



## Literature with a Hungarian accent

Magvető is the most prestigious publisher of literary fiction in Hungary. We are proud to be the home of László Krasznahorkai, winner of the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Magvető is also the publisher of such internationally acclaimed writers as Péter Esterházy, György Dragomán, Krisztina Tóth and Attila Bartis. Besides publishing established authors, it is Magvető's mission to discover new talents.

Apart from Hungarian authors, we bring a selection of the most outstanding works from the elite of international literature to Hungarian readers, among others Annie Ernaux, Gabriel García Márquez, Michel Houellebecq, Karl Ove Knausgård, Daniel Kehlmann, Ali Smith, Irene Solà, J. R. R. Tolkien and Ludmila Ulitskaya.

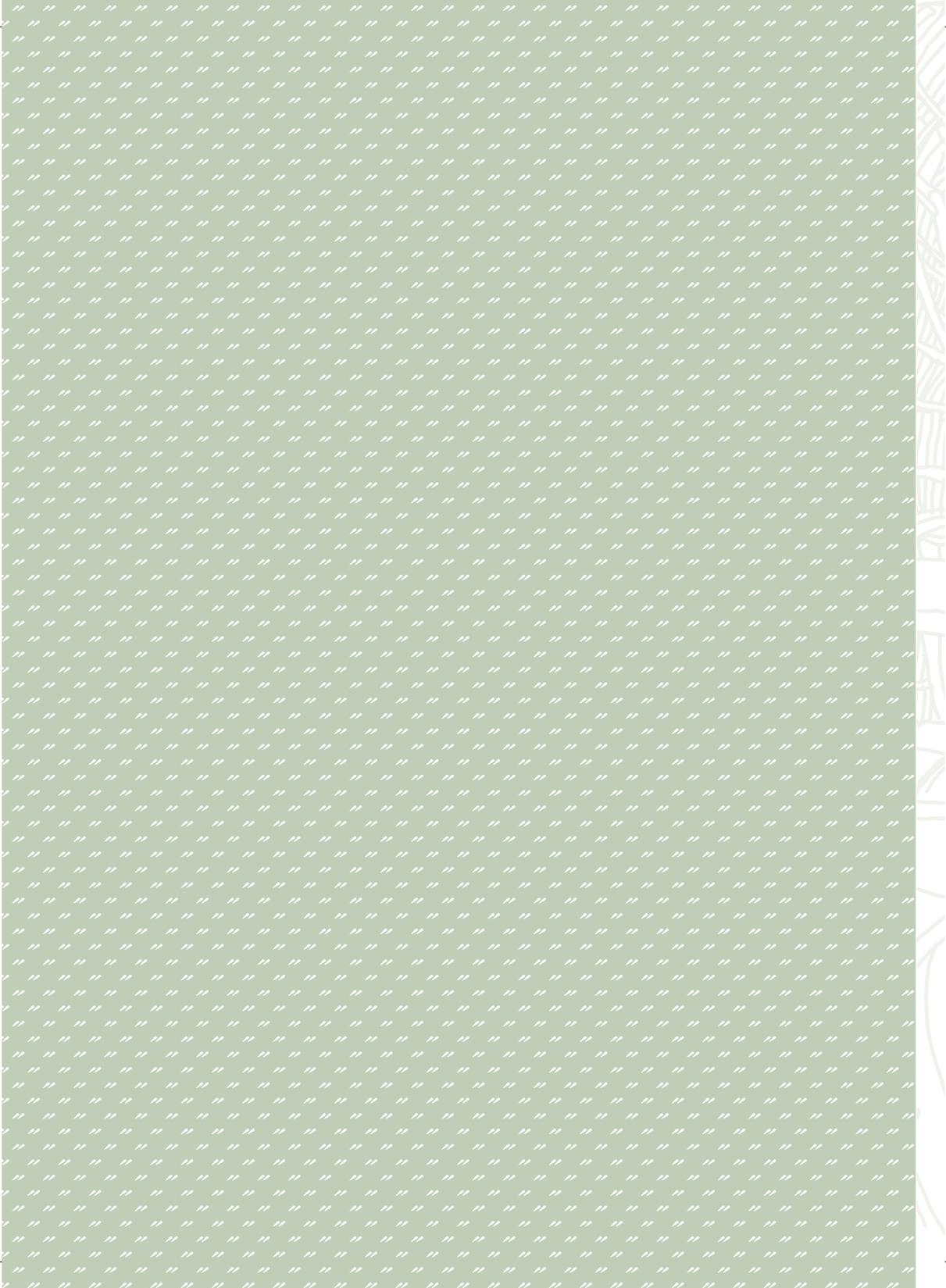
Magvető represents the translation rights of about thirty Hungarian authors, established and widely translated writers as well as young talents.

