

MALA
ZVONA

Rights List

SPRING 2024





Our Story

The meaning of our name may be Little Bells – *Mala zvona*, but we ring louder every day. From 2010 when it was founded until today, our publishing house grew richer with several book series, numerous prestigious awards, and a significant number of valuable collaborations.

Our exceptional authors, illustrators and translators play the main role in our story. Together with them we grow and are getting closer to our goals. Trusting them and letting them develop their art with full freedom proved to be the best method.

Inside Our Shelves

Mala zvona's program includes both adult and children's literature. We publish classic authors such as Virginia Woolf, Walter Benjamin or Giorgio Agamben, as well as contemporary Croatian authors.

There are six main domains within which we classify our publications:

First-Person Singular: diaries, letters, biographies, travelogues, and other texts written in the form of first-person narratives

Fantastic Book Series: non-realistic prose by celebrated international and renowned Croatian writers

Illustrated Fantastic Book Series: fantastic prose titles illustrated by a variety of Croatian visual artists

Little Bells: modern and contemporary poetry

Jingle Bell: longer narrative texts and drama for children

Picture Books: high-quality picture books for children and art picture books for all generations

Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover, BUT...

A book is something to be enjoyed. We make our books with love and patience, keeping in mind what's important to our public: a good read and a sensorial pleasure. After carefully selecting and editing the texts, we leave it to our illustrators and designers to complete the magic.

Our Vision And Our Mission: *Books That Last*

Keeping up a rich, diverse and inspiring book program for all generations of readers; remaining consistent in publishing only the books in whose lasting literary and artistic value we truly believe; not wasting resources on publications of short-term interest – this is our vision.

Our mission is to promote reading, art and culture. Besides publishing high-quality content, we're organizing book readings and exhibitions as well as various art workshops and gatherings. We also strive to support the Croatian art scene by discovering and publishing the work of local young and talented authors.

All this is contained in our motto: *Books that last*. Wishing to give our readers something valuable and long-lasting, we think through every step of the book's journey: from the editorial choice of the content to the quality of design and printing. The final product should be a book that lasts – both inside your head and on your shelf.

If you have any questions, propositions, or foreign rights inquiries, feel free to contact us at kabinet@mala-zvona.hr

The Croatian Ministry of Culture and Media provides translation grants for books of Croatian authors in order to promote their presentation abroad.

Foreign publishers can apply to the Ministry's Service for Books and Publishing for subsidy, which is intended to cover the translation cost (partly or in full).

Our agency **Books Everywhere** handles translation and foreign rights for our children's books.

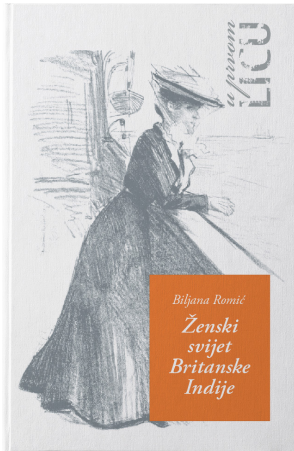
Prose

*Emerge into the fascinating worlds
of our authors and discover the
exciting prose they create.*

The Female World of the British Raj

by Biljana Romić

An astonishing journey through the unseen past – informative, deep and clever.



First-Person Singular

Format: 13,5×20,5

ISBN: 978-953-8313-32-5

Number of pages: 402

Hardcover

Published: 2021

Biljana Romić (1960) is a Croatian indologist and cultural editor. She gained her Master of Arts title in 1997 in Zagreb, with a study of Bharati Mukherjee and postcolonial migrant faiths. Ever since she has been actively researching and writing about postcolonialism and the notion of the Other. Through her continuous efforts, postcolonial culture and literature have found their place in mainstream Croatian media.

About

Biljana Romić's extensive study *The Female World of the British Raj* is a book written after she spent several years studying diaries and letters written by 'mem-sahibs'. Her work is not simply a historical overview of their lives and roles during colonialism; it puts colonial history, literature and the notion of the 'Other' in a contemporary critical context. Romić analyses over one hundred and fifty sources, including Indrani Sen, Amandeep Kaur, Kumari Jayawardena and Shashi Tharoor. When reading about the British colonial venture in India, we mostly encounter works that have been written from the male perspective of conquests and regimens – but colonial women have, almost from the very beginning, been a part of this venture. Biljana Romić's book brings us the voices of these women. They journeyed into the unknown, often not prepared for the adversities of a different climate and the social roles that were awaiting them. They went into the unknown as wives, governesses, teachers, as young women in search of a husband; sometimes as entrepreneurs, missionaries, adventurers. Many stayed within the expected roles given by the British colonial community, but some of them showed that it was possible to overcome the limitations of their era, class and gender. Biljana Romić talks about the so-called 'little history', the one that appears on the margins of big historical events – and without which it is impossible to gain a complete picture of a bygone era.

