

Ivan Klima

*Seven witty stories, one for each day of the week, give a vivid picture of Prague before the Velvet Revolution.*

*My Crazy Century**Open Road + Grove*/*Atlantic*

*A dramatic account of life in Czechoslovakia's great capital during the Nazi Protectorate With this successor book to Prague in Black and Gold, his account of more than a thousand years of Central European history, the great scholar Peter Demetz focuses on just six short years—a tormented, tragic, and unforgettable time. He was living in Prague then—a "first-degree half-Jew," according to the Nazis' terrible categories—and here he joins his objective chronicle of the city under German occupation with his personal memories of that period: from the bitter morning of March 15, 1939, when Hitler arrived from Berlin to set his seal on the Nazi takeover of the Czechoslovak government, until the liberation of Bohemia in April 1945, after long seasons of unimaginable suffering and pain. Demetz expertly interweaves a superb account of the German authorities' diplomatic, financial, and military machinations with a brilliant description of Prague's evolving resistance and underground opposition. Along with his private experiences, he offers the heretofore untold history of an effervescent, unstoppable Prague whose urbane heart went on beating despite the deportations, murders, cruelties, and violence: a Prague that kept its German- and Czech-language theaters open, its famed film studios functioning, its young people in school and at work, and its newspapers on press. This complex, continually surprising book is filled with rare human detail and warmth, the gripping story of a great city meeting the dual challenge of occupation and of war.*

*When he first visited the Czech Republic in the 1990s, Matthew Monteith was taken with the details of ordinary life in this country in transition. Captivated by the ineffable mood, a sense of placehe made repeated visits and in 20013 traveled throughout the country photographing with the hope of creating a contemporary allegory that reflected ideals he had found in old postcards and Czech photography from the 1920s and 30s. With their restraint, brilliant color, and thoughtful attention to the uncanny within the everyday, Monteiths photographs parallel a venerable tradition staked out by masters such as Joel Sternfeld and embodied in contemporary work by practitioners such as Alec Soth. Though at times foreboding, Monteiths work is pervaded by an energetic optimism and humor. Meticulously composed and beautifully produced images focus on individuals, landscapes, oddly stilled cityscapes, and the worn traces of the countrys long and complex history. Czech Eden is not a literal description or documentation, but rather a parable in which the viewer encounters individuals and environments that are cohesive yet contradictory, beautiful but unsettling.*

*Judge On Trial*

*No Saints or Angels*

*The Spirit of Prague*

*And Other Essays*

*Dublinesque*

Featuring essays by Myla Goldberg, Helen Epstein, Jan Morris, and Francine Prose, "Travelers' Tales Prague" collects over 20 stories from the city that inspired compositions from Mozart and novels from Kafka. The pieces in this book are both a charming enticement for prospective travelers and a welcome companion for those already there.

Harald Voetmann's eye-opening English debut, *Awake*, is the first book of his erudite, grotesque, and absurdist trilogy about mankind's inhuman will to conquer nature In a shuttered bedroom in ancient Italy, the sleepless Pliny the Elder lies in bed obsessively dictating new chapters of his *Natural History* to his slave Diocles. Fat, wheezing, imperious, and prone to nosebleeds, Pliny does not believe in spending his evenings in repose: No—to be awake is to be alive. There's no time to waste if he is to classify every element of the natural world in a single work. By day Pliny the Elder carries out his many civic duties and gives the occasional disastrous public reading. But despite his astonishing ambition to catalog everything from precious metals to the moon, as well as a collection of exotic plants sourced from the farthest reaches of the world, Pliny the Elder still takes immense pleasure in the common rose. After he rushes to an erupting Mount Vesuvius and perishes in the ash, his nephew, Pliny the Younger, becomes custodian of his life's work. But where Pliny the Elder saw starlight, Pliny the Younger only sees fireflies. In masterfully honed prose, Voetmann brings the formidable Pliny the Elder (and his pompous nephew) to life. *Awake* is a comic delight about one of history's great minds and the not-so-great human body it was housed in.

Set in Czechoslovakia before, during and after the Velvet Revolution, this is the story of Pavel, a middle-aged television cameraman working uneasily within the boundaries set by the Communist regime. When it collapses, he finds himself unprepared for the new world of supposed freedom.