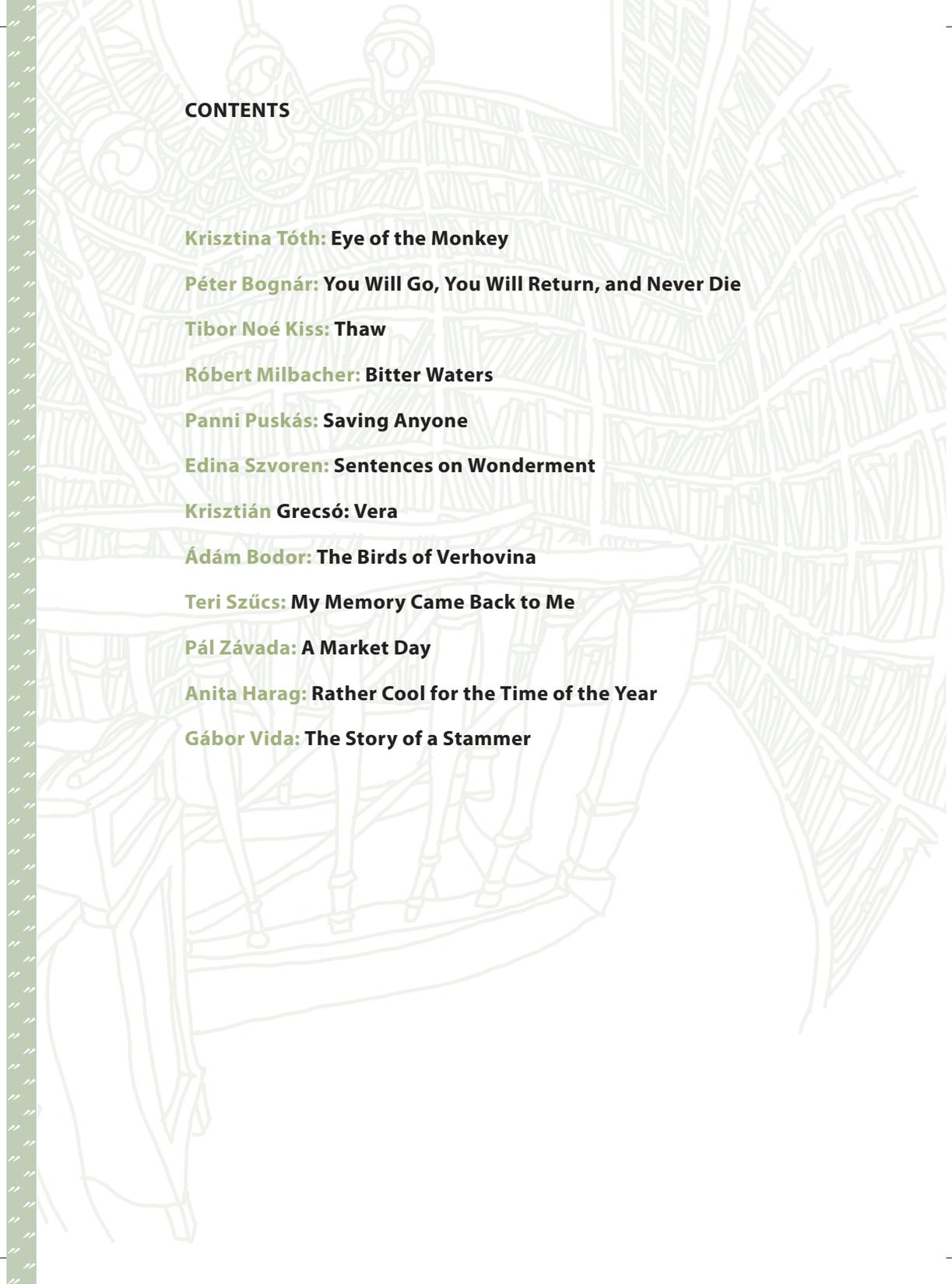
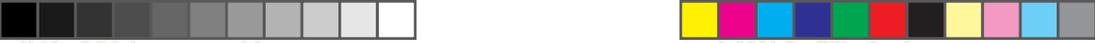
**Anna Dávid**

Publisher

**Ágnes Orzóy**

Foreign Rights Director





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# KRISZTINA TÓTH

Born in 1967, Krisztina Tóth is one of Hungary's most highly acclaimed poets and writers. Her books have been translated into many languages. Tóth, who currently lives in Switzerland, is also a noted translator of literary fiction, children's literature and song lyrics from French. Her works include two novels, numerous collections of poems and short stories and several books for children. *Pixel* was shortlisted for the EBRD Literature Prize 2020 and the TA First Translation Prize 2020, while *Barcode* was shortlisted for the 2023 Warwick Prize for Women in Translation and the 2024 EBRD Literature Prize, and longlisted for the 2024 Republic of Consciousness Prize.

Krisztina Tóth's many awards include the Miklós Radnóti Prize (1990), the Gyula Illyés Prize (1994), the Attila József Prize (2000), the István Vas Prize, the Sándor Márai Prize (2007) and the Artisjus Prize in Literature (2010).

Krisztina Tóth is a member of the Digital Literary Academy (DIA) and the Széchenyi Academy of Literature and Arts.

## Krisztina Tóth: Eye of the Monkey

*The moment you realize that you have been abused*

Krisztina Tóth's latest novel is about the relationship of Giselle, a history professor, and the renowned psychiatrist Dr Kreutzer. The latter appears to be a self-assured professional but he is gradually revealed as a sex addict who picks his victims from his pool of patients.

*Why the title?* It alludes to an infamous and cruel animal experiment in 1970, when the neurosurgeon Robert White carried out the transplant of one monkey's head onto the body of another. The monkey came to after the operation and horrific images of it can still be found on the internet. A photo of this monkey hangs in Dr Kreutzer's room.

*Where and when does it take place?* In the very near future, in a bleak city of an isolated country that has recently been through a devastating civil war. The new government rules with an iron hand, and society is fatally divided: those close to the government live in the more affluent parts of the city, while the poor are confined to ghettos.

*What is the main theme?* Abuse, on several planes. The novel is set in a world where state power has an abusive relationship with its citizens and where abuse pervades personal relationships as well. A society that initially appears to be relatively normal, and the professional who seems trustworthy, both turn out to be unmanageably abnormal.

*"Toth is an acclaimed Hungarian writer and has written one of the most elegant, disorienting novels I've read this year: It's funny and evenhanded enough that the finale arrives as a devastating fait accompli. And Mulzet's translation is feverishly good." (Joumana Khatib, The New York Times)*



Magvető, 2022,  
352 pages  
Reading material:  
*complete English text and  
French sample*  
Rights sold: Albanian,  
Onufri / Turkish, Everest  
/ English, Seven Stories /  
Italian, Voland / Fraktura,  
Croatia / Spanish,  
Acanilado / Greek,  
Kastaniotis

*Mentioned twice in The New York Times in December 2026*

# PÉTER BOGNÁR

Born in 1982, Péter Bognár is a poet and a writer. He has been awarded the György Petri Prize (2011), the Artisjus Literary Prize (2016) and the Tibor Déry Prize (2025). He has published three volumes of poetry and three novels (*To Sail is Necessary, to Live is Not Necessary; The Fewer Christmases the Better; You Will Go, You Will Return, and Never Die*) to date. One of his plays has been on the programme of the József Katona Theatre, one of the leading Budapest theatres, since 2017.

## Péter Bognár:

### **You Will Go, You Will Return, and Never Die**

*An anti-detective story*

A crime writer is forced to confront the possibility that his novels may be inspiring real crimes. When a fellow villager accuses him of defamation and is later found dead, suspicion falls on the writer's friend, the local civil patrolman, who has vanished. Fleeing the village with his young daughter, the writer sets out to find his friend – only to be drawn into a chain of extraordinary and shocking events.

*What's the story?* It is a complex story, both funny and tragic. The protagonist, Bessler, is a writer who closely resembles the author and begins to fear that his crime novels may be inspiring real crimes. A villager who once accused him of defamation has died violently, just as a long-awaited German edition of his work is being prepared. Meanwhile, Bessler is tormented by jealousy when his wife hints at claiming the sexual freedom he himself once encouraged.