A Little Dictionary of Biblical Women

by Dorta Jagić

From Abigail to Zeresh – the stories of fearless, smart and cunning biblical women told by the witty voice of Dorta Jagić.



Fantastic Book Series

Format: 13×20

ISBN: 978-953-7760-33-5

Pages: 160

Softcover

Published: 2013

Dorta Jagić (1974) is a dreamer, a traveler and an award-winning poet. She graduated from the Jesuit Philosophy University in Zagreb with a degree in philosophy and religious culture. Her storytelling skills are unique, as she possesses the rare ability to be a researcher, a poet, a historian and a entertainer at the same time.

About

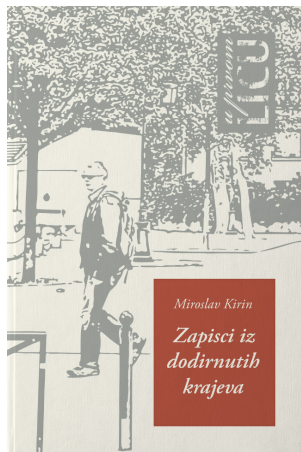
Dorta Jagić offers a series of highly original literary portraits of biblical heroines, drawing on material from the biblical narrative, but also from various other sources. She gives her heroines imagined personal traits, poetic details of hair, face or gait, and more than one hidden thought, boldly connecting them with the contemporary world. This book combines Jagić's impressive knowledge with her unique witt and literally skill – she manages to be dead serious and completely hilarious, making her readers learn, think and laugh out loud.

I wonder how she liked her husband Zechariah's one year long penal muteness? For, Zechariah had not believed the angel when he said that Elizabeth would become with child and have a son at her old age. Lack of faith always has a price, that's why he had to write to his interlocutors for a while. Oh, those men...

Notelets from the Touched Regions

by Miroslav Kirin

A poetical journey through the little and big wonders of our beautiful and troubled world.



First-Person Singular

Format: 13,5×20,5

ISBN: 978-953-8313-64-6

Pages: 124

Hardcover

Published: 2023

Miroslav Kirin (1965) began his literal journey as a poet – an awarded one from the very beginning – but has also been productive in various prose forms. Yet, whatever he writes, poetry is always present in his work. An attentive observer, sensitive to detail, he is capable of appealing to the hearts of readers of all ages.

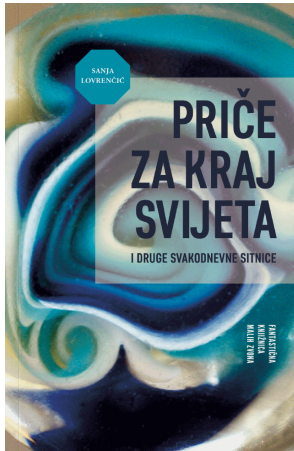
About

Miroslav Kirin's book of travelogues brings together notes from different periods of the author's life, but thanks to the coherence of his view and characteristic stylistic refinement, makes an organic whole. You could call it a kind of triptych: it starts with notes from Paris in 2005, the middle and most complex part is dedicated to the author's sojourns in China, and the book ends with very short notes from various trips through Croatia. The author's observations move in a wide range: from very simple everyday little things that catch his eye to the broad cultural issues of the Far East. Despite the variety of motives seen in the 'touched regions', the traveler's eye shows the same curiosity and the same clarity. The moments he records often turn into micro-stories, and out of the multitude of human outlines that appear in his notes and notebooks, some gain fullness and turn into impressive characters. Poetry runs through Kirin's 'notelets' as a kind of weft – sometimes as initiator of travel, sometimes as an object of work and thought, sometimes as a latent awareness of the poetic values of language. Therefore, this book can give pleasure to both travel lovers and to all those who enjoy good literature.

Stories for the End of the World and Other Everyday Trifles

by Sanja Lovrenčić

A hauntingly beautiful patchwork of short stories.



