



Radka Denemarková

About the Author

Praise

Books

Chocolate Blood **NEW!**

Hours of Lead

A Contribution to the History of Joy

Kobold

Money from Hitler

Brief Photo Album

Complete Bibliography

Appointed

**MEMBER OF
THE GERMAN
ACADEMY FOR
LANGUAGE AND
POETRY**

2024

Recently awarded

**AUSTRIAN FRANZ KAFKA
PRIZE**

2024

**LITERARY
AWARD OF
STYRIA**

2022

**DER
BRÜCKE
BERLIN-
PRIZE**

2022

**MAGNESIA
LITERA
AWARD**

2019



About the Author

Radka Denemarková

RADKA DENEMARKOVÁ, born in 1968 in the midst of the Prague Spring, is a unique phenomenon on the Czech literary scene. She is considered by many to be the most important contemporary Czech author and one of the most sought-after political voices in the country. A true polymath, she has written essays, plays, scenarios, short and long novels, a double novel that can be read from both ends, and she is also an accomplished translator of German literature, of authors such as Herta Müller and Michael Stavaric. She studied German and Bohemian literature at Charles University and received her doctorate in 1997. She conducted research at the Institute of Czech Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and worked as a dramaturgical consultant at the Divadlo Na Zábřadlí Theater in Prague. Thanks to her impressively versatile *oeuvre*, she is the only four-time winner of the prestigious Magnesia Litera literary prize, having received it in four different categories: for her second and most widely translated novel, *Peníze od Hitlera* (Money from Hitler, 2007); her narrative documentary of the life of the distinguished, tragically deceased theatre director Petr Lébl (2009); her translation into Czech (2011) of Herta Müller's 2009 prose *Atemschaukel*; and for her most recent and ambitious novel *Hodiny z olova* (Hours of Lead) set largely in contemporary China.

Her works of fiction are attempts to uncover – in narrative prose marked by a distinctively poetic style – the key nodes of power in human relationships, intimate as well as political. In all her literary activities she consistently takes a stand, interweaves fiction and fact to create compelling portraits of society and deals with current issues as well as with the dark and suppressed sides of European history. She rebels against all totalitarianisms and patriarchal structures and gives victims a voice.

It takes her an average of three years to write a book; she spent five years on her prodigious novel *Hours of Lead*, after years of research and writing. This 800-page critically acclaimed novel is a bestseller

in the Czech Republic and has been awarded also in Germany and Austria. The author was punished with a lifetime ban from entering China in 2017, even before it was published.

Translated into twenty languages to date, this is a selection of Radka Denemarková awards:

- * **2007 Magnesia Litera Award for best prose of the year for** *Money from Hitler*
- * **2008 Magnesia Litera Award for the best book of the year in journalism for** *Death, Thou Shalt Not Fear or The Story of Petr Lébl*
- * **2009 Finalist Josef Škvorecký Award for** *Death, Thou Shalt Not Fear or The Story of Petr Lébl*
- * **2009 Shortlisted Angelus Award, Poland, for** *Money from Hitler*
- * **2011 Shortlisted Josef Škvorecký Award for** *Köbold*
- * **2011 Usedomer Award for Literature for** *Money from Hitler*
- * **2011 Magnesia Litera Award for the best translation of the year for Herta Müller's** *Atemschaukel*
- * **2012 Georg Dehio Book Prize for** *Money from Hitler*
- * **2012 Shortlisted Czech Book Award for** *Köbold*
- * **2015 Shortlisted Czech Book Award for** *A contribution to the history of joy*
- * **2016 Wald Press Award**
- * **2018 Awarded Honorary Writer of the City of Graz**
- * **2019 Magnesia Litera Award as Book of the Year for** *Hours of Lead*
- * **2019 Spycher Literature Award Leuk, Switzerland, for** *A Contribution to the History of Joy*
- * **2022 Literary Award of Styria for** *Hours of Lead*
- * **2022 Der Brücke Berlin-Prize for** *Hours of Lead*
- * **2024 Franz Kafka Prize by the (ÖGfL), Odradek Book Prize for** *Hours of Lead*
- * **2024 European Tolerance Award**

Appointed

MEMBER OF
THE GERMAN
ACADEMY FOR
LANGUAGE AND
POETRY

2024



*Radka Denemarková writes with great sensitivity and openness, without focusing attention on herself. As an engaged writer with a great deal of insight, she uses personal experiences, foreign travel experiences, and attitudes to **draw attention to diverse foreign worlds, portray socially crucial topics, and provide a complex intellectual and artistic testimony.** Her intransigence goes hand in hand with a profound reflection that constantly re-examines all events and circumstances of human destinies: she does so in unison with linguistic brilliance and depth of content.*

_Reasoning from the jury of the Literary Prize of Styria, awarded to Radka Denemarková in 2022

*Denemarková is undoubtedly the most important writer in the Czech Republic today – razor sharp, debunking and incorruptible. Her vast knowledge of the totalitarian way of thinking, her analytical view of the failure of our societies, **the power of her language and her mischievous spirit of resistance speak for themselves.***

*_Michael Stavaric,
Die Presse*

***Radka Denemarková's prose is a magic mirror,** that is, one that shows both what is visible and what is hidden, pushed into the depths of collective oblivion, painstakingly swept under the rug. Her artistry lies in depicting the world with electrifying metonymies, each of which opens the reader's imagination to unthinkable images that make up, surprisingly, the most completely realistic, brutally tangible vision of reality.*

