* Élet és Irodalom

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1429 07 7

2015, hard cover with jacket

240 pages, 125x197 mm

2990 HUF



Books for Children



## 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.

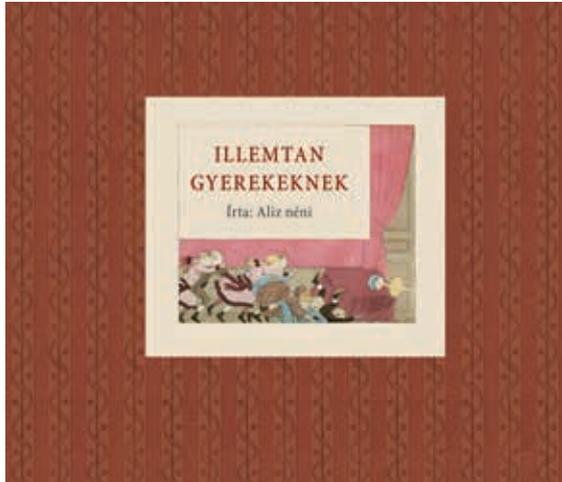


*"...these few pages are perfect for a bedtime story, for tired parents, for little ones who want to laugh, travel, and have adventures, and Zsuzsi Medve's drawings with their colours and scents make them even more lifelike." Magyar Narancs*

**Product details**

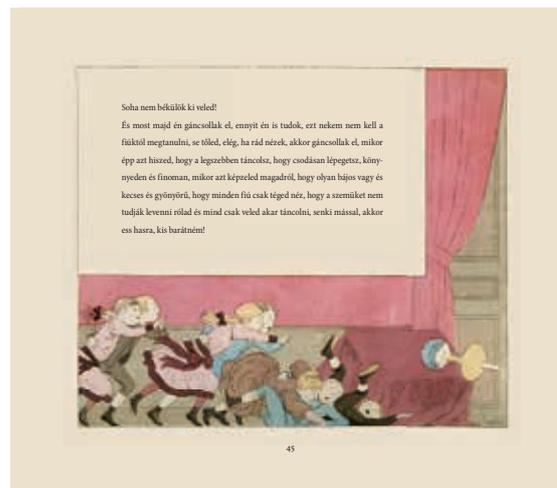
ISBN 978 963 1432 98 5  
2015, hard cover  
64 pages, 240x210 mm  
2990 HUF

*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



#### Product details

ISBN 978 963 1425 36 9

2006, hard cover

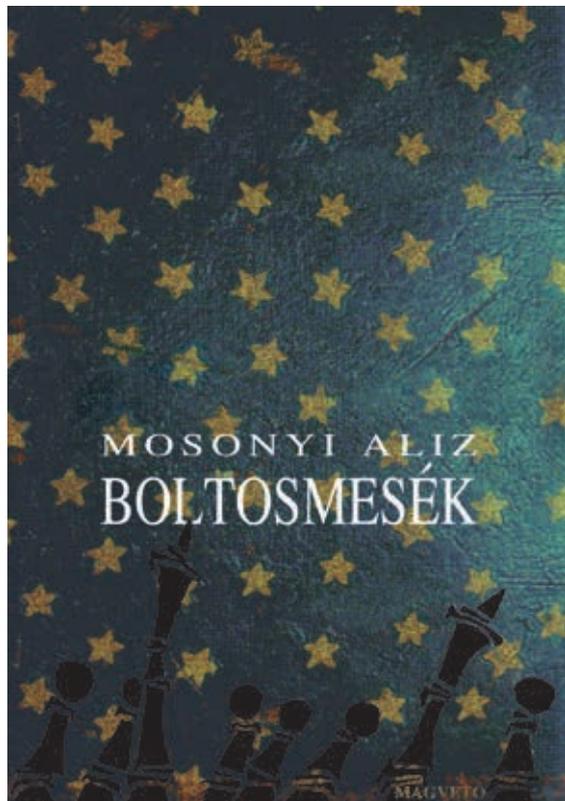
48 pages, 240 × 210 mm

1990 HUF

Files of illustrations are handed over free of charge  
English excerpt available

## Shop Stories

with illustrations by József Pintér

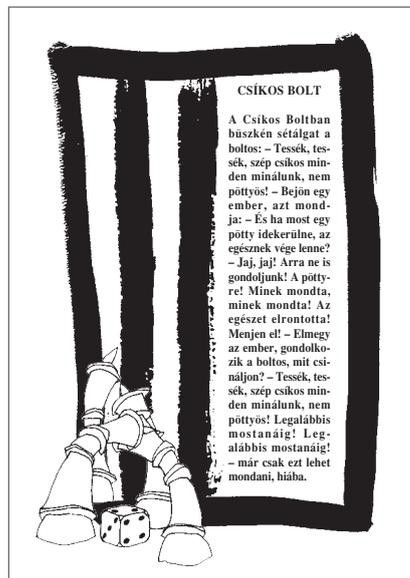


Eighty-one stories about shops that never existed. Though children will love these fairytales because of their absurdity and gentle humour, perhaps they are more for young people who have just begun to face the hurdles and trials of life: love, friendship, confidence, mourning, faithfulness, betrayal, 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.