A chain of extraordinary events follows as Bessler leaves with his young daughter to search for his missing friend Tóni, a civil patrolman accused of murder. Tóni has in fact been trapped, brutally deceived and beaten in a series of absurd yet grimly logical events. The parallel stories of the writer and the patrolman reveal how, despite their differences, both men's lives are steadily falling apart.

*What are the main themes?* How does a marriage fall apart? How does someone – anyone – become a narrow-minded, monomaniacal, compulsive person? How does a novel get written? More precisely, how does a detective story, traditionally based on logic and rationality, get written in a world in which irrationality abounds? And should literary works be censored if they offend someone's sensitivities?

*What is the style like?* Playful, ironic, with grotesque and absurd scenes, with nods to the sentimentality of popular fiction.

*"I read everything by Péter Bognár: he – put simply in terms of ranking – is the greatest among us."*

*László Krasznahorkai*



# TIBOR NOÉ KISS

was born in 1976 in Budapest and lives in Pécs. Before studying sociology, he was a footballer. The rights of his first novel, *Incognito* (2010), were sold to Finnish, Polish and Slovenian. His other works include *Get Some Sleep*, for which he received the Pál Békés Award (2014), and *Unfathomable Landscape*.



## Tibor Noé Kiss: **Thaw**

*A haunting journey through frozen landscapes*

Two stories of quest – one set in the frozen expanse of the taiga in Siberia, the other in a Hungarian village among long-buried memories – intertwined by the love and longing of husband and wife for one another.

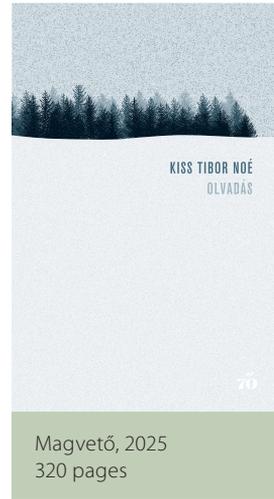
*What's the story?* Set in the spring of 2019, the novel's protagonist and narrator is a woman in her thirties who previously worked as a social worker and has begun a new life with her husband, a cultural anthropologist, in a village in southern Hungary. While her husband returns to Siberia to conduct research among the Khanty – where he encounters an unexpected and dramatic situation – her everyday life is thrown into turmoil by the death of her grandmother. As she worries for her husband, who has been out of contact for days, she also prepares for the funeral where she will confront her violent and abusive father, who had been imprisoned for murder. Meanwhile, her relationship with her mother gradually unfolds. As memories and images of the past keep surfacing, she slowly pieces together the mosaics of her own history. Interwoven with her inner monologue is the field diary her husband keeps in Siberia, which partly revolves around the mysterious disappearance of a woman.

*Why the title?* It is metaphorical: it alludes to a thawing out of relationships with the closest relatives frozen in ice and the possibility of some kind of transformation; but at the same time, among the Khanty (the closest linguistic relatives of Hungarians) it is the thaw that brings to the surface the dead who have lain under the snow for weeks – and, in the longer run, the force that will reshape the entire region and eventually erase it.

*What is the style like?* Tibor Noé Kiss works with a collage-like technique. He starts from images – inner states, associations, moments frozen to infinity, fragments of memory – that he strings together in such a way that their sequence gives rise to the story. The novel's greatest power lies in its evocative atmosphere.

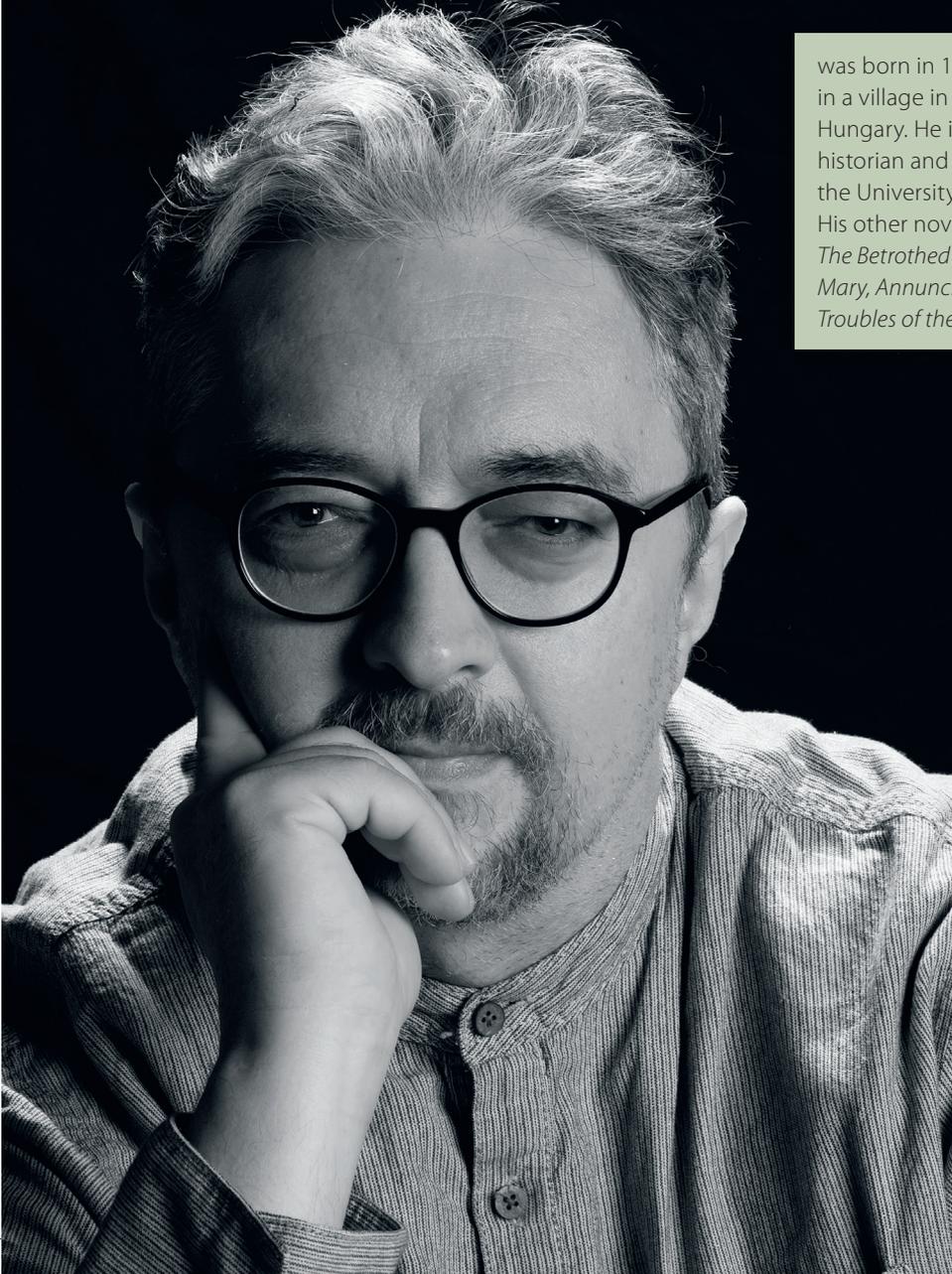
*What are the main themes?* Siberia, the life of the Khanty people in the Taiga. Life in Hungarian villages. Trauma, repetition and coming to terms with violence and an abusive husband/father.