_Olga Tokarczuk

*Denemarková has joined the ranks of those who can be **expected to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.***

_Daniela Strigl, Austrian literary critic

*Denemarková can be seen as the Czech Elfriede Jelinek. She is equally **provocative and unblinded by ideology,** breaking down taboos and **setting the direction of contemporary Czech literature.***

*_Andreas Breitenstein,
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

*That Radka Denemarková can translate her unabashed literary commitment into such poetic language and original form makes her **one of the most exciting contemporary writers around.***

_Veronika Schuchter, Die Furche





Books



NEW TITLE

Chocolate Blood

[Čokoládová krev]

The beat is set by the railroad. A train travels back and forth through the 19th century. As the ride progresses, the action outside the windows becomes more and more focused, and take us back to the burning realities that still concern and mark us.

The train passes through the nineteenth century and heads towards us. John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937), once the richest man in the world, discovered the power of oil, and that having power means having the right to want anything. The French writer with the male pseudonym George Sand (1804-1876) discovered she could be the freest woman in the world, smoke a pipe, love and betray men and women. And create. And what about the Czech writer Božena Němcová (1820-1862)? She's got a man, a husband of sorts, four kids, as well as a wolf's hunger and a huge talent. Around her there is a nation that neither helps nor forgives. And she also has a desperate need for freedom and writing despite it all.

Radka Denemarková's essential and multi-layered novel confronts the lives of these three people in short episodes, not for their sake and history, but for the sake of the crucial themes of our times, which have recurred in various forms ever since - the freedom of women, the ruthless power of money and the invisibility of poverty, the greatness of the world and the smallness of one nation... and the importance of art.

Galaxia Gutenberg



RIGHTS SOLD TO

Host Czech

Hoffmann und Campe German

Galaxia Gutenberg Spanish

Książkowe Klimaty - Wydawnictwo Amaltea Polish

Ninawa Arabic

Fiction. Novel. ■ Manuscript in Czech
120,000 words; 548 pages.

■ Published in December 2023 in
Host as [Čokoládová krev](#)
Reading report available in Czech
and German. [Full manuscript in
Spanish translated by Juan Pablo
Bertazza available now!!](#)
[English sample translated by Alex
Zucker available.](#)

SPANISH
EDITION
to be published by
Galaxia Gutenberg
in Feb.
2025

Ministry of Culture GRANTS for publishing Czech literature abroad. [Click here for information.](#)



READ AN EXCERPT FROM *Chocolate Blood* translated by Alex Zucker

The Czech Maid cuts off a long lock of heavy black hair. She holds the ponytail in her hand, not knowing what to do with it. George Sand spreads a dark-blue silk scarf atop the toilet table. The Czech Maid lays lock after lock on it, lovingly stroking each one. Lopping off the rich, thick waterfall of her mistress's hair in the twilight, her eyes are filled with helpless tears.

Madame ties the scarf in a tight knot and scrawls out a note. The secret missive is to be delivered to Alfred de Musset at daybreak.

Before the Czech Maid delivers the softly textured greeting, she surreptitiously unknits the scarf in the garret. Standing in the small maids' room of the Parisian home, she carefully separates out four black strands of hair, stretches them out like strings, and tucks them in her Bible. She strokes the lock of long hair, now missing a body, and weeps over her mistress's death. The hairs are bound with a violet ribbon, the brief yellow letter tucked underneath. She will faithfully deliver the message at sunrise.

"To an ordinary man from an extraordinary woman. Short on hair, long on brains."

Long hair is not merely a symbol of feminine beauty, but of higher social standing, wealth, freedom, strength. Short hair is a symbol of subservience, servitude, obedience, slavery, criminality.

A symbol of life.

John D. Rockefeller, at the close of his tenacious life, is stricken with a mysterious illness. His hair falls out. His eyebrows, eyelashes, beard, pubic hair disappear.

Hair is the only wealth that Božena Němcová has. Other than that she is thin and not good-looking. Her dark green eyes are sunken like pools. She plucks out a few gray hairs and sits down to her desk. Until the day she dies, she carries a lock of hair from her dead son Hynek. Her daughter Dora will cut a lock of hair from her head after her death. Hair preserves the DNA of lost souls. Clickety-clack, clickety-clack. The train chugs down the railroad track.

The perception of time in the novel is remarkable. Denemarková almost cancels the plot, leaving only a certain timelessness, a conglomeration of micro-situations. Chocolate Blood is one of the most important books this year.

—Jirí Lojín, Vaseliteratura

No one has as strong a voice in contemporary Czech literature as Radka Denemarková.

—Seznam Zpravy, Jonás Zboril

This exceptional novel is sure to be the subject of much discussion, and it does indeed stand out, which is a good thing.

—Milan Valden Knižní novinky

This is an incredibly great, powerful and in many ways exceptional book, in which the author once again proved how important an author she is to the current literary scene.

—Czech tv.

I can't rate it other than ten out of ten, you must definitely read this book. Denemarková's chocolatey blood goes to the core.

—Tatiána Kročková, Kultura 21.

