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Catalogue of Croatian authors



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Since its foundation in 1995, **HENA COM** has published a large number of prominent fiction and non-fiction authors, books for children, and health and well-being books. Our catalogue, as well as careful selection of authors and titles, have earned us reader loyalty and recognizability on the local market. In addition to publishing international best-sellers, we have two imprints within which we present regional and Croatian authors only: *Nokaut*, which is focused on novels and short stories, and *Verbarij*, which offers novels, short stories, essays, drama, columns and other genres.

At HENA COM we believe in team work and creating an environment in which books are not considered merchandise, but food for the soul. We believe that our job is to connect those who write with those who read, and that the books we publish are the place where they meet. Every new book opens new possibilities for the books to come, and the creative process of bringing a book to life not only fills us with joy, but allows us to share our passion for literature with everyone who cherishes good literature as much as we do.

Our list of authors includes some of the most significant Croatian pens, such as Ante Tomić, Marina Vujčić, Ivica Ivanišević, Tena Štjivičić, Zoran Žmirić, Namik Kabil and Karmela Špoljarić, together with the debutant writers such as Valent Pavlić and Ružica Aščić.

The list of foreign authors includes some of the world-known writers, such as Bohumil Hrabal, Umberto Eco, Amos Oz, Elif Shafak, Ephraim Kishon, Chigozie Obioma, Michela Murgia, Federico Moccia, Ece Temelkuran, Ricardo Piglia, Manuel Puig, Renate Dorrestein and Maria Angels Anglada.



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If you are interested in any of our authors, we shall gladly answer all your questions and inquiries. Welcome to HENA COM!



Ante Tomić

The Miracle in Viper's Glen

Seven kilometers uphill from Smiljevo, in the craggy backwoods which recognizes no other law but its own, lives the widower Jozo Viper with his four sons. The five rough men with questionable hygiene, eating and living habits are too far for both the State with its laws and the civilization with its basic principles to reach them – that is, until the eldest son Krešimir decides to find a wife and bring her to their alpha-male fortress. The romantic mission of the resourceful eldest Viper brother turns into a hilarious

comedy with elements of a gripping thriller and road novel, with numerous unexpected twists and turns full of police chases, disguising, explosions, arrests, runaway brides and raging hot-blooded males, all for a miracle in Viper's Glen to happen – and not just one miracle. The readers will laugh to tears, because Tomić loves his characters even when it seems he is mocking them. The irony with which he wraps their seemingly rough and primitive mentality is light like the finest silk.



Ante Tomić was born in Split in 1970. He earned a degree in philosophy and sociology from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zadar. He works as a professional journalist in "Jutarnji list" daily newspaper. He writes novels, short stories, plays and feuilletons. So far he has published six novels: *What Is a Man Without a Moustache?*, 2000; *Nothing Can Surprise Us*, 2003; *Love, Electricity, Water & Telephone* 2005; *The Miracle in Viper's Glen* 2009; *Tadpoles*, 2011; and *The Magnificent Vipers*, 2015, three short stories collections: *I Forgot Where I Parked*, 1997, 2001; *Big Shopping*, 2004; and *An Obedient Citizen*, 2006, and three collections of column: *Class Optimist*, 2004; *A Promising Boy*, 2009; and *I Don't Know*, 2010. In 2001, Tomić published a collection of feuilletons entitled *The Folklore Festival*, and in 2005 *The Umbrella Association And the Other Play*, a book of two plays co-authored with Ivica Ivanišević.

He won Marija Jurić Zagorka Award for the best reportage and 2006 Kiklop Award for the best short stories collection, for *Gradanin pokorni*.

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„With this novel, Tomić did something very important: by portraying one undoubtedly oppressive and narrow-minded world, whose codes, rites and beliefs have not changed much since the times when Napoleon's soldiers raided Dalmatia, the writer has masterfully created his characters - but not in order to prove he is „better“ than them; on the contrary, he has done it to show that we all share the same passions and that everything else is nothing but excessive pride! – and apparently lightly, as if sitting in a café, woven a story which is more „contemporary“ than many pompous, urban tales.