*"I step into the circle of light. My father is standing somewhere in the darkness, watching me."*



# RÓBERT MILBACHER

was born in 1971 and lives in a village in the south of Hungary. He is a literary historian and lecturer at the University of Pécs. His other novels include *The Betrothed of the Virgin Mary*, *Annunciations* and *Troubles of the Soul*.



## Róbert Milbacher: *Bitter Waters*

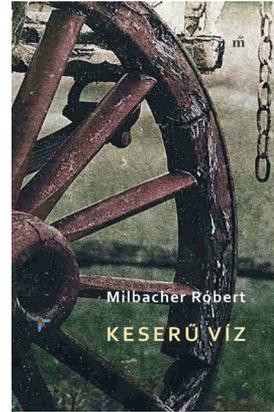
Róbert Milbacher's novel chronicles the life of a woman who endured immense physical and mental suffering, yet never had the time to reflect. Interwoven with her story is the history of a short-lived settlement in Slavonia (now eastern Croatia), founded in the 1860s and erased in the upheaval of World War II.

*What's the story?* The novel alternates between two timelines: the odd-numbered chapters trace the village's trajectory from its founding to abandonment, while the even-numbered chapters follow the author's grandmother, moving backward from her deathbed to the enchanted world of her childhood. Alongside a community's everyday pursuit of a better life, Milbacher explores the tribulations of a Hungarian-German family, revealing how ordinary people – shaped, burdened, and often crushed by history – struggle to keep hope alive across generations.

Fragmented narratives emerge through medical reports, archival documents, family anecdotes, awkward secrets and oral histories.

*Why should you read it?* Milbacher resurrects a vanished world, portraying its persistence in the reactions and choices of future generations. Vividly describing photographs and the lives of his parents' and grandparents' generations with empathy reminiscent of Annie Ernaux, he demonstrates a masterful ability to illuminate the individual and collective fates of those caught in ideological crossfire. *Bitter Waters* is a profoundly personal, cathartic, and unforgettable novel – a testament to resilience, memory, and the human capacity to endure.

*The legendary life of a grandmother*



Magvető, 2023,  
464 pages

*Winner of the first Visegrad Literary Prize (2025) and the Artisjus Literary Prize (2024)*

Born in 1987 in Győr, she is a writer and cultural journalist, based in Budapest. Her short story "Reckoning with Bukowski" from her first book, a short-story collection entitled *Reconquering the Reserve* (2021), was published in the *Los Angeles Review*.

Her first novel, *Saving Anyone*, was Hungary's nominee for the 2024 European Prize in Literature.

# PANNI PUSKÁS

## Panni Puskás: Saving Anyone

*Can we ever really save anyone? Ourselves, our family, loved ones, or even just random strangers who are suffering?*

This first novel by an author who was hailed by critics as “provocative” and “punk”, is a set of monologues by three women from Budapest – two of them in their thirties, one in her fifties. Though they seem to have nothing in common, it turns out that they are in fact two sisters and their mother.

*What’s the story?* One sister works at a multinational in Budapest, and hates it. She spends her free time with drugs, smashing a BMW, pondering revolution, and waiting for something to happen. The other sister moved to Sicily, and lives in picturesque surroundings with her lover, an Italian girl whose eyesight is steadily failing. The boundless sea holds wonders, but horrors too: refugee boats are idling near the shore. Writing letters to a daughter, her mother relates her life starting from her teens, her pregnancy from a hip but obstinate boy, who left her to drop out of school into poverty.

*What are the main themes?* Rebellion, consumerism, migration crisis, mother-daughter relationship, same-sex love, the disintegration of families, the anxiety of young people struggling to find meaning in their lives, the Hungarian punk subculture of the 1990s.

*“a fresh voice in contemporary Hungarian prose, one that focuses on the here and now.”*

*Judges of the 2024 European Union Prize for Literature*



Magvető, 2023,  
232 pages  
Reading material:  
English sample  
Rights sold: Bulgarian,  
Colibri / Macedonian,  
Čudna Šuma / Serbian,  
Imperativ

*One of the most promising emerging writers in Hungary*

*Hungary’s nominee for the 2024 European Union Prize for Literature*



Photo by Katalin London



# EDINA SZVOREN

Edina Szvoren was born in 1974 in Budapest where she teaches music theory and solfeggio. She has been publishing short stories since 2005. Her collections include *On Intimate Terms*, *The Best Executioner in the Land*, *My Poems*, *There Is None*, *Nor Let There Be* and *Sentences on Wonderment*. She received the European Union Prize for Literature 2015 for *There Is None*, *Nor Let There Be*. Szvoren's previous collections have been sold to nine languages.

Her other prizes include the Tibor Déry Award (2010), the Sándor Bródy Award (2011), the Attila József Award (2013), the Artisjus Award (2013), the Miklós Mészöly Prize (2019) and the Libri Literary Prize (2019).

## Edina Szvoren: Sentences on Wonderment

*Wonderment is a crack into which you can thrust your foot*

This is the fifth collection of the most compelling short-story writer in Hungary today. Edina Szvoren charts human relations with rare sensitivity in her trademark grotesque, absurd yet playful style.

*Why the title?* As the narrator explains in the title piece, she is incapable of wonderment because anything can happen at any time. But since people expect that she should always be surprised – at an old and sick person dying, at a painter creating nonfigurative art, at guests who were invited actually turning up – she tries constantly to pretend that she is.