Last Published Titles

Hours of Lead

[Hodiny z olova]

A lyrical and prodigious must-read novel for anyone who wants to understand today's China. Although perhaps what we will learn most about is about Europe.

Beijing is the place of longing for a group of Europeans who come to China to find themselves and to set their lives on a new course. But the possibilities for their own development are rigidly limited in the communist country. Their encounters with Chinese dissidents put their values to the test, and they all come to a dramatic turning point in their lives. At the center of this group is a Czech writer who wholeheartedly supports democratic values and becomes a moral guiding star for a Chinese student. The shared reading of philosophical texts finally encourages the young woman to engage in political resistance - with fatal consequences. Parallel to the dramatic turns in their private stories, something essential is breaking and turning in the lives of all these characters, as in our own. The old world of Europe is gone, and no one knows what is coming. And, just as each character in the novel goes through an extreme situation, an existential and personal experience, all of us also experience our "hour of lead". People are withdrawing into themselves, and so begins the age of resigned apathy and demoralization, the era of gray everyday totalitarian consumerism. But there is still action. You just need to follow signs.

Galaxia Gutenberg



RIGHTS SOLD TO

Hoffmann und Campe German; **Miraggi** Italian;
KUD Police Dubove Slovenian
Galaxia Gutenberg Spanish
Wydawnictwo Amaltea Polish
Tréci Trg Serbian; **Ninawa** Arabic

Manuscript in Czech or German. English excerpts available.

■ Pages **752** ■ Published in **2018** in Host as [Hodiny z olova](#)

- * **Magnesia Litera 2019, Book of the Year**
- * **Literature Prize of Styria 2022**
- * **Brücke Berlin-Award 2022**
- * **Longlisted Buecher Frauen Literatur Preis 2023 - For Women Literature**
- * **Austrian Franz Kafka Prize 2024 by the Austrian Society of Literature (ÖGfL) in the category Odradek Book Prize**
- * **European Tolerance Award 2024**

Ministry of Culture GRANTS for publishing Czech literature abroad. Click [here](#) for information.



READ AN EXCERPT FROM *Hours of Lead* translated by Julia and Peter Sherwood
She hears the rustling of black feathers on the eaves; she can't eat. She is charged with subversive activities, but her trial is postponed. All she can do is withdraw into the wings. She becomes a one-person ghetto. No one sympathises with her because barely anyone knows about her. The few who do take great care not to have anything to do with her. This whole business seems very, very, very dangerous indeed.

They are horrified by the sincerity of her intentions. She blends sentences from The Great Learning with quotes from Václav Havel. "Things have their roots and their branches. Affairs have their ends and their beginnings. To know what is first and what is last will lead near to what is taught in The Great Learning."

She keeps repeating over and over again that the argument in the sentences of The Great Learning represents the stages of a journey to the attainment of the moral energy that the Confucians call De and the rest of the world virtue: state, family, personality, mind, intention, understanding, analysis. From knowledge, through the analysis of the objective world, towards understanding. From a simple ability to understand to the true admission of intent, the prerequisite of an orderly mind which is, in turn, the prerequisite of nurturing the kind of personality without which there can't be a proper family, the precondition of a well-run state. At the apex of this pyramid stands the state. The Chinese Girl's wings are clipped, the party is not interested in her virtuousness; the party takes the mysterious Chinese Girl seriously for one reason alone. That she won't

be easily intimidated. That behind her there is no group, no collective body of work, that she is not interested in blowing her own trumpet. She has sent forth the word.

"Silly girl, surely you don't expect us to believe you have no group behind you?"

"I wanted to put into this novel the essence of everything I had understood and, more importantly, misunderstood about this world. I may never manage to find the energy to write a book like this again."

_Denemarková

A plot of unparalleled literary - and historical - commitment, a distinguished poetic language and an exceptionally original narrative structure are the essential pillars of the monumental *Hours of Lead*.

*Introspection and a birds-eye view, **an allegory of our times that is also sophisticated and nuanced**; not a single character in the book is a cardboard cut-out, but rather almost a novel in their own right.*

—Marko Martin, [Die Welt](#)

Hours of Lead is a multilayered novel, and it is difficult to capture all its nuances. **Five years of work have not only been reflected in its scope, but in its dense, thought-packed substance.** It is enough to mention the symbol of lead, which appears in the title. As a heavy metal, lead represents the hard lesson that some of the characters are going through, symbolizing poison or grey, but also the material to make gold through the alchemical process. For the reader, the book presents hundreds of pages of confrontation with one's own conscience.

—Jirí Lojín, [vaseliliteratura.cz](#)

Hours of Lead shows how **dehumanization—this hallmark of the twentieth century—progresses in a symbiosis of dictatorship and capitalism.**

—BR 2 Kulturwelt

Hours of Lead is a book about inhumanity and Denemarková's highlights the role literature ought to play. She **articulates evil and records it for posterity.** This is a burning appeal to rethink our attitudes, since our human flaws make us susceptible to demagogues, false prophets, and would-be leaders.

—Michael Stavaric, [Die Presse](#)

With her novel Hours of Lead, Radka Denemarková delivers a **furious indictment of the Chinese dictatorship.**

—Jörg Plath, [Deutschlandfunk](#)

*Just to look at, this is a **colossus of a book**— but one that encompasses worlds.*

—Cornelia Geißler, [Berliner Zeitung](#)

Hours of Lead is a **stirring book, a committed avowal of humanism in action**, for which she challenges her readers: “We are history, and we contribute to it through our daily behavior.