Teofil Pančić, *Jutarnji list*

„Tomić's book is unputdownable. It is masterfully structured and masterfully written, with a rich language full of dialectal words and expressions. The rhythm and narration are fast and precise. This book is something Proust or Andrić, for instance, would hardly even try their hand at. *The Miracle in Viper's Glen* never fails in its intention to make its readers laugh to tears.“

Vladimir Arsenić, *Booksa*



Publication details:

Title: Čudo u Poskokovoj Dragi

Genre: novel

Publication date: 2016

Number of pages: 224

Paperback with flaps

Format: 13 x 20,8 cm

ISBN: 78-953-259-133-0

Rights: available

Rights sold: Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Norway

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The most widely read contemporary Croatian writer. All his books are best sellers with several reprints.

Marina Vujčić

And Then Božo Started Afresh

And Then Božo Started Afresh is a psychological novel written in the manner of existentialist narrative. The main character, 45-year-old Božo, is a disgruntled, unfulfilled, frustrated intellectual, overly (auto) analytical, maladjusted and introverted – in short, unhappy. Being too absorbed in soul-searching and questioning of everything around him, Božo fails to live and lets his “real life” pass by. Therefore he

decides to “finally take his life into his hands”. He leaves his wife and moves from Dalmatia to Zagreb, hoping that the change of environment will bring him personal satisfaction, mental stability and happiness. But is that possible? A smart, funny and lucid novel - an essential reading for the lovers of intellectually stimulating and well written books which abound with themes, motives and semantic nuances.



Marina Vujčić was born in 1966 in Trogir. She holds a degree in Croatian language and literature from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. She worked as a Croatian language teacher for many years, before she became a Croatian literature editor at HENA.COM. So far she has published six novels (*Tuđi život/Someone Else's Life*, 2010; *A onda je Božo krenuo ispočetka/And Then Božo Started Afresh*, 2014; *Mogla sam to biti ja/I It Could Have Been Me*, 2015; *Susjed/The Neighbour*, 2015; *Otpusno pismo/A Discharge Letter*, 2016 – co-authored with Ivica Ivanišević; and *Pitanje anatomije/ The Question of Anatomy*, 2017), and a collection of plays *Umri ženski / Die Soft*, 2014.

Umri ženski (Die Soft 2014) and *Podmornica (Submarine, 2017)* won Marin Držić Award, while *Susjed (The Neighbour)* won V.B.Z. & Tisak Media award for the best unpublished manuscript in 2015. *And Then Božo Started Afresh (2014)* was shortlisted for European Union Prize for Literature.

„Marina Vujčić proves her enviable writing skills in this masterfully woven story about a man with no purpose and emotion in life – we may not like Božo or relate to him, but he will strike us as a flesh and blood character.“

Bojana Radović, Večernji list

„This novel is structured and written with talent and care; without a single superfluous sentence and with its uniquely refined phrasing, it is imperfect only to the extent in which everything has to be imperfect in order not to seem „artificial“. Marina Vujčić as a writer may have passed under your radar so far – she passed under mine; but from this book on, keep your eyes wide open because no excuses will be accepted.“

Teofil Pančić, Jutarnji list



Publication details:

Title: *A onda je Božo krenuo ispočetka*

Genre: novel

Publication date: 2014

Number of pages: 216

Paperback with flaps

Format: 13.5 x 20.8 cm

ISBN: 978-953-259-072-2

Rights: available

German simple translation available

Rights sold: Montenegro

Tena Štivičić

Invisible

The protagonists of *Invisible* (*Nevidljivi*) are a group of migrants and a British man, whose lives are intertwined. They were longing for a better life and a chance to make a difference, but somehow they ended up forgotten, painfully invisible and trapped in bureaucratic and social conventions, faced with the indifference and lack of empathy for foreigners. *Fireflies* (*Krijesnice*) is a play about feeling tired, lonely and imprisoned in the so-called freedom. The plot takes place at an international airport which is brought to a standstill by a storm. Although the protagonists are seemingly free to move around as they please, the airport building becomes a place of strict limitations and control,