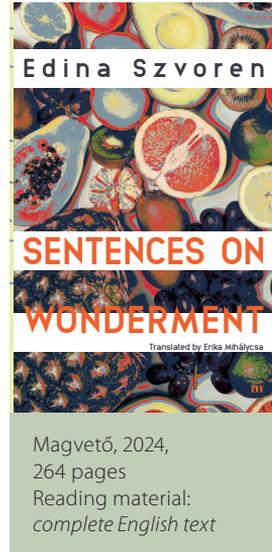
*Sentences on Wonderment* consists of three parts: a title piece only a few pages long; the ‘Ohrwurm notes’; and seven fairly long short stories.

*What are the ‘Ohrwurm notes’?* These twenty-nine pieces, no more than a few pages long, are hilarious stories about compulsive behaviour and mysterious happenings. In “The blind folk in the cable car”, a blind couple enjoy their trip in a cable car heedless of anyone else. “Fly-swatters on a human scale” is a parody of pseudo-scientific argumentation. “Horse panic” is about the many ways in which horses can fall into a panic.

*What are the seven long stories about?* These are tales of human relationships and why they go sour. Stories of misunderstanding and frustration. Stories of relationships with parents, relatives, friends, and marriage partners. Of tiny details – an annoying habit or turn of phrase, an insignificant gesture repeated for the hundredth time – that make a relationship fall apart.

*“Edina Szvoren performs what is one of the most important duties of art: she teaches us how to see, or – to be more precise – to see in a different way. It is impossible to imagine a more withering critique of society than dissecting it in this way, almost molecule by molecule, dispassionately and objectively.”*

*Sarolta Deczki*



*The Hungarian master of anxiety*



Photo by László Farago

# KRISZTIÁN GRECSÓ

was born in 1976 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 novels (including *Following You*, *A Masked Ball*, *There's Room for You Beside Me* and *Vera*).

His prizes include the Sándor Bródy Prize (2002), the Tibor Déry Prize (2004), the Attila József prize (2006), the Aegon Prize (2012), and the Libri Audience Prize (2020, 2021).

## Krisztián Grecsó: Vera

Vera is an eleven-year-old girl, and her life seems perfectly secure: she excels at school and at horse riding, and has loving parents. But in a matter of weeks, her life is turned upside down.

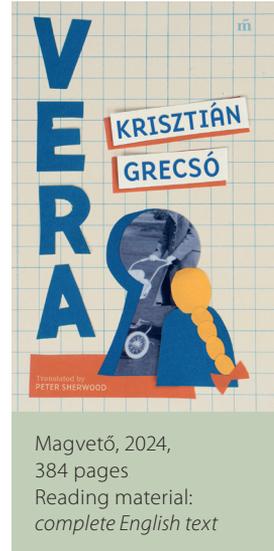
*Where and when does it take place?* In the city of Szeged, in 1980, against the backdrop of the stuffy world of the final, weary decade of socialism with its overwhelming lies, corruption and nepotism.

*What's the story?* In the course of these few boisterous weeks, Vera finds herself breaking rules despite herself – she plays truant, steals and lies. One event leads to another in a chain reaction, too fast for Vera to understand them and her own reactions to them. Her best friend becomes her greatest, sworn enemy, and she falls in love with the new arrival, Józef, the rowdy Polish boy. Meanwhile, she learns that nobody around her is who she thought they were: she herself is an adopted child, her adoptive father's parents had died, and her best friend's father is her adopted father's brother – in a way.

*What are the main themes?* Adoption, and the consequences of not telling the truth to the adopted child. Coming of age too early. Truth and lies, knowledge and innocence. The painful and shameful secrets of adults.

*"This book is the story of an initiation, of first love, of a teenager who is struggling with herself, and of the reality around her, a reality that is obscured yet clearly felt."*

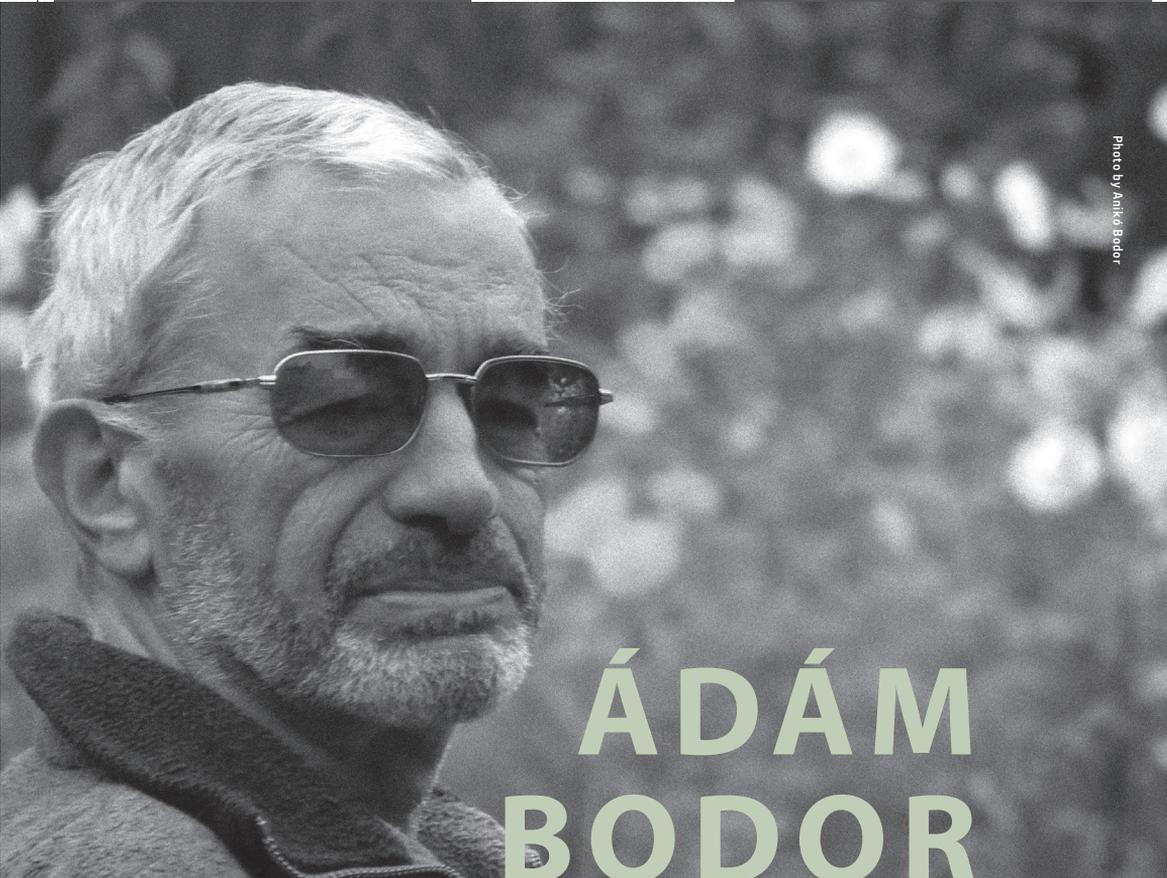
Zoltán Beck



59,000 copies sold

Libri Audience Prize 2020

For readers of Magda Szabó's *Abigail* and Ferenc Molnár's *The Paul Street Boys*