—Johannes Jetschgo, [Nachrichten](#)

On a literary level, the novel represents another of Denemarková's **poetic attempts to discern significant moments in everyday human existence** — which she herself has called “micro-situations” — **and to represent them as symbolic prefigurations of large-scale historical and political developments, if not prophetic signs of the future.**

—Alena Dvoráková, [Dublin Review of Books](#)

This is an imposing red book brick of 880 pages. **Literarily, it is exceedingly complex; politically, it is an unequivocal response to its brother, the Little Red Book of Mao**, whose circulation is reported at one billion.

—Wolfgang Huber-Lang, [Salzburger Nachrichten](#)



What has been said about Hours of Lead

Find more information about this book and a short reading in **English, Spanish or French** at Radio Prague. Click on the languages to access directly.



German edition, *Stunden aus Blei*, Hoffmann und Campe 2022

Last Published Titles

A Contribution to the History of Joy

[Příspěvek k dějinám radosti]

Denemarková continues to put her finger in the wound without fears and lets her imagination run wild. The result is a definitive elegy for all women victims of sexual violence.

The body of a wealthy middle-aged businessman is found in his luxurious villa in Prague. At first everything points to suicide, but his young widow denies the possibility. The investigating policeman follows a clue that leads him to a house on Petrin Hill, where three elderly women live: a yoga instructor, a film director and a creative writing teacher. One day when the three women have gone out, the policeman snoops around in the basement of the house and finds a vast archive with documents from World War II. What does the possible murder of the businessman have to do with the three women and those documents, most of them about rape and abuse cases? Disguised as a crime novel and combining fact and fiction, reader will discover and never forget the history of three almost invisible old women who engaged in righting the “raped century”, taking revenge for unpunished crimes. Radka Denemarková’s fourth novel is a passionate denunciation of all forms of violence against women, at any time and in any place. Once again, the author pushes us to reflect on the human condition and the roots of evil.



RIGHTS SOLD TO

Hoffmann und Campe German

Galaxia Gutenberg Spanish

Sovera Edizioni Italian

KUD Police Dubove Slovenian

Wydawnictwo Altamea Polish

Štrik Serbian

Science and Art Bulgarian

Sefsafa Culture & Publishing Arabic

English (US) **Offer received.**

Manuscript in Czech, Spanish, German or Italian.
English excerpts available.

■ Pages **334**

■ Published in **2014** in Host as [Příspěvek k dějinám radosti](#)

* **Spycher Leuk Literature Award 2019**

* **HC Artmann Award**

* **Shortlisted Magnesia Litera 2015**



READ AN EXCERPT FROM *A Contribution to History of Joy* by Julia and Peter Sherwood

The key thing is gradually changing the law.

Ingrid finds this ridiculous; Ingrid doesn't believe in utopian projects; she is furious.

When Simon Wiesenthal in Vienna sets up his organization for hunting Nazi criminals around the world, Ingrid goes and finds him. Mr Wiesenthal receives her courteously over a cup of Viennese coffee and Sachertorte, they compare the numbers on their wrists and he hears Ingrid out, yes, that's terrible, sure, but worse crimes have been committed, and what is it that you want from me exactly, a beautiful young lady like you with enormous eyes should focus on her studies and the future, that's the best contribution you can make to our cause.

“What do I want from you?”

“Yes, what is it that you want from me? I told you that I'm hunting criminals.”

“But so am I.”

“That's a completely different matter. There was a war. And a war always involves extreme behaviour in every realm. Including sex. You have to be on your guard.”

“About what?”

“To make sure you don't become a suffragette. Nobody likes them.”

The elegant gentleman doesn't know that Ingrid is a predator.

“What does all this have to do with anything?”

“These women are misguided.”

“No, they're not. They just want others to respect womanhood.”

“They're misguided.”

“They are not. And neither am I. Let's call a spade a spade. I want the same rights for everyone. Have I complained that there are only men here? And that the highest ranking Nazis were all men too, and that if you only catch men, then ... Life under Nazi occupation was life in a masculine society, no one cared about what we had to say. In every war, life is that of a masculine society, men don't care about what women have to say at that moment. You're the one who should be on your guard.”

“About what?”

“About me.”

Ingrid forgives him. He doesn't inhabit a woman's body, she tells Diana. Centuries-old lies and prejudice against women are ingrained in him, under his skin. This is a crime that is not considered a crime. A vagina is a marketable piece of nothing, it's always ready. God is not keen on proud women. He has given them weak bodies. And then he put their bodies on display. This body is here to be looted. This body is a thing. A piece of meat, to be tossed aside.

Ingrid takes a decision.

Defiantly, by establishing an organization no one is to know about. She will hunt her criminals by herself. She will catch “her” men herself. Starting with that man with a whip and ending with Taras. Ingrid is a predator and mummy has meat; Diana has Max's contacts. Reliable women and men from the ghetto begin to join Ingrid. Ingrid makes a decision. She stamps her little foot and waves her wings. She will punish the crimes that are identical across countries. She decides to make amends for a raped century.

Ingrid is broken.