**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.

For readers ages 6 to 99



## Product details

ISBN 978 963 1420 98 2

2002, hard cover with jacket

88 pages, 125x177 mm

1490 HUF

## Rights sold

French, L'Ecole des Loisirs

Russian, Vremja

English excerpt available

**The Spice Bird**

with illustrations by Eszter Schall

Information on the author on page 19



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

*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.*

**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**

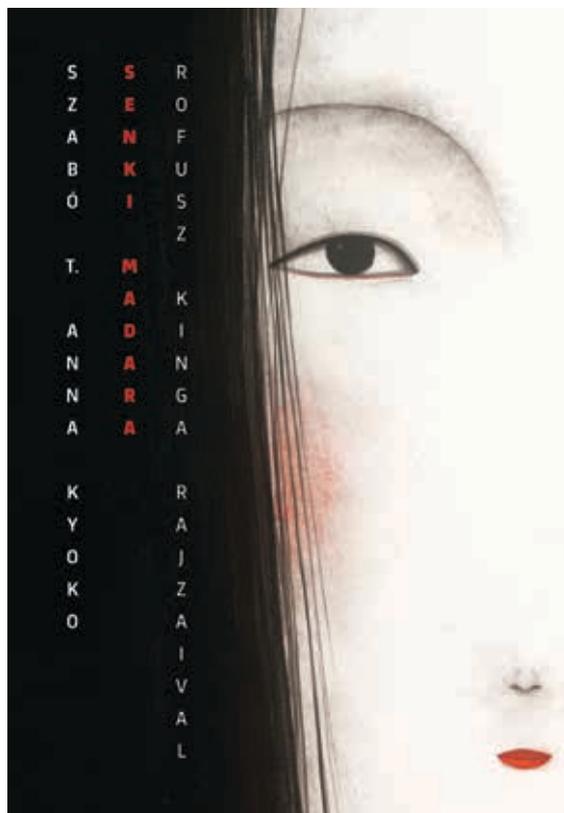
Aranyvackor Children's Book Illustration Competition, Special Prize 2011  
Csodaceruza Children's Book Illustration Competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 2011  
Digital Painter of the Year, BPIX 2010  
Digital Painting Competition 2010

**Product details**

ISBN 978 963 1428 75 9  
2015, hard cover  
120 pages, 163x195 mm  
2990 HUF

**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

**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

Publisher: Vivandra and Magvető

2015, hard cover with jacket

56 pages, 160x230 mm

2990 HUF

Complete English text,  
translated by George Szirtes, available

## The Girl Who Wouldn't Talk

with illustrations by Gabriella Makhult

Information on the author on page 22



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

## Product details

ISBN 978 963 4150 42 8

Publisher: Móra

2015, hard cover

32 pages

2699 HUF

**Gabriella Makhult  
(illustrator)**

was born in Budapest in 1981, and graduated from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2005.

[http://](http://makhultgabi.blogspot.hu/)

[makhultgabi.blogspot.hu/](http://makhultgabi.blogspot.hu/)

*Adoption—a search for Identity*

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

*“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

**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/)

Product details

ISBN 978 963 1199 32 1

Publisher: Móra

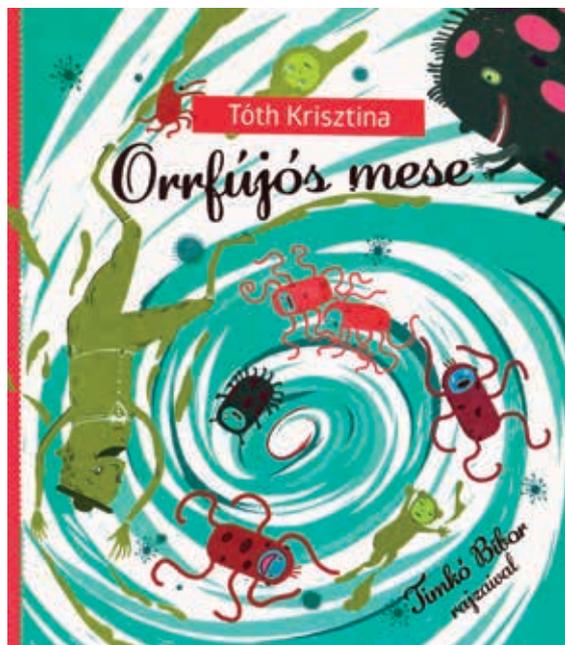
2015, hard cover

48 pages, 170×210 mm

2499 HUF

## 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

**Bíbor Timkó**  
(illustrator)

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

*Book on an important topic with great humour*

Product details

ISBN 978 963 3411 50 6

Publisher: Central Médiacsoport Zrt.

2015, hard cover

48 pages, 210x245 mm

2900 HUF



What happened to the little bat who wanted to be a bird? How was the little fish cured when his fin was hurt? What do we know about the life of soap bubbles? What can a hundred-year-old man and the king of grass snakes teach us? We will get answers to all these questions and more from *Cloud Stories*. We will also meet a wonderful little girl, Lili, who is curious, full of ideas and has her heart in the right place.

Krisztina Tóth's new collection was illustrated with magic pictures by Bíbor Timkó.

For readers aged 4 to 100

#### Product details

ISBN 978 963 1435 16 0

2017, hard cover

56 pages, 210x240 mm

2990 HUF

## **MAGVETŐ PUBLISHING LLC.**

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