# ÁDÁM BODOR

was born in Kolozsvár (today Cluj, Romania) in 1936. He was convicted as a political criminal at the age of 16, and spent the years 1952–54 in prison. His first book (*The Witness*) was published in 1969 in Romania, while in Hungary his debut piece was a collection of short stories entitled *A High Mountain Pass* (1980). He has been living in Hungary since the early 1980s; for a time, he was editor at Magvető Publishing. In the 1990s he became familiar to the wider reading public after the publication of his novels *Sinistra Zone* (1992), *The Visit of the Archbishop* (1999), the most comprehensive collection of his short stories to date, *Back to the Long-eared Owl* (1997), as well as a confessional, autobiographical piece which was

eventually given an interview form (*The Smell of Prison*, 2000). Bodor's books have been published in more than twenty languages. Several of his works were made into films, including Zoltán Kamondi's *Dolina*, based on *The Visit of the Archbishop*.

He is the recipient of countless prizes including the Sándor Márai Prize (1996), the Kossuth Prize (2003), the Artisjus Prize (2011), the Prima Primissima Prize (2014) and the Baumgarten Memorial Prize (2021).

Ádám Bodor is a member of the Digital Literary Academy (DIA) and the Széchenyi Academy of Literature and Arts. He was elected Artist of the Nation in 2019.

## Ádám Bodor: The Birds of Verhovina

*Variations on the end of days*

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. 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.

*Where and when does it take place?* Somewhere in the Carpathian Mountains, at an unspecified time – during the communist regime, in the present, or in the future?

*What is it about?* 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. An absurd story follows, replete with weird characters who live in depravity and decay but have funny conversations and prepare gourmet dishes, using the recipe book of a certain Eronim Mox – a book that is also a source of knowledge about the past and future of the region.

*Why should I read it?* Simply, because it is literature at its best. It is a novel that can be read philosophically, allegorically or politically, or just be enjoyed for the sake of the writing, imaginative and surreal, and full of hilarious dialogues.

*"A Kafkaesque valediction with Beckettian overtones."*

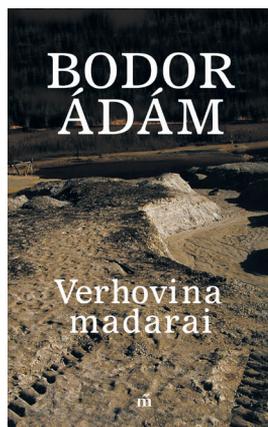
*Dr. Ingeborg Szöllösi, Deutsch-Rumänische Hefte*

*"The author virtuously interweaves surreal, darkly comic jokes with the horror of real-world dictatorships of every kind. This apocalyptic novel recalls the staggering force of his literary imagination."*

*Franz Haas, Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

*"Verhovina is one of those places you can visit but might never leave; it is reality on its way to becoming allegory."*

*Diána Vonnák, Times Literary Supplement*



Magvető, 2011,  
256 pages  
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German text*  
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Fawasel / English, Jantar  
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/ German, Secession /  
Italian, Il Saggiatore /  
Persian, Ana Pol Press /  
Polish, Czarne / Russian,  
Polyandria / Spanish,  
Acantilado*

***The Hungarian literary heavyweight you probably haven't heard about***



# TERI SZŰCS

Born in 1975 in Leningrad, Teri Szűcs is a literary historian and literary critic based in Hungary and Slovenia.

Photo by Tibor Nád Kis

## Teri Szűcs: *My Memory Came Back to Me*

*Autofiction*

When her mother was diagnosed with dementia, Teri Szűcs started to take notes. She recorded the changes in her mother's physical and mental state, their conversations, their daily routine, as well as their odyssey in the Hungarian health care system, which is hardly equipped for the growing number of patients suffering from dementia.

*What are the main themes?* The everyday life of carers. The crisis of care in the Western world. Remembering and forgetting. Historical and transgenerational trauma. Gender roles in society. Mother-daughter relationship. Cross-cultural families.

*How is this book different from other narratives about dementia?* The book has several interesting subplots.

It is also about communication in cross-cultural families. As the author reconstructs her mother's memories, together with her, we revisit Leningrad in the 1960s, where she spent her youth, with its cultural milieu. We follow her to Budapest after she marries a Hungarian man, and read about her struggle with multiple identities – Jewish, Soviet and Hungarian.

The mother and the daughter are not alone: the father and the daughter's Slovenian partner, Maya, are also important presences in the book. Their role in the mother's life gives occasion to the author to reflect on gender roles in society. Is caring a 'feminine' thing to do? Then what about a husband who is totally 'masculine' yet cares beautifully for his wife? Does a woman living in a lesbian relationship become a woman in the eyes of society only when she takes care of her mother?

*Isn't this a gloomy book?* No, not at all. The author's empathic and intelligent voice makes *My Memory Came Back to Me* an uplifting read.

*"I checked the notes I took during those sleepless nights: I am thinking of those who do this work. Helpers, carers. Mostly women who were raised to care anyway. I note that from a certain point of view, if someone gave me a stern look, they would observe that I don't do anything. An invisible story: 'she took care of her mother.'"*

Ernő Balogh, Népszava.hu



Magvető, 2024,  
168 pages  
Reading material:  
*English samples*  
Rights sold:  
Polish, Wydawnictwo  
Dowody

*Tibor Déry Prize 2024, Artisjus Prize 2025*

*Shortlisted for the Esterházy Literary Prize 2025*



Photo by Gerőly Turv

# PÁL ZÁVADA

was born in a Hungarian-Slovak family in 1954 in Tótkomlós, in the southeastern corner of Hungary. A sociologist by training, Závada is the author of eight historical novels about the two world wars and their aftermath. His novel *Jadviga's Pillow* (1997), regarded as one of the most important contemporary Hungarian novels, was an instant bestseller, and was made into a film. Závada's other novels include *Our Alien Body*, *Natural Light*, *A Market Day*, *Adrift in the Fog* and *Ashes and Grass*. Závada's novels have been translated into eight languages.