and at the same time a “smaller version” of the transitional processes in which the protagonists are caught unprepared. *Seven Days in Zagreb* (*Sedam dana u Zagrebu*) deals with transition and new identities. In the world in which one is required to have tons of qualifications and has to fill in a bunch of forms just to adopt a dog, the five protagonists rebel against the rules and forcefully argue for their viewpoints. For the heroes of Tena Štivičić’s plays, a seemingly unprejudiced, open-minded world which favors diversity turns out to be a prison, a trap of hypocrisy, in which nothing is guaranteed, not even the illusion of the desired reality.



Tena Štivičić was born in 1977 in Zagreb. She earned a degree in dramaturgy from Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb and she holds a PhD in drama from Goldsmiths College in London. She lives and works both in Zagreb and London, and she writes in Croatian and English.

Her plays have been performed in theatres all over Europe, translated in many languages and awarded with many prizes, including the European Author’s Award and Innovation Award from Heidelberger Stückemarkt in 2008. *Three Winters*, written in English, was performed in the National Theatre in London in 2014 and won Susan Smith Blackburn Award in 2015.

Her other plays include *Nemreš pobjeć od nedjelje/ Can’t Escape Sundays*, *Dvije/ The Two of Us* and *Fragile!*, and she also published two collections of columns, *Odbrojavanje/The Countdown*, 2007, and *Vrag ne spava/The Devil Never Sleeps*, 2010.

„*Invisible* have anticipated something we have been witnessing in Europe for the last two years in all its force – the misery of immigrants, which has caused not only the European refugee crisis, but the slow, creeping awareness of western self-centeredness as well. As the author has said herself in one of the interviews, this play arose from her own, often unpleasant experiences as an immigrant from Eastern Europe, and her wish to put them across to the audience.“

Andrija Tunjić, *Vijenac*

„With cyclical structure and in a painfully pressing way, *Invisible* presents the world of eternal repetition in which those who should be cleverer or more responsible never become what they should, and those who could find their place „somewhere else“ never succeed in finding it.“

Tomislav Zajec, *Kazalište*



Publication details:

Title: *Nevidljivi*, collection of plays

Genre: play

Publication date: 2015

Number of pages: 300

Paperback with flaps

Format: 13 x 20,8 cm

ISBN: 978-953-259-101-9

Rights: available

Manuscript available in English

Valent Pavlić

Evanesco

The reviewers praise Pavlić as a „fullblown writer with an authentic voice and finely honed style, who is totally focused on what he is writing about“; they even hail him „a writing wonder“, proclaiming his short stories collection *Evanesco* a true literary gem. The title itself, the first person present of the Latin verb which means to disappear, suggests the singularity of Pavlić's style and subject matter. The collection consistently deals with the leitmotif of the feeling of disappearance of the socially maladjusted, but in each story this motive is tackled in a new

and unexpected way. The nine stories in this collection are not only interesting in terms of their content, but also told in a refined style, with sentences which are in perfect balance between an almost archaic and contemporary storytelling. Valent Pavlić writes about how a person disappears in existing, or, if we turn the metaphor around on behalf of more optimistic readers, how one exists in disappearing. His *Evanesco* makes itself heard through the art of storytelling, but it also conveys a deep message about the loneliness all of us experience.



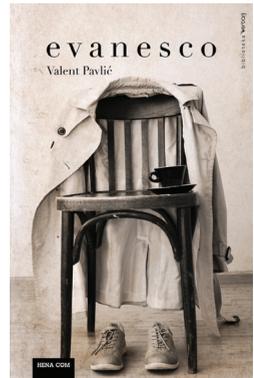
Valent Pavlić was born in 1985 in Zagreb. He has a degree in art history and French language and literature. *Evanesco* (2016) is his first published collection of short stories, which has received glowing reviews and had him hailed as **one of the most talented young voices on the Croatian literary scene**. *Kratice i prečaci/Shortcuts*, his second short stories collection, will be published soon.