Fantastic Book Series

Format: 13×20

ISBN: 978-953-8313-69-1

Pages: 170

Softcover

Published: 2023

Sanja Lovrenčić (1961) began her literary career by publishing poetry and translations of poetry from French and English in magazines. Her first collection of poems, *Insula dulcamara*, came out in 1987. She has since published nine more collections of poems; her poetry has been published in both domestic and foreign periodicals and was translated to German, Polish, Russian, Slovenian, Swedish, Romanian, Danish and French. Her poetry books have been shortlisted several times, and some have been awarded (Cyclops Award 2007; Tea Benčić Rimay Award 2021.) She has also written a number of books in prose – novels, collections of short stories and autobiographical notes. Among her outstanding novels are *In Search of Ivana* (Gjalski Award 2007), *Ardura* and *Cabinet for Sentimental Trivial Litterature* (both shortlisted for several prizes). Part of her work is devoted to children; she has written about a dozen texts for picture books, published several collections of stories and two books of plays. She also translates literature from English, French and German; the translation of Virginia Woolf’s collection of short fiction *A Haunted House* won her the Cyclops Award in 2012. She is the founder, editor-in-chief and co-owner of the Mala zvana Publishing House. (www.sanja-lovrencic.com)

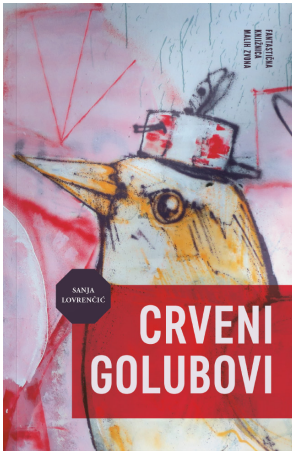
About

Don’t let the title fool you – in these witty micro-stories the end of the world is happening on an (almost) everyday level and ‘other trifles’ may have an unexpected depth. Miniatures by Sanja Lovrenčić, organized in eight ‘chapters’, seemingly adapted to the short attention span of a modern reader, take into account things like morning-garbage-squads, polar bear wisdom, exodus of delivery people, time-stay-machines, mythical journeys and metaphorical animals. Sometimes entertaining, sometimes meditative, the author’s voice stays firm in defending the art of painting/playing with words and especially vocal against false/alternative literature that (allegedly) paints reality, media, and politics.

Red Doves

by Sanja Lovrenčić

Nostalgic Mediterranean idyll meets international terrorism and cyber-subversions.



Fantastic Book Series

Format: 13×20

ISBN: 978-953-8313-59-2

Number of pages: 292

Softcover

Published: 2023

About

The plot of this novel begins with the female narrator's arrival on an unnamed Mediterranean island. She has inherited a house in an almost abandoned village and comes to see it; it is a good reason to get away from her daily struggles for a while. The landscape around her is nostalgically idyllic: crumbling stone houses, wild capers, homemade cheese, sunshine and wind. Everything suggests that there, at a distance from family, precarious jobs and urban routine, she'll find a space for introspection, for facing her past, her desires and hopes; but the story takes an unexpected turn. Along with the house, the heroine inherited a dovecot with a flock of pigeons bred by her deceased cousin, Toni. When she decides to release them from their prison, she has no idea that these homing birds will soon return bringing her six peculiar guests – Toni's old friends. They organize a memorial party for him, and during three consecutive evenings they relate fragments of their shared past. Were they an international theater troupe that wandered the Mediterranean small towns in the seventies or active participants in the political turmoil of the age of lead – it is difficult for the heroine to decide. At the end of the party, before they go away, the strange guests explain the true nature of her newly acquired inheritance: along with the house, she gets the obligation to tell their story, a story she did not fully grasp. And that's where the Mediterranean idyll comes to an end: it will be replaced by a research into international terrorism in the 1970s, a personal revolt against the permanent clash of wealth and poverty, growing compassion for non-human living world and growing anger provoked by deadly business practices; the 'meek heroine' will plunge into cyber-subversions, anger and danger. To the fragments of her guests' stories she will react by creating her own, a story that she will – when the storm she provoked subsides – almost unintentionally leave as a legacy to the new generation.

The Cabinet of Sentimental Trivial Literature

by Sanja Lovrenčić

A witty take on art, social responsibility, writing and love set in a dreamy little museum.