His prizes include the Attila József Prize (1998), the Tibor Déry Prize (1998), the Sándor Márai Prize (2000), the Prima Prémium Prize (2004), the Kossuth Prize (2005) and the Miklós Radnóti Prize (2010).

Pál Závada is a member of the Digital Literary Academy (DIA) and the Széchenyi Academy of Literature and Arts.



## Pál Závada: A Market Day

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

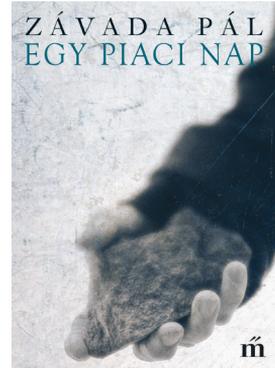
What makes passers-by in a village and customers at a market turn against their neighbours who had just come back from the death camps? Pál Závada's novel tries to give an answer to this question through the story of the anti-Semitic pogroms of 1946 in Hungary.

*What's the story?* 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.

*What are the main themes?* Scapegoating. Mass hysteria. How violence can be contagious. How human beings are put to the test in extreme situations, even today. The distortions in human relationships for which history is partly responsible.

*"Through the events of this day we learn about the relatively unknown years of 1945-46 when antisemitism lived on and took on a new form."*

*Nóra Neichl, Jelenkor*



Magvető, 2016,  
200 pages  
Reading material:  
*complete English text*  
Rights sold: *Bulgarian,  
Riva / Danish, Skjødt /  
English, Seagull / Slovak,  
Slovart*

*A close-up of 20th-century Hungarian history*

*Theatre adaptation won the Best Drama of the Year Award 2018*

# ANITA HARAG

Born in 1988 in Budapest, Anita Harag is the recipient of the György Petri Prize (2018) and the Péter Horváth Literary Scholarship (2019). *Rather Cool for the Time of the Year* is her first volume.



## Anita Harag: Rather Cool for the Time of the Year

*What are these stories about?* Reading Anita Harag's stories is a bit like watching an episode from a series that has been going on for many months. Nothing special happens to her characters – mostly young women in present-day Hungary: they wake up, go to work, visit their relatives. But if we take a closer look, these simple gestures and chores reveal complex relationships and are suffused with pain, desire and loss. The stories are always open-ended: we get a glimpse into the life of the characters, then leave them where we found them. Many of the stories are about loss, or the fear of loss: the illness or death of parents or grandparents, the fear of loving a person or an animal and then losing them, or the fear of being diagnosed with cancer.

*Who are the characters?* Harag's characters often seem like strangers in their own stories. A Ukrainian girl feels excluded in the office because she doesn't speak Hungarian and spends her time trying to guess what people around her are talking about. Alone with her thoughts, even though her husband is with her, a daughter cleans up her alcoholic father's house after his death, and tries to come to terms with his legacy. A 'good' girl meets a 'bad' boy, and as time passes, the girl starts to see herself through her boyfriend's eyes, her inner monologue becoming tainted with the way he sees her.

*"She is capable of balancing between what is significant and what is insignificant... revealing the momentous in the banal and the tragic in the petty."*

*Lajos Parti Nagy*



*Young women in Budapest*

# GÁBOR VIDA

was born in 1968 in Chişineu-Criş, Romania and studied Hungarian and French in Cluj. He lives in Târgu Mureş, and works as editor-in-chief of the literary journal *Látó*. He wrote several short-story collections and three novels: *Where His Soul Is*, *The Story of a Stammer* and *A City for All and None*.

His awards include the Artisjus Literary Prize (2008), the Tibor Déry Prize (2017) and the Merítés Prize (awarded by members of Moly.hu, the Hungarian Goodreads, 2018), and the Milán Füst Prize (2025).

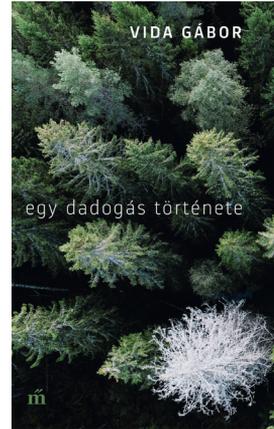


## Gábor Vida: The Story of a Stammer

*The autobiography of Transylvania*

Gábor Vida's novel tells the story of a Hungarian family in Transylvania at the end of the 20th century. Sad, bitter and ruthless yet written with gentle humour and empathy, *The Story of a Stammer* describes rural life in the Ceaușescu era, with its oppressive atmosphere, dictatorship and poverty, and the author's own family, whose main virtue is decency and hard work.

*What are the main themes?* Minority Hungarian life in Romania under dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu who himself was burdened with a severe stammer. Oppression and exploitation on the political level, as well as in education in the boarding school, during compulsory military service, and even in the family. Living in an unstimulating environment where religion, alcoholism and suicide are common escape strategies. Coming to terms with childhood stammer. Love of nature.

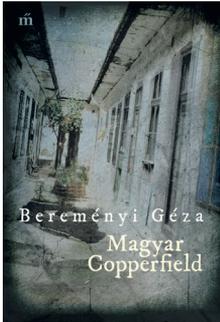


Magvető, 2017,  
376 pages  
Reading material:  
*complete English text*  
Rights sold: *English,*  
*Seagull / Romanian,*  
*Grupul Editorial ART*

*"Gábor Vida's Story of a Stammer (2017), in Jozefina Komporaly's English translation, introduced me to a people and a history that I was utterly unaware of before reading the novel."*

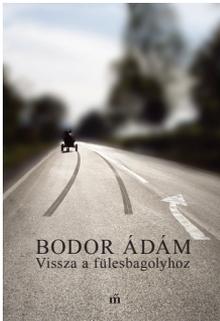
*Cory Oldweiler, Los Angeles Review of Books*

*Transylvania – beyond Dracula*



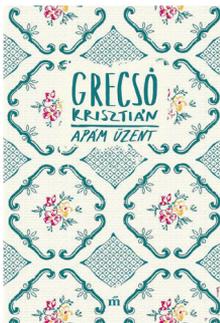
### **Géza Bereményi: A Hungarian Copperfield**

A memoir of the author's childhood and teenage years, Géza Bereményi's book is a fascinating chronicle of post-war Hungary, taking in the 1956 revolution and the consolidation of the communist regime in the stifling 1960s.