A mind-expanding, cheerfully dystopian new novel by Yoko Tawada, winner of the National Book Award Welcome to the not-too-distant future: Japan, having vanished from the face of the earth, is now remembered as "the land of sushi." Hiruko, its former citizen and a climate refugee herself, has a job teaching immigrant children in Denmark with her invented language Panska (Pan-Scandinavian): "homemade language, no country to stay in. three countries I experienced. insufficient space in brain. so made new language. homemade language." As she searches for anyone who can still speak her mother tongue, Hiruko soon makes new friends. Her troupe travels to France, encountering an umami cooking competition; a dead whale; an ultra-nationalist named Breivik; unrequited love; Kakuzo robots; red herrings; uranium; an Andalusian matador. Episodic and mesmerizing scenes flash vividly along, and soon they're all next off to Stockholm. With its intrepid band of companions, *Scattered All Over the Earth* (the first novel of a trilogy) may bring to mind Alice's *Adventures in Wonderland* or a surreal *Wind in the Willows*, but really is just another sui generis Yoko Tawada masterpiece.

*The Ultimate Intimacy*

*Oreo*

*Night Train*

*The Other City*

*Twenty Years of Czechoslovak Underground Writing*

Brevity is the soul of beauty in these tiny masterworks of short short fiction Gorgeously translated by Lydia Davis, the miniature stories of A. L. Snijders might concern a lost shoe, a visit with a bat, fears of travel, a dream of a man who has lost a glass eye: uniting them is their concision and their vivacity. Lydia Davis in her introduction delves into her fascination with the pleasures and challenges of translating from a language relatively new to her. She also extols Snijders' s " straightforward approach to storytelling, his modesty and his thoughtfulness. " Selected from many hundreds in the original Dutch, the stories gathered here—humorous, or bizarre, or comfortingly homely—are something like daybook entries, novels-in-brief, philosophical meditations, or events recreated from life, but—inhabiting the borderland between fiction and reality—might best be described as autobiographical mini-fables. This morning at 11:30, in the full sun, I go up into the hayloft where I haven' t been for years. I climb over boxes and shelving, and open the door. A frightened owl flies straight at me, dead quiet, as quiet as a shadow can fly, I look into his eyes—he' s a large owl, it' s not strange that I' m frightened too, we fighten each other. I myself thought that owls never move in the daytime. What the owl thinks about me, I don' t know.

A collection of essays by an eminent Czechoslovakian novelist explores the turbulent history of Prague over the past fifty years, the author's childhood experience in a concentration camp, the work of Franz Kafka, and the meaning of hope. Original. IP.

The story is about "a man caught in an unusual love triangle"—Jackie.

A delightful fictional account of the small town Ca' sar Aira grew up in—not so long ago A delightful fictional memoir about C' sar Aira's small hometown. The narrator, born the same year and now living in the same great city (Buenos Aires) as C' sar Aira, could be the author himself. Beginning with his parents—an enigmatic handsome black father who gathered linden flowers for his sleep-inducing tea and an irrational, crippled mother of European descent—the narrator catalog memories of his childhood: his friends, his peculiar first job, his many gossiping neighbors, and the landscapes and architecture of the provinces. The Linden Tree beautifully brings back to life that period in Argentina when the poor, under the guiding hand of Eva Per' ó n, aspired to a newly created middle class. As it moves from anecdotes to anecdote, this charming short novella—touching, funny, and sometimes surreal—invites the reader to visit the source of Aira's extraordinary imagination.

Karel apek

Writers on Unforgettable Friendships

A Writer and His Colleagues and Their Work

A Czech Dreambook

A Novel

This is a collection of Jan Neruda's intimate, wry, bittersweet stories of life among the inhabitants of the Little Quarter of nineteenth-century Prague. These finely tuned and varied vignettes established Neruda as the quintessential Czech nineteenth-century realist, the Charles Dickens of a Prague becoming ever more aware of itself as a Czech rather than an Austrian city. Prague Tales is a classic by a writer whose influence has been acknowledged by generations of Czech writers, including Ivan Klima, who contributes an introduction to this new translation.