Diana sees a flock of birds fly past the window.

A crowd of broken and silent women is streaming across Europe.



**What has
been said
about
A Contribution
to the History
of Joy**

Cruelly unforgiving, but far from heartless, heavily metaphorical, but far from ham-fisted, formally perfect, but far from futilely formalistic. Radka Denemarková's new prose work, A Contribution to the History of Joy, is an admirable work, a small miracle of literature.

—Katerina Kirkosová, h7o.cz

What we read is parable, not reportage. [...] Denemarková, however, is not the Czech Simone de Beauvoir; I don't think the novel has anything to do with feminism.

It does not offer a solution that would consist in replacing something masculine with something feminine, thus restoring the initial balance.

It is not a revolutionary novel, but it is an elegiac one. There is no going back (...) As one of the characters says in the moment of parting, "This is no longer our world."

—Petr A. Bilek, [Respekt](#)

Radka Denemarková has succeeded in presenting a disturbing, highly political and at the same time poetically condensed novel.

—Die Furche

Radka Denemarková is one of the most provocative, political and at the same time one of the most poetic authors of the present, as she proves in her novel A Contribution to the History of Joy, (...) The painfulness of the narrative, the poetry and the precision of the language are by no means mutually exclusive.

—Jury, Spycher Leuk Literature Award 2019

Rape is a difficult subject for a novel, but Denemarková can handle it. She is as tenacious as a bulldog.

Once she sinks her teeth into her set themes, she persists with them until she has told all that needs to be told.

—Klára Kubícková, MF DNES

This is a clever book about terror. At first glance, a wild tale about three old women who engaged in taking revenge on rapists around the world and, especially in Prague, in hunting down male monsters. But the crime thriller is only a pretext for brilliantly crafted and intricately ramified reflections on universal violence against women, from Nazi crimes in Poland to mass rape in India and forced prostitution of minors in the Czech Republic.

—Franz Hass, NZZ



Spanish edition, *Contribución a la historia de la alegría*, Galaxia Gutenberg 2019

Last Published Titles

Kobold

[Kobold]

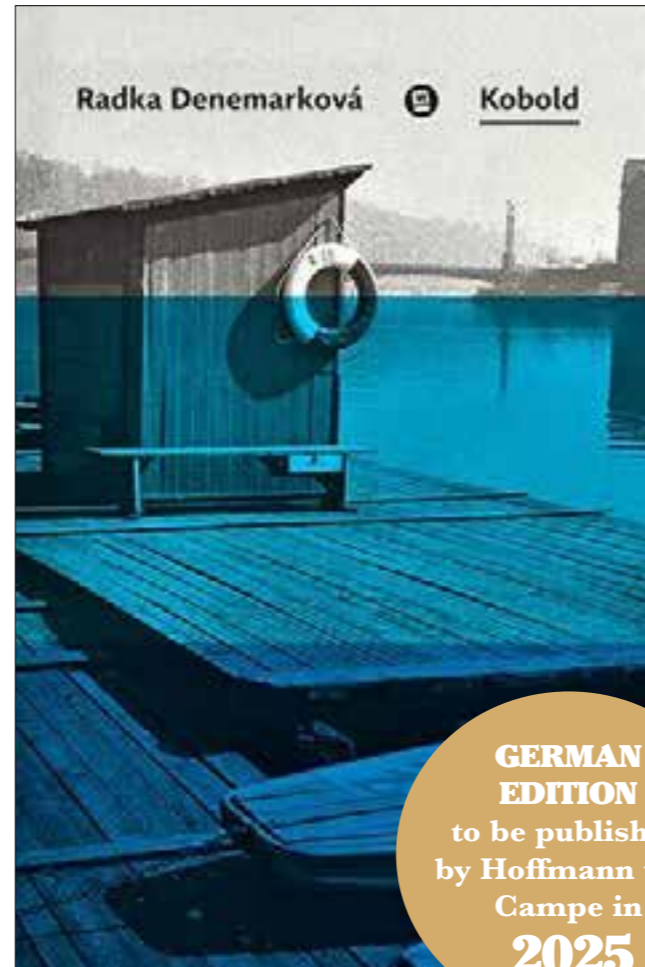
With a deliberately uncertain, slippery and elusive narrative structure, this double novel is a parable about the pernicious forms of love, as a warning cry about the abuse of power even in the most intimate sphere.

Two stories in one book, like two elements: water and fire, which transform what is seen. Or two rivers merged into one stream? This is a book about the forms of irresistible love and subtle violence. It is about how human existence is predetermined by the family we are born into or the ideology in which we are steeped. About a society that is inwardly and outwardly cruel to all the “weaker”, the impressionable. The torment of these characters are the diseases of our time. And the source of these torments seems to be the Kobolds.

In a world where solidarity and compassion are absent, *Kobold* induces in the reader an almost physical nausea, a volatile fear of where the next blow will come from.

From the outside, *Kobold* has two equivalent beginnings; it is laid out so that it can be opened and started to read from either side. There is no indication as to which end the volume should preferably be taken, and so the first reading is really a matter of chance.

Galaxia Gutenberg



RIGHTS SOLD TO

Modrijan Slovenian

Książkowe Klimaty Polish

Hoffmann und Campe German

Galaxia Gutenberg Spanish (BOOKED)

Manuscript in Czech or Polish.

