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# Ivan Klima

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The Vintage Book of Contemporary Eastern European Writing

My Golden Trades

My Merry Mornings

Life and Work

Prague Tales

Writers on Unforgettable Friendships

Waiting for the Dark, Waiting for the Light

A Novel

Modern Czech Drama

And Other Essays

No Saints or Angels

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

A Novel

Shop Talk

All My Cats

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Living Parallel  
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City, Sister, Silver  
Stories from Prague  
Open Doors and Three Novellas  
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Karel Čapek  
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New and Collected Stories on Love  
The Ultimate Intimacy  
Dancing Lessons for the Advanced in Age  
Waiting for the Dark, Waiting for the Light  
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Meditation, Massacre, and Exchange with the Dead in Thailand

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## **CAYDEN ZAYNE**

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The Vintage Book of Contemporary Eastern European Writing New York Review of Books  
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 Klíma, who contributes an introduction to this new translation.

*My Golden Trades*  
Macmillan

The story is about "a man caught in an unusual love triangle."--Jacket.

*My Merry Mornings*  
Random House

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.

*Life and Work* Central

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

*Prague Tales* Vintage Canada

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, Ludvik Vaculik, Vaclav Havel - to writers who are as yet unknown in the West.

**Writers on Unforgettable**

New York Review of Books

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). *Waiting for the Dark*, *Waiting for the Light* Counterpoint LLC

And although originally written in Czech, the book was commissioned by Catbird 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. *A Novel* Alfred a Knopf Incorporated  
Trekantdrama fra Tjekkoslaviet om en ambitiøs 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

Modern Czech Drama MIT  
Press

Judge On Trial is Ivan Klima'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 misshapen first by Nazism, then Stalinism, the false hope of the Prague Spring and the collaborationist regime that followed.

**And Other Essays** New  
Directions Publishing

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.

*No Saints or Angels*  
Vintage

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

Spirit of Prague and Other  
Essays /Ivan Klima :

Translated from the Czech  
by Paul Wilson

Northwestern University  
Press

Four short stories explore the emotional development of a young man in postwar Czechoslovakia

A Novel Catbird Press

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--a mood, a sense of place--he made repeated visits and in 2001-3 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, Monteith's 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, Monteith's 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 country's 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. ShopTalk Granta (NY) In his intimate autobiography, spanning six decades that included war, totalitarianism, censorship, and the fight for democracy, acclaimed

Czech writer Ivan Klíma reflects back on his remarkable life and this critical period of twentieth-century history. Klíma'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 Terezín 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, Klíma 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, Klíma 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, Klíma's revelatory account provides a profoundly rich personal and national history.

**All My Cats** Catbird Press  
Now in paperback Many of the illustrious contributors to The New York Review of Books have had deep and abiding relationships—both personal and intellectual—with other poets, writers, artists, composers, and scientists of equal stature. The Company They Kept is a



collection of twenty-seven accounts of these varied friendships—most of them undeniably fraught with “idiosyncratic complexities.” From Anna Akhmatova’s dreamlike description of wandering through Paris with the impoverished Modigliani to Joseph Brodsky’s account of his first meeting with Isaiah Berlin (from which he returned to report, around the kitchen table, to Stephen Spender and W. H. Auden), these pieces are tantalizing glimpses into the lives of those who

have made The New York Review of Books into what Esquire magazine calls “the premier literary-intellectual magazine in the English language.”

**By Night in Chile** Grove Press

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

**Living Parallel**

HarperCollins

With the emergence of a dissident playwright as the President of Czechoslovakia in 1989, the Czech tradition by

which theatre mirrors political life came full circle. Ranging back over the three decades preceding the Velvet Revolution, these four plays show modern Czech writers skilfully commenting on current realities through historical and domestic themes. Published here for the first time in English, Vaclav Havel's Tomorrow!, written anonymously in 1988, is a historical comedy about the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic. Games by novelist Ivan

Klima shows a house party going badly wrong as old guilts break the surface. In Joseph Topol's *Cat on the Rails* two lovers wait for a train that never comes. And *Dog and Wolf* by the leading woman playwright Daniela Fischerova takes Francois Villon as exemplar of the clash between artist and society.

[My First Loves](#) Open Road + Grove/Atlantic  
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).

**The Spirit of Prague**  
Open Road + Grove/Atlantic

Rake, drunkard, aesthete, gossip, raconteur extraordinaire: the narrator of Bohumil Hrabal's rambling, rambunctious masterpiece *Dancing Lessons for the Advanced in Age* is all these and more. Speaking to a group of sunbathing women who remind him of lovers past, this elderly roué tells the story of his life—or at least unburdens himself of a lifetime's worth of stories. Thus we learn of amatory conquests (and humiliations), of scandals both private and public, of

military adventures and domestic feuds, of what things were like “in the days of the monarchy” and how they've changed since. As the book tumbles restlessly forward, and the comic tone takes on darker shadings, we realize we are listening to a man talking as much out of desperation as from exuberance. Hrabal, one of the great Czech writers of the twentieth century, as well as an inveterate haunter of Prague's pubs and football stadiums, developed a unique

method which he termed “palavering,” whereby characters gab and soliloquize with abandon. Part drunken boast, part soul-rending confession, part metaphysical poem on the nature of love and time, this astonishing novel (which unfolds in a single monumental sentence) shows why he has earned the admiration of such writers as Milan Kundera, John Banville, and Louise Erdrich. [Prague in Danger](#) HMH Unable to earn a living as an author because his manuscripts are banned

by the state, a Czech  
writer joins a street-

sweeping gang in Prague,  
a job that leads to  
encounters with his

eccentric crew and painful  
memoirs of the past

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