A pioneering, dazzling satire about a biracial black girl from Philadelphia searching for her Jewish father in New York City *Oreo* is raised by her maternal grandparents in Philadelphia. Her black mother tours with a theatrical troupe, and her Jewish deadbeat dad disappeared when she was an infant, leaving behind a mysterious note that triggers her quest to find him. What ensues is a playful, modernized parody of the classical odyssey of Theseus with a feminist twist. Immersed in seventies pop culture, and mixing standard English, black vernacular, and Yiddish with wisecracking aplomb. *Oreo*, our young hero, navigates the labyrinth of sound studios and brothels and subway tunnels in Manhattan, seeking to claim her birthright while unwittingly experiencing and triggering a mythic journey of self-discovery like no other.

One of the last artistic expressions of life under communism, this novel captures the atmosphere in Prague between 1983 and 1987, where a dance could be broken up by the secret police, a traffic offence could lead to surveillance and where contraband books were the currency of the underworld.

After the collapse of the repressive Czech regime, Pavel finds it disturbingly difficult to make the documentary film that had always been his dream. Reprint.

Shop Talk

Love And Garbage

Prague Tales

Life and Work

Novel 11, Book 18

*27 contributors to The New York Review of Books tell of their deep and abiding friendships with other poets, writers, artists, composers, and scientists of equal stature.*

*In his intimate autobiography, spanning six decades that included war, totalitarianism, censorship, and the fight for democracy, acclaimed Czech writer Ivan Klima reflects back on his remarkable life and this critical period of twentieth-century history. Klima's story begins in the 1930s on the outskirts of Prague where he grew up unaware of his concealed Jewish heritage. It came as a surprise when his family was transported to the Terezin concentration camp—and an even greater surprise when most of them survived. They returned home to a city in economic turmoil and falling into the grip of Communism. Against this tumultuous backdrop, Klima discovered his love of literature and matured as a writer. But as the regime further encroached on daily life, arresting his father and censoring his work, Klima recognized the party for what it was: a deplorable, colossal lie. The true nature of oppression became clear to him and many of his peers, among them Josef Škvorecký, Milan Kundera, and Václav Havel. From the brief hope of freedom during the Prague Spring of 1968 to Charter 77 and the eventual collapse of the regime in 1989's Velvet Revolution, Klima's revelatory account provides a profoundly rich personal and national history.*

*After the collapse of the repressive Czech regime, Pavel finds it disturbingly difficult to make the documentary film that had always been his dream*

*Presents a collection of short stories, including "While the women are sleeping," in which a man lying on the beach speculates on the lives of another pair of beach goers, and "The Resignation Letter of Señor de Santiesteban," in which a ghost jeopardizes the job of a new teacher.*

*My Crazy Century*

*Too Loud a Solitude*

*True Stories*

*Armand V*

*Waiting for the Dark, Waiting for the Light*

*Good-by, Samizdat offers the first collection of some of the best of underground texts. Divided into three sections, it includes fiction, cultural and political writing, and philosophical essays. The writings reflect the creative thought of some of the best minds of modern times, from the well-known - Ivan Klima, Ludvík Vaculík, Václav Havel - to writers who are as yet unknown in the West.*

*A hymn to the invisible 'other' Prague, lurking on the peripheries of the town so familiar to tourists.*

*A novel of one desperate woman's hopes and desires set in contemporary Prague from "a literary gem who is too little appreciated in the West" (The Boston Globe). Divorced, approaching fifty, and mother to a rebellious fifteen-year-old, Kristyna is beginning to feel the strain of her bleak existence—until she finds a new sense of joy when she begins a love affair with a man fifteen years her junior But her escape into romance is far from complete. She worries about her daughter Jana, who has been cutting school, and may be using heroin—the latest plague on the city. And Kristyna's mother has forced her to accept the personal papers of her dead father, a tyrant whose Stalinist ideals she despised. At a crossroads in her life, she must find a way to put the past behind her and deal with the challenges of the present in a Czechoslovakia that is still trying to overcome years of communist oppression. In this Washington Post Best Book of 2001, Klima "unflinchingly presents the problems facing modern Prague and civilization in general. . . . [and] fills it with mercy." (San Francisco Chronicle).*