Fantastic Book Series

Format: 13×20

ISBN: 978-953-7760-88-5

Number of pages: 204

Soft cover

Published: 2018

About

There has been a crisis in the Cabinet, which is a kind of small, private, non-profit museum that houses the legacy of 'sentimental and trivial literature' – mostly written by women, of course. The curator, an elderly man who writes letters to the late museum founder Rosa, realizes that not only does the Cabinet need a 'cash injection', but also a new, younger and healthier guardian to replace him. None of this is easy to achieve; and a job advertisement that includes the key sentence of the novel: 'Your story is more important to us than your qualifications', will further complicate matters. Ten candidates apply to the ad that had inadvertently implied that candidates should also be writers; they bring stories about their professional and private lives, sometimes completely bizarre, every story marked by the distinctive voice of the teller. While the curator fills letters to Rosa with fragments from the Cabinet's past and present, the candidates appear one by one before him with their narratives, enabling the novel to emerge from the closed space of the Cabinet into the outside, towards contemporary life, its peculiarities and problems. In this way, the author manages to deal with a wide range of topics: art and activism, social responsibility, commercialization and the entry of capital into unprofitable spheres of human activity, feminism, science, technology – but also love, which is one of the common concerns both in interpersonal relationships and in the efforts to preserve some treasures from the past.

Shortlisted for the Predrag Matvejević Award 2021

Longlisted for the Fric Award 2019

Hanging Sheep-Stealers

by Sanja Lovrenčić

Environmental science fiction
at its best.



Fantastic Book Series

Format: 13×20

ISBN: 978-953-7760-59-5

Pages: 260

Softcover

Published: 2015

About

In this book of stories – with a subtitle: a novel – the author is playing with the science fiction genre, but hanging sheep-stealers is not a genre literature in the narrower sense of the term. Each of the twenty texts of the book has a different narrative structure and is related to some problem of the contemporary world, pushing chosen topics to possible or impossible extremes. So the obsession with eternal youth leads to the production of GMO people with a gene of snakes, who change their skin every year but lose part of their memories in the process; the sudden loss of rare earth elements causes a major technological drawback; a solution for the recycling of plastic waste is achieved by the creation of copyrighted plastic-eating mutants; the idea of general participation in political power ('five minutes of power to everybody') manifests itself as a travelling parliament-carousel with eight politically correct entrances; in the defrosted Arctic there is a war going on for the resources made attainable by global warming etc.

All the stories are connected by the environment, a coherent imaginary world of not-too-distant future, but each has its separate setting and characters, with their interests, perceptions and – what is especially important – voices. The stories are often told through monologues and dialogues, from a somewhat distorted subjective perspective that constantly leaves open possibilities of another interpretation of things.

Poetry

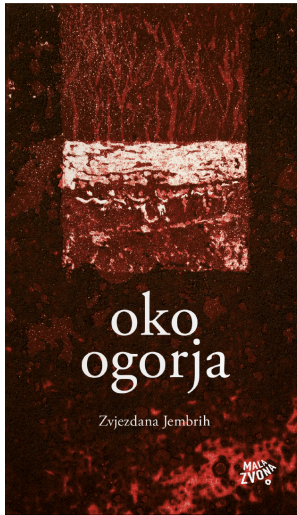
The finest of contemporary Croatian poetry

Poetry has a special place in our program and in our hearts.

We consider it a privilege and a great responsibility to publish modern and contemporary poetry, mainly written by Croatian authors. The texts are carefully chosen and enriched with artwork of prominent illustrators.

Around Ogorje

by **Zvezdana Jembrih**



Little Bells

Format: 11,5×20

ISBN: 978-953-8313-68-4

Number of pages: 116

Hardcover

Published: 2023

Zvezdana Jembrih (1965) is a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts, a land-art artist, conservator and awarded writer of travelogues and poetry.

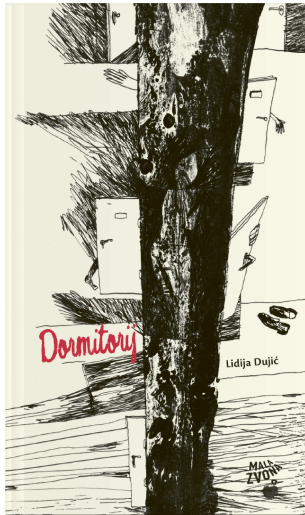
About

In Zvezdana Jembrih's third poetry collection all the potentials of her writing merge and come to full expression. Inspired by a specific space, a village in the Split hinterland, the author creates a series of impressive records, reaching a rare level of literary quality. Details from the chosen environment become triggers for surprising images in which the near and the far, the real and the unreal mix, with not even a shadow of sentimentality or commonplace thinking. The poems gathered in this book were created over several years, by slow distillation of the essentials. The result of this process captivates with the range of poetic imagination, the purity and consistency of the concept, the harmonious blending of direct observation, unobtrusive erudition and the ability to translate into a unique language the emotions stirred by different aspects of a (neglected) landscape and its inhabitants.