English and German excerpts available.

■ Pages **328**

■ Published in **2011** in Host as [Kobold. Přebytky něhy. Přebytky lidí.](#)

* **Shortlisted Josef Skvorecky Prize 2011**

* **Shortlisted Magnesia Litera 2012**

* **Shortlisted Most Beautiful Book (design category) Frankfurt Book Fair 2012**

* **Shortlisted Czech Book Award 2012**

Ministry of Culture GRANTS for publishing Czech literature abroad. [Click here for information.](#)



READ A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR ABOUT
Kobold translated by Julia and Peter Sherwood

The double-novel Kobold – whose twin subtitles are A Surfeit of Tenderness and A Surfeit of People – is an attempt to capture in literature the consciousness of today’s society; at the same time, it is a linguistic experiment. What is really going on? What kind of society do we live in? The level of distinction achieved by a society is shown by the way it treats its children; in this regard, the Czech lands are relatively barbaric. And there’s another thing I find unsettling: when people get into trouble, society should help them out. But the current trend is the exact reverse: compassion and solidarity go by the board, and those who gain the status of outsiders, often by no fault of their own, are criminalized (this happens, too, on an international scale, with migrants and asylum-seekers...) In positions of power at various levels we find people with psychopathic tendencies and character flaws who have forced their way up – people of high intelligence who are capable of manipulating others, often those of a more emotional and social intelligence. This type of person is like a wolf: wolves, too, hunt in packs and keep together, wolves, too, know what solidarity is. Kobolds, that’s what they are. It is also about how at times we don’t believe people trapped in ‘unattractive’ bodies capable of love and at others automatically confuse sex with emotion. And what it means to fall in love, to take on the “language” of another...

Twenty-first-century man knows that science cannot save him. Perhaps he has devoted so much energy to the pursuit of the rational that his inner, spiritual life has withered. But the human is as plastic as wax – even such a life can be got used to. Sometimes writing is the only purpose in life. Perhaps it really is time – now that the image of the world we knew and were used to is in the grip of mysterious, frightening change – to fasten on to the true, devotional

courage that is true action. Or the solution is simpler than it seems, and it is enough to be guided by old words: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Although my characters are stylized, I do not perceive them as such. The characters are steeped in the desperate attempt to live life differently, without compromise; they long to free themselves from the system of the present that holds us captive. Characters who at the same time suggest that no fear of life means – paradoxically – no fear of compromise. There’s one thing they all share – a sense that the meaning of life has turned its back on them. And tragically they come to grief at the very moment they decide to act, when by a personal decision they recognize the worth of others. My pages present the concrete results of a “sociological” survey – guinea pigs against the backcloth of history.

A person hypersensitive to the point of morbidity holds a mirror to the “normal” world. This is my character, who moves from book to book under various names: Evald Schorm (from my first book Being My Own Enemy), Birgit Stadtherrová, Gita Lauschmannová, Petr Lébl, Hella Koboldová, Michael Kobold. It slices off decades of the twentieth century and this, it is confronted with various human types, above with children. All encounters are carried by attempts to bring something to light, and the longing to discover a hinterland, some kind of certainty. They live with a permanent metaphysical guilt and an enervating sense of the transitory nature of things. Art should rid us of our fear of death. I try to assert the right of my characters to eternal tragedy. I am not interested in patterns of behaviour and patterns of the human individual in socio-political relations. I am interested in one thing only – the tragic powerlessness of the self. Probe, maximum humanity with all its precipices and doubts. Humanity in all its naked absurdity.

Radka Denemarková

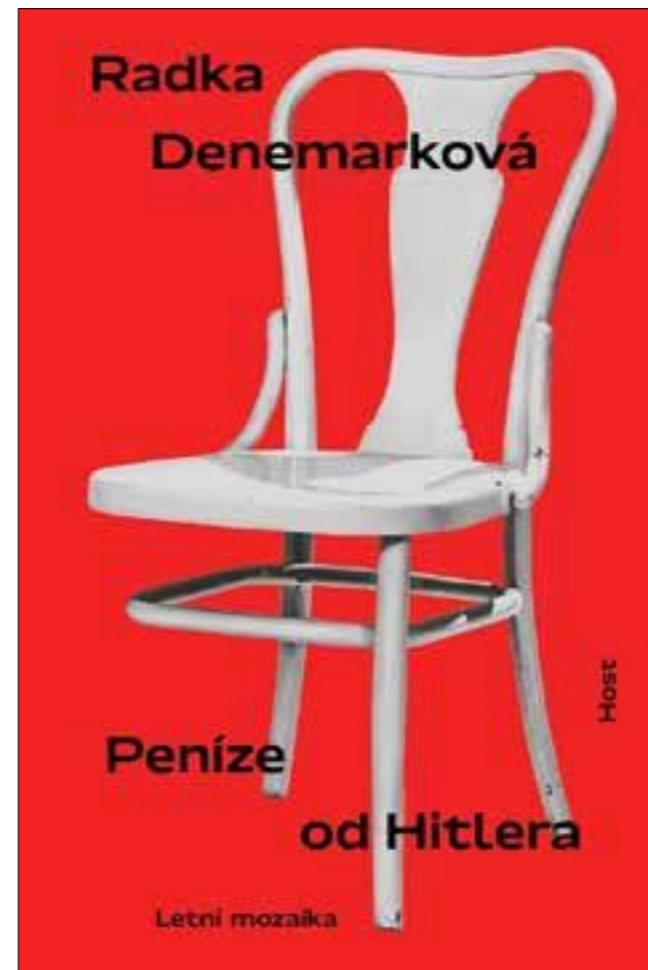
Last Published Titles

Money from Hitler

[Peníze od Hitlera]

One of the great European novels of recent years turned to a bestseller. Translated into eighteen languages so far, *Money from Hitler* -and its memorable Gita Lauschmonová- achieved a life of its own and has grown into various literary and social contexts, still enlightening us about the polarity of victim and perpetrator.