*New Directions proudly introduces two novels in English by the Norwegian master, who is "without question, Norway's bravest, most intelligent novelist" (Per Petterson) Armand is a diplomat rising through the ranks of the Norwegian foreign office, but he's caught between his public duty to support foreign wars in the Middle East and his private disdain for Western intervention. He hides behind knowing, ironic statements, which no one grasps and which change nothing. Armand's son joins the Norwegian SAS to fight in the Middle East, despite being specifically warned against such a move by his father, and this leads to catastrophic, heartbreaking consequences. Told exclusively in footnotes to an unwritten book, this is Solstad's radically unconventional novel about how we experience the passing of time: how it fragments, drifts, quickens, and how single moments can define a life.*

*Prague in Danger*

*Stories from Prague*

*Czech Eden*

*Prague and the Czech Republic*

*In this novel, Enrique Vila-Matas traces a journey connecting the worlds of Joyce and Beckett, and all they symbolize. One night, a renowned and now retired literary publisher has a vivid dream that takes place in Dublin, a city he's never visited. The central scene of the dream is a funeral in the era of Ulysses. The publisher would give anything to know if an unidentified character in his dream is the great author he always wanted to meet, or the ghostly angel who abandoned him during childhood. As the days go by, he will come to understand that his vision of the end of an era was prophetic. Enrique Vila-Matas traces a journey that connects the worlds of Joyce and Beckett, revealing the difficulties faced by literary authors, publishers, and good readers in a society where literature is losing influence. A robust work, Dublinesque is a masterwork of irony, humor, and erudition by one of Spain's most celebrated living authors.*

*The legendary author's essays and interviews explore how fellow writers from Milan Kundera to Edna O'Brien are influenced by time, place, and politics. Writers are often deeply influenced by the time and place in which they live and write. In Shop Talk, Philip Roth, winner of a National Book Award, a Pulitzer Prize, and numerous other literary honors, explores the intimate relationship a writer's experience has with his or her work. In a series of essays, Roth recounts his intellectual encounters with writers, discussing with them the diverse regions from which they hail and pondering the influence of locale, politics, and history on their work. Featuring luminaries such as Milan Kundera discussing Czechoslovakia; Primo Levi talking about Auschwitz; Edna O'Brien reflecting on Ireland; Isaac Bashevis Singer tackling Warsaw; Aharon Appelfeld on Bukovina; and Ivan Klima on Prague, Roth's conversations touch on the conditions that inspire great art, with artists as attuned to the subtleties of their societies as they are the nuances of words. Also including a portrait of Bernard Malamud, a written exchange with Mary McCarthy about Roth's The Counterlife, and the essay "Rereading Saul Bellow," Shop Talk is a "fascinating [glimpse] of some of the deans of postwar literature" (Los Angeles Times Book Review).*

*It's 1979 in Czechoslovakia, ten years into the crushing restoration of repressive communism known as normalization, and Ludvík Vaculík has writer's block. It has been nearly a decade since he wrote his last novel, and even longer since he wrote the 1968 manifesto, "Two Thousand Words," which the Soviet Union used as one of the pretexts for invading Czechoslovakia. On the advice of a friend, Vaculík begins to keep a diary: "a book about things, people and events." Fifty-four weeks later, what Vaculík has written is a unique mixture of diary, dream journal, and outright fiction - an inverted roman a clef in which the author, his family, his mistresses, the secret police and leading figures of the Czech underground play major roles.*

*Judge On Trial is Ivan KI-ma's epic novel about those who stayed in Prague after 1968. When middle-aged Judge Adam Kindl is asked not only to try a double murder case but is also expected to find the accused guilty it is his own shattered faith in the political system that is put on trial. To understand the crises he is experiencing in both his professional and personal life, Adam has to confront his own and his country's past which has been mis-shapen first by Nazism, then Stalinism, the false hope of the Prague Spring and the collaborationist regime that followed.*

*The Linden Tree*

*Good-bye, Samizdat*

*My First Loves*

*A Summer Affair*

*Awake*

Examines seven types of ambiguity, providing examples of it in the writings of Shakespeare, Wordsworth, and T.S. Eliot.

With the brilliance and humanity that have made him a major figure in world literature, Ivan Klima, in *The Ultimate Intimacy* (a New York Times Notable Book of the Year), explores the universal themes of love, adultery, and faith. Pastor Daniel Vedra cares for his family and his congregation, ministers to prisoners, and is a sought-after commentator on the rapidly changing society of the Czech Republic. But when a beautiful stranger comes to hear him preach, Daniel soon finds himself falling in love with another man's wife. As his heart stirs, the order that once underpinned Daniel's life begins to unravel. And as a result, he stands to betray everything he has lived for: his family, his vocation, and his God.