„Once you have read *Evanesco*, you must ask yourself who is that writer whose sentences are so rounded and stylistically perfect, whose inner monologues are so organic, whose feelings of alienation and loneliness are so palpable, and the destinies of those who belong nowhere, or at least behave that way, so clear and recognizable. (...) His sentences and vocabulary are very elegant and concise, and his carefully chosen lexis and generally sublime style and lack of everything even remotely similar to vulgarism suggest a classical author who can be read today just as he could be read in the middle of the last century, had he been published then.“

Neven Vulić, *Globus*

„Valent Pavlić is a debutant. This collection is the first thing he has ever written, but his stories reveal a mature storyteller whose language, style and themes are so refined that one has the impression he has accidentally fallen into our world from a parallel universe in which writers are born with the wisdom of the eighty-year-olds. In other words, Pavlić is totally convincing both as a young boy and as an experienced old man on his death-bed. (...) We are dealing with an author who, to use an archaic expression, does not write with ink, but with his own blood.“

Jagna Pogačnik, *Jutarnji list*



Publication details:

Title: *Evanesco*

Genre: short stories

Publication date: 2016

Number of pages: 204

Paperback with flaps

Format: 13 x 20,8 cm

ISBN: 978-953-259-129-3

Rights: available

Ivica Ivanišević

Primavera

It is the year 1919. A single, poverty stricken mother strictly determines the careers of her three sons: the twins Fabjan and Šanto go one into priesthood training, and the other into military training, while the youngest son Duje stays with her in the city of Split. After that, the mother never interferes in anything that happens to her children – their lives are in the hands of God, or fate, or sometimes of the Evil One. In May 1939, on the night of Saint Duje, the patron saint of the city of Split, the three brothers reunite again at their mother's sick bed. Fabjan is a professor of dogmatic theology at Gregoriana

University in Rome, Šanto is a first class captain of the royal army in Kruševac, and Duje is a tailor and feels inferior to his elder brothers. During the thirty six hours they spend together, the unexpected events will turn their lives upside down, leaving nothing unchanged. Three different ideologies under the same roof are not only a perfect material for a novelistic plot; they are also a perfect foundation for a much deeper message about what big social turmoils do to small people and their families. *Primavera* captivates with its story, its humor, its masterfully structured plot and its full-blooded characters.



Ivica Ivanišević was born in 1964 in Split. He has a degree in Sociology from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. He worked as a journalist and editor in *Nedjeljna Dalmacija* and *Feral Tribune*, and he is currently a commentator for daily newspaper *Slobodna Dalmacija*. He writes novels, short prose, plays and essays. So far he has written a biography (*Smoje*, 2004), a collection of essays (*Sto mu jelenskih rogova*, 2004), a play (*Krovna udruga i druga drama/The Umbrella Association and The Other Play*, 2005, co-authored with Ante Tomić), a city alphabet (*Split za početnike/Split For Beginners*, 2015), a book of short prose (*Ulaz za djecu i vojnike/The Entrance for Children and Soldiers*, 2015) and five novels – *U sedlu je tijesno za dvoje/The Saddle Is Too Tight For Two* (2015), *Primavera* (2016), *Knjiga žalbe/The Book Of Complaints* (2016), *Otpusno pismo/A Discharge Letter*, 2016, co-authored with Marina Vujčić, and *Klanjam se/My Respects* (2017).

Ivanišević won V.B.Z. & Tisak Media award for the best unpublished manuscript in 2016 for his novel *Knjiga žalbe*. He writes plays and scripts for film and television.