A grotesquely dark story, in which hope may not exist at all after all the suffering that has been inflicted. A panopticon in which the fate of a 16-year-old Jewish girl, Gita Lauschmanová, unfolds in two temporal stages, the summer of 1945 and the summer of 2005. Gita Lauschmannová returns to her home in the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia after having survived the extermination at Auschwitz where her parents and older sister were killed. When she opens the door of her former home, she finds a family sitting at the dinner table telling her that this is their home, and also that she has no business there. Gita gradually discovers that not only is she homeless, but that the oppression and barbarism is far from over. Orphaned and poor and with nowhere to return to, for Gita life is no longer a matter of good and evil but of pure survival. Sixty years later, Gita returns to her home village. The time has come to demand justice. Her arrival upsets her former neighbors. Because everyone has something or a lot to hide. So does Gita.



RIGHTS SOLD TO

RIGHTS SOLD INTO 20 LANGUAGES;

find the complete list on the following pages. Hebrew and Armenian editions, in progress

Manuscript available in Czech, English, German, Italian or Spanish.

- Pages **248**
- Published in **2006** in Host as [Peníze od Hitlera](#). Last edition 2021.

- * **Magnesia Litera Award 2007**
- * **Shortlisted Angelus Prize 2009**
- * **Usedomer Literaturpreis Award 2011**
- * **Georg-Dehio-Buchpreis 2012**
- * **Shortlisted Kulturhuset Stadsteatern International Literary Prize 2017 (Sweden)**

Ministry of Culture GRANTS for publishing Czech literature abroad. Click [here](#) for information.

English
RIGHTS
FREE!

French
RIGHTS
FREE!

"I wanted this book to be a fishbone in the throat, not an after-dinner dessert. I wanted to deal uncompromisingly with the injustice of post-war Czech history. It was necessary for me to name the things of the past with accuracy and strength. A way to straighten out the raped twentieth century."

_Denemarková

Translated into

18

languages

Among the list of the

100

best Czech-language novels of the 20th century according to specialized critics

38,000

thousand copies sold in Czech

40,000

thousand copies sold in German

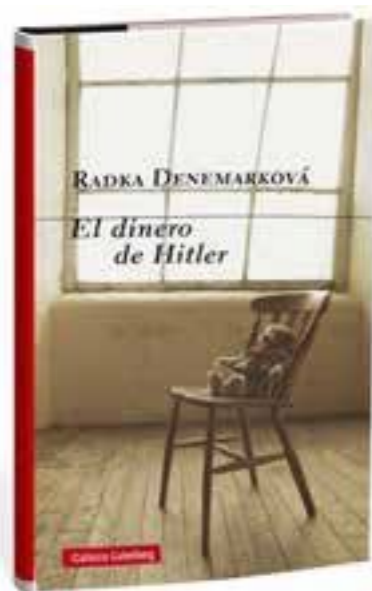
*Reading Peníze od Hitlera is a **mind shattering experience**. The novel tells a classical story of persecution and expulsion, but also of a fight for justice. Radka*

*Denemarková has made **a major contribution, with literary mastery, to the extensive chronicles of the history of German-Czech-Jewish relationships**.*

_Georg-Dehio-Buchpreis, jury's reasoning

*A great, dark, topical theme with the profundity of **classical drama**.*

_Magnesia Litera Award, jury's reasoning



Spanish edition,
El dinero de Hitler,
Galaxia Gutenberg
2015

*With **linguistic insistence, gripping realism and historical depth**, she tells the devastating life of novel's protagonist and thus sets an important signal for justice and understanding.*

_Usedom Literary Prize, jury's reasoning

*The intensity of its language makes Denemarková's book **gripping but oppressive reading**. Radka Denemarková has written **an important and courageous book**. One that demands much from the reader, too.*

_Christian Jansen, ARD Studio Prag

*This is a work of great emotional engagement, balanced by an awareness of the tragicomedy of human fate and also by a rational **intransigence**.*

_Ondrej Horák, Lidové noviny

*Denemarková is a **merciless narrator**. From the first line she attacks the body of the reader with barbs, not just with the cruelty and unsavoriness of violence that bubbles to the surface, but also with a kind of neurotic drama in the writing, which by its short sentences and sense for rapid changes of scene is reminiscent of film editing.*

_Petr Fišer, Hospodářské noviny

*Radka Denemarková has at her disposal an **extraordinarily lucid vocabulary and a wealth of unexpected, poetic, and surreal imagery** by which she captures the physical and spiritual essence of the past.*