### **Ádám Bodor: Back to the Long-eared Owl**

Bodor is a living classic. In his short stories, there are no false tones or superfluous words. With a few sentences, this author gives a staggeringly authentic picture about almost anything: love, misery, human gestures and inhumanity. Rights sold in 7 territories.



### **Krisztián Grecsó: My Father Sent Word**

There are family sagas that unfold a family's story through strong male characters, others through resilient women – *My Father Sent Word* does so through lost generations of men. A story about a generation that struggled to find its place during the Communist era and after – and about another generation that must come to terms with this inheritance.



### **Noémi Kiss: Tattered Jewel-Box**

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. Rights sold in German.



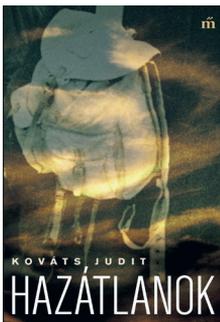
### **Dénes Krusovszky: Without Leaves**

One spring, in a small town in Hungary, the trees suddenly shed all their leaves. It turns out that this mysterious phenomenon happened only there – outside the town limits, everything is fine. Is this some natural disaster, or the result of human negligence? Seeking an answer, people react in different ways.



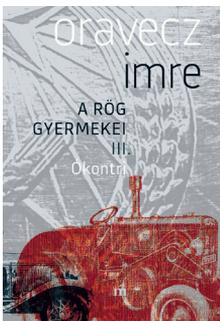
### **Réka Mán-Várhegyi: Magnet Hill**

This novel paints a vivid picture of the life of young academics in Hungary at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Yet it is much more than a campus novel: it touches upon a number of questions, from female identity to the difference between the world as seen from the West and as viewed from Hungary. Winner of the European Union Prize for Literature 2019. Rights sold in 9 territories.



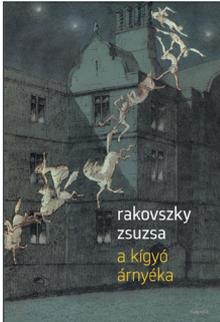
### **Judit Kováts: Expelled**

In 1944, the carefree youth of Lilli, an ethnic German schoolgirl living in a small town at the foot of the High Tatras, is shattered by war. Branded collectively guilty, her family is persecuted, interned, and expelled from their homeland. A moving story of loss, resilience, and a silenced chapter of European history.



### **Imre Oravec: The Ol' Country**

Oravec's novel tells the story of Steve Arvai, the son of Hungarian farmers who had emigrated to America around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Steve loses his job during the Great Depression, and decides to try his luck in Hungary, his parents' old country. Then come war – and then communism. A novel which maps a lost world with empathy, clarity and simplicity.



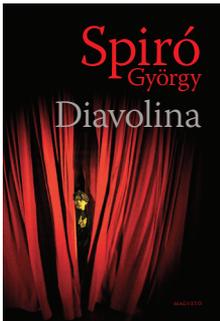
### **Zsuzsa Rakovszky: The Shadow of a Serpent**

A passionate story of incest, plague and fire, set in the year 1666 in Sopron (Ödenburg) and told by a bourgeois woman, Orsolya Lehmann. She writes down her memories, confronts her secrets, and confesses the great sin she has carried all her life to avoid the hangman's rope. Rights sold in 4 territories.



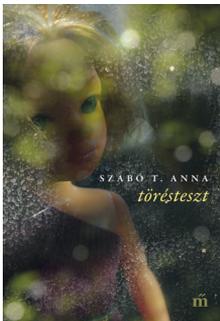
### **Gábor Schein: Swedish**

After the 1956 Hungarian revolution, a Swedish couple adopts a boy, Ervin, without telling him he is not their biological son. Estranged by secrets and absence of affection, the father travels to Budapest to uncover Ervin's roots, discovering his mother's past in a psychiatric hospital. Rights sold in 2 territories.



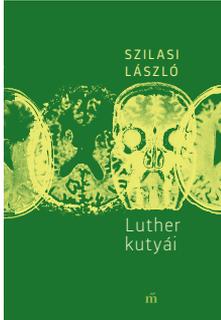
### **György Spiró: Diavolina**

Diavolina, a housemaid who rose to be a physician, worked as a servant for Maxim Gorky. She then became his nurse and his last love. In *Diavolina*, György Spiró conjures the world of Czarist Russia in its final years and the Soviet Union in its first decades from the perspective of this shrewd and discerning woman. Rights sold in 3 territories.



### **Anna T. Szabó: Crash Test**

The characters in these stories are men and women who live here and now, among us. In Anna T. Szabó'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. Rights sold in Slovak.



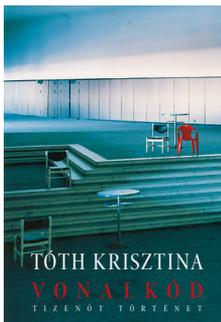
### László Szilasi: **Luther's Dogs**

This novel narrates the story of the author's battle with brain tumour. He reconstitutes the 48 hours he lost during his epileptic seizure, and goes on to give an account of his operation, the oncological treatment that follows, and then his convalescence. He also charts the side effects of his illness, including the traumatic loss of his ability to read and write. Rights sold in Macedonian.



### Krisztina Tóth: **Pixel**

In thirty chapters, each named after a human body part, Krisztina Tóth explores the invisible threads that connect us and determine our lives in dramatic, comic or tragic ways without us being aware of it. The English translation was shortlisted for the EBRD Literature Prize 2020 and the TA First Translation Prize 2020. Rights sold in 16 territories.



### Krisztina Tóth: **Barcode**

Krisztina Tóth's collection comprises fifteen stories, each with a subtitle containing the expression line/bar. The narrator of the stories is a Hungarian woman, perhaps the same person in different stages of her life. Rights sold in 11 territories.



### Benedek Totth: **Dead Heat**

On a deserted Hungarian road, a sports car full of teens races through the night. Benedek Totth's novel blends thriller, coming-of-age, and dark humour, confronting the teenage self in a harsh, unsettling, yet strangely familiar Hungary. Rights sold in 6 territories.

The double acute accent (the diacritic on our logo and on the last letter of 'Magvető') is often referred to by typographers as *hungarumlaut*, i. e. Hungarian accent.

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