Art by **Jure Kokeza**

Dormitory

by Lidija Dujčić



Little Bells

Format: 11,5×20

ISBN: 978-953-8313-67-7

Number of pages: 80

Hardcover

Published: 2023

Lidija Dujčić (1965) has worked as a school teacher, theatre workshop leader, school book editor, literary critic, writer of poetry and non-fiction prose. She is currently employed as a professor at the Department of Communication, Media and Journalism at the University North, Croatia.

About

Although it could seem that the primary origin of this poetry is the world of words – the author recurrently affirms the experience of reading as something very much alive and inspiring – the contact with her own material environment is equally important for Lidija Dujčić. And no matter how linguistically complex, surprising, metaphorical this poetry is, and how far it takes (ironic) distance from reality, it always remains tied to the real moment that triggered poetic imagination and caused poetic language to flow. Singling out some moments, turning flashes of reality into a thoughtful linguistic structure, the poet creates original and meditative images, with a clear awareness of poetry as non-ordinary speech.

Art by Dominik Vuković

All My Loved Ones But Me

by Luka Mavretić



Little Bells

Format: 11,5×20

ISBN: 978-953-8313-50-9

Number of pages: 56

Hardcover

Published: 2022

Luka Mavretić (1991) is a multi-talented, awarded artist – poet and film maker. Letting the reader into his soul from the first pages, Luka Mavretić creates a space of compassion, understanding and closeness.

About

Luka Mavretić's third poetry collection *All My People But Me* offers a series of 'inner journeys' – journeys announced in the first poems of this very thoughtfully constructed book. The young poet balances skillfully between lyrical verses and matter-of-fact observations, striving towards a refined simplicity and managing to create a personal conversational tone, which is an important element in his literary procedure. Abundance of motives and a diary-like directness make his poems fresh and interesting. Even though he uses punctuation in a way to create finished, harmonic sentences and give the text almost a semblance of prose, his verses remain verses, lines with a natural and easy flow. Despite its breezy atmosphere, this is a collection of well thought-through and refined texts – Luka Mavretić is a poet who, by the alchemy of words, transforms chosen moments from everyday life into memorable and luminous images.

Art by Klara Rusan Klarxy

Heroes and Dragons on the Decline

by Josip Čekolj



Little Bells

Format: 11,5×20

ISBN: 978-953-8313-48-6

Number of pages: 76

Hardcover

Published: 2022

Josip Čekolj (1999), although still a student, is already a renowned and awarded poet, author of two poetry collections, a picture book and a teen-novel.

About

Imagination and freedom in his relation to language, as well as authentic poetic experience of life characterize Josip Čekolj's first poetry collection. In four parts – four 'zeals' – the lyrical voice of this young and talented author celebrates the novelty of his first worlds: from his home region, both in a concrete and a symbolic sense, to the world of family and first loves. The magic of these poems mostly arises from the peculiar shifts from real to surreal, from the bright images embodying intense emotion. Using words the author builds his own distinctive space, which is often associated with motives from nature and traces of traditional culture, but is consistently original and modern, full of surprises and freshness.

Art by Ivan Stanišić

Sketching Out a Heroine

by Sanja Lovrenčić



Little Bells

Format: 11,5×20

ISBN: 978-953-8313-26-4

Number of pages: 75

Hardcover

Published: 2021

About

As a poet of proven skills, Sanja Lovrenčić sketches a mysterious heroine. Who is she? After reading, it is up to us to conclude. Or to let her continue to take shape within us for a long time. For, this collection of poems counts on the cooperation of a careful watcher and listener, a curious reader sensitive to language and its beyond. Sanja Lovrenčić invites us on an adventurous poetic journey through the poems/episodes of a very special, never fully expressible or sharply drawn protagonist, with whose joys, doubts, insights and resignations we easily empathize.

Art by Tea Ivković

Long listed for the Kamov Award 2021

Shortlisted for Ivan Goran Kovačić Award 2022



Books that last

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Rights List Spring 2024