„If Ivica Ivanišević had lived at Shakespeare's time or before, I'm sure that the son of a glove maker would steal plots for his plays from him. (...) Ivanišević is a grand master of literary mise-en-scene, who perfectly knows where to put his characters and how to stage their individual dramas. (...) One way or another, I know I'll spend the night reading, because *Primavera* is something you don't put down until the last page.“

Tanja Tolić, *Najbolje knjige*

„Ivanišević's prose is uniquely unpretentious and funny, without being banal and stereotypical at all. *Primavera* is truly a textbook example of a novel which aims to be widely read, but does not underestimate the intelligence of its readers.“

Jagna Pogačnik, *Jutarnji list*



Publication details:

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ISBN: 978-953-259-141-5
Rights: available

Zoran Žmirić

Travelling the Right Hemisphere

Travelling the Right Hemisphere is something like a homage to Corto Maltese, the adventurous sea captain created by the Italian graphic novelist Hugo Pratt. Following the example of Corto Maltese who, as a boy, discovered that he had no fate line on his palm and therefore carved his own with his father's razor, the main protagonist of Žmirić's novel chooses a life he was not meant to live. Although immobile and imprisoned in a room full of books, he dreams with his eyes open, travelling to exotic countries and finding

answers to the eternal existentialist and philosophical questions. From the lighthouse on Cabo de Roca, through the Siberian wasteland, to a cave on Henderson Island, Žmirić's hero travels searching for the solutions to life equations and embracing the wisdom which helps him understand himself and the world around him. This novel is about travelling a hemisphere of human aspirations and yearnings, and it urges its readers to an uncompromising reevaluation of their own depths and limitations.



„*Travelling the Right Hemisphere* is not a collection of the apocryphal adventures of Pratt's hero, but it is a collection which draws on Pratt's idea of culture, on the need to express the complex beauty of the millennia-old traces of human existence on this planet in just few words and on just few pages.“

Matko Vladanović, *Moderna vremena*

„The narrator whose data become known to the readers once they get to the famous last page of the book, leads us, chapter by chapter, onto the journey all over the world, and the story he tells us has the makings of a travelogue (in terms of its credibility and verifiability of certain facts), but at the same time goes far beyond it into the surreal and transcendental, serving the main idea which connects

all the people and all the places that the narrator encounters, and that idea is a quest: a quest for answers to some important and some minor questions, a quest for truth and purpose, a quest for life.“

Jagna Pogačnik, *Jutarnji list*

Publication details:

Title: *Putovanje desnom hemisferom*

Genre: novel

Publication date: 2017

Page number: 200

Paperback with flaps

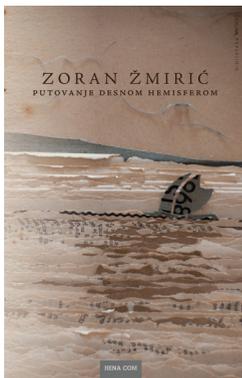
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ISBN: 978-953-259-159-0

Rights: available



Zoran Žmirić was born in 1969 in Rijeka. He is a member of the Croatian Literary Writers' Association and his works have been translated into English, Italian, Polish, Slovene and Ukrainian. So far he has published *Kazalište sjena/The Shadow Theatre*, 2002; *Vrijeme koje nam je pojeo Pac-Man/Our Time Eaten Away By Pac-Man*, 2005; *The Blockbuster*, 2009; *Riječke rock himne/Rock Hymns of Rijeka*, 2011; *Snoputnik/Dreamtraveller*, 2014; *Zapisano metkom/Written By Bullet*, 2015; and *Putovanje desnom hemisferom/Travelling the Right Hemisphere*, 2017. He won numerous awards and recognitions: his novel *The Blockbuster* was a finalist for the 2008 V.B.Z. & Tisak Media award for the best unpublished manuscript and for the T-portal literary award for the best Croatian novel in 2010, and it won the Croatian Literary Society Award for the best book of the year 2009/2010. In 2011, Zoran received the annual prize of the City of Rijeka for his creative work and achievements in the field of culture, and his novel *Travelling the Right Hemisphere* was a finalist for the 2014 V.B.Z. & Tisak Media award for the best unpublished manuscript.