"The voice [in these stories] is clear and intelligent and brave. Mr. Klima has climbed the mast." New York Times

This short story collection spanning the celebrated Czech author's career is a "taxonomic survey of Eros . . . [by] a writer at the top of his form" (The Boston Globe). In these stories that span an acclaimed career from the 1960s to the present, Ivan Klima offers a vivid gallery of people searching for an escape in love: factory girls and assembly-line workers find respite from their daily grind in Walter Mitty-esque fantasies; a young woman finds herself on a honeymoon with a man she did not marry; a divorce-court judge loves the routines of his marriage in ways his mistress can't understand; and a young wife falls into a passionate affair with an elderly bookbinder crippled by war. Lovers for a Day is a book stamped with Klima's unique vision. With a personal history of a nation's evolution, this moving examination of our attempts to find freedom in love will demonstrate why Klima is considered by so many to be "a Czech genius" (Los Angeles Times Book Review).

*Love and Garbage*

*The Company They Keep*

*My Golden Trades*

*Photographs*

The Years of German Occupation, 1939-45: Memories and History, Terror and Resistance, Theater and Jazz, Film and Poetry, Politics and War

*The narrator of Love and Garbage has temporarily abandoned his work-in-progress - an essay on Kafka - and exchanged his writer's pen for the orange vest of a Prague road-sweeper. As he works, he meditates on Czechoslovakia, on Kafka, on life, on art and, obsessively, on his passionate and adulterous love affair with the sculptress Daria. Gradually he admits the impossibility of being at once an honest writer and an honest lover, and with that agonising discovery comes a moment of choice.*

*A fable about the power of books and knowledge, "finely balanced between pathos and comedy," from one of Czechoslovakia's most popular authors (Los Angeles Times). A New York Times Notable Book Haňtá has been compacting trash for thirty-five years. Every evening, he rescues books from the jaws of his hydraulic press, carries them home, and fills his house with them. Haňtá may be an idiot, as his boss calls him, but he is an idiot with a difference—the ability to quote the Talmud, Hegel, and Lao-Tzu. In this "irresistibly eccentric romp," the author Milan Kundera has called "our very best writer today" celebrates the power and the indestructibility of the written word (The New York Times Book Review).*

*Essays exploring the nature of modern society discuss rationality and irrationality, the artificial world, modern idols, mass media, and movements for change.*

A brilliant novel by the Norwegian master Dag Solstad Bjorn Hansen, a respectable town treasurer, has just turned fifty and is horrified by the thought that chance has ruled his life. Eighteen years ago he left his wife and their two-year-old son for his mistress, who persuaded him to start afresh in a small, provincial town and to devote himself to an amateur theater.In time that relationship also faded, and after four years of living alone Bjorn contemplates an extraordinary course of action that will change his life forever. He finds a fellow conspirator in Dr. Schiøtz, who has a secret of his own and offers to help Bjorn carry his preposterous plan through to its logical conclusion. But the sudden reappearance of his son both fills Bjorn with new hope and complicates matters. The desire to gamble with his comfortable existence proves irresistible, however, taking him to Vilnius in Lithuania, where very soon he cannot tell whether he's tangled up in a game or reality. Dag Solstad won the Norwegian Critics Prize for Literature for Novel 11, Book 18, a concentrated uncompromising existential novel that puts on full display the author's remarkable gifts and wit.

*Lovers for a Day*

*New and Collected Stories on Love*

*Seven Types of Ambiguity*

*Scattered All Over the Earth*

*While the Women Are Sleeping*

*Trekandrama fra Tjekkoslovakiet om en ambittis videnskabsmand, som er parat til at ofre såvel karrieren som sit falmede ægteskab, da han møder en meget yngre kvinde, en rodløs og uberegnelig skuespiller*

*And although originally written in Czech, the book was commissioned by Calbird Press and was therefore written with foreign readers in mind; in other words, no prior knowledge of Capek's writings or his milieu is required."*--BOOK JACKET.

*Spirit of Prague and Other Essays (Ivan Klima ; Translated from the Czech by Paul Wilson*

*My Merry Mornings*

*Living Parallel*

*Between Security and Insecurity*