Ružica Aščić

The Good Days of Violence

23 short stories to be long remembered

Ružica Aščić's stories deal with the everyday Evil and its faithful companion Violence (sometimes accompanied by Injustice) in a very noneveryday way. Evil is found in the hidden corners of human beings, in something we could call „the naturalism of the soul“, and it is registered in a somewhat impassive way. Ružica's language is remarkable, surprising and „hallucinatory“, a cold poetry in prose which is the consequence of the richness of everyday life. These stories seem to sway in the interspace of reality

as comfortable hammocks for quiet horror and grotesque. The characters are mostly uncompassionate and therefore bereft of morality and stripped of motivation. A world inhabited by such characters – including evil children and the lovers separated by the generation gap and lack of understanding – forcefully bursts through the worm-hole these stories open. *The Good Days of Violence* can hardly be compared to anything else in Croatian literature.



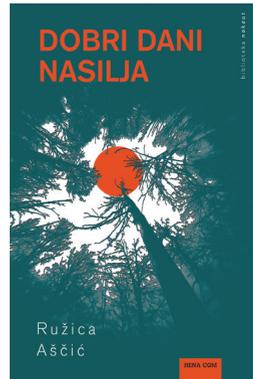
Ružica Aščić was born in 1987 in Travnik and she grew up in Daruvar. She earned a degree in journalism and history from the Centre for Croatian Studies in Zagreb. Her short stories were included in anthologies, journals and web portals. **She was awarded the Ulaznica Prize for her short stories, and two Marin Držić Awards for her plays *Košnice (Beehives)* and *U meni raste (Growing Inside Me)*. *Dobri dani nasilja (The Good Days of Violence)* won Prozak Award in 2014.**

„The atmosphere in Ružica's stories is very similar to a dream. Not to a nightmare, but to a lucid dream in which fears follow some twisted logic to form firm plots, a fairy-tale in which all characters are real. There are no superfluous words and no emotional outbursts in these stories; the reduction of emotions results in a void and in a brutal hunger which cannot be appeased. Everything in *The Good Days of Violence* is exactly as it is, and everything is exactly what nobody talks or writes about. Unless you are Flannery or Agota or Herta. Or Ružica.“

Olja Savičević Ivančević

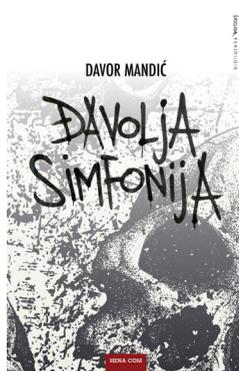
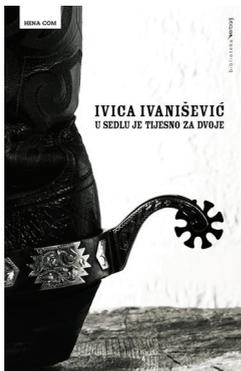
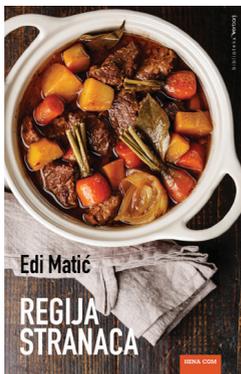
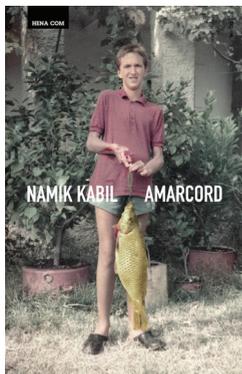
„Ružica Aščić is one of those writers who do not have their predecessors in the literature of their native countries; she is simply „totally different from the others“, breast-fed on a different, foreign reading, a distant sister of the authors like Herta Müller or Flannery O'Connor. Because, although Ružica's stories are stripped of everything we have been through in the last couple of decades, the war and postwar period is still their backdrop, and they give a clear-cut, very concrete generational point of view.“

Jagna Pogačnik, *Jutarnji list*



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Valent Pavlič
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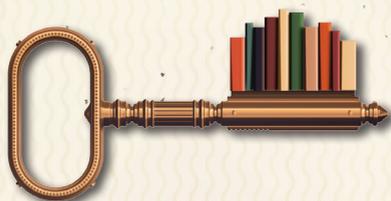
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