_Katja Schickel, AVIVA-BERLIN.de

*The picture that Denemarková paints of an all-consuming evil is a **literary masterpiece**. As readers we are considered participants in this evil, and at the same time we are called to oppose it. This is nothing abstract; in this challenge we feel the concrete hate of one man for another, the same today as it was **fifty years ago**.*

_Milena Nyklová, Naše rodina



What has been said about Money from Hitler

*Radka Denemarková's novel Money from Hitler is horrifying. **Too grotesque, I might say, were it not for the fact that the world she depicts was just that**.*

_Monika Tunbäck- Hanson, Göteborgs-Posten

MONEY FROM HITLER

International Editions

Click on the cover images to find more details of each edition

OTHER RIGHTS
RECENTLY SOLD TO

Edge Publishing
Armenian

Persimmon Books
Hebrew



Host Czech, 2006. Last reedition, 2021



Europa Kiado Hungarian, 2009



Oficyna Wydawnicza ATUT Polish, 2008



DVA Random House German, 2009



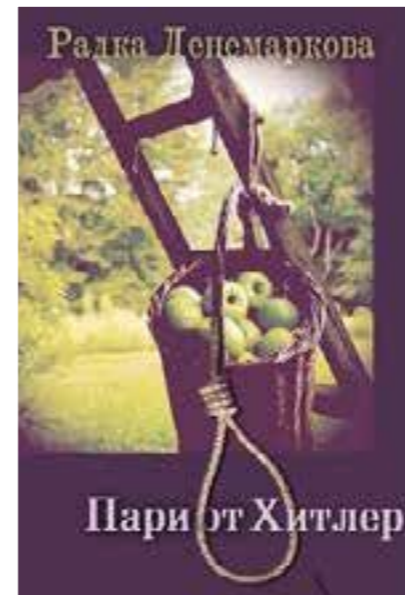
Women's Press English, 2009



Modrijan Slovenian, 2010



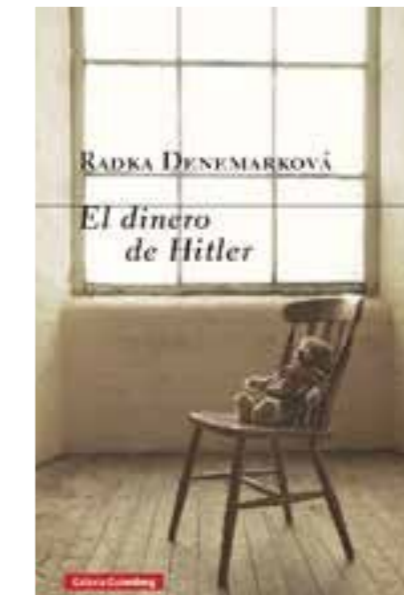
Keller Editore Italian, 2012



Elias Canetti Bulgarian, 2013



btb Verlag German, 2014



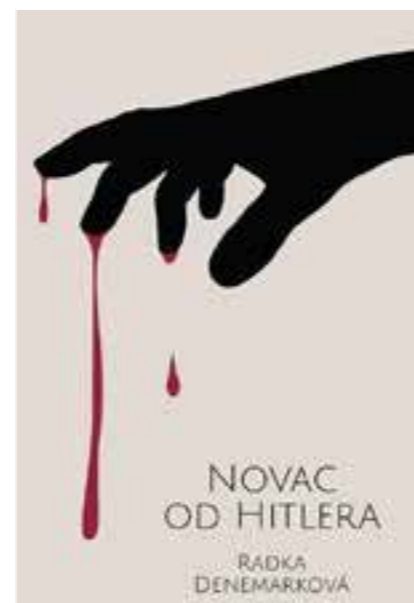
Galaxia Gutenberg Spanish, 2015



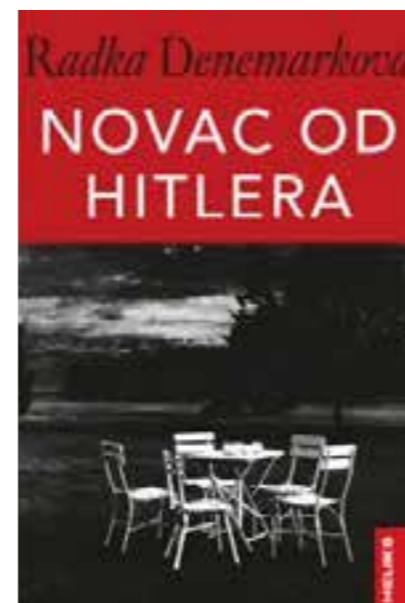
Begemot Macedonian, 2016



Aspekt Förlag Swedish, 2016



Hena Com Croatian, 2018



Heliks Serbian, 2018



Flower City Publishing House Chinese, 2019



Casa Cărtii de Știință Romanian, 2021



Vietnam Women's Publishing House Vietnamese, 2022

Brief Photo Album

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKS INSPIRED BY HER LITERATURE AND MORE



Magnesia Litera Award, 2008



Magnesia Litera Award, 2007



Magnesia Litera Award, 2019



Magnesia Litera Award, 2011



Brücke Berlin-Prize, 2022



Franz Kafka Prize by the (ÖGfL), Odradek Book Prize, 2024



Lecture and presentation on the Swedish edition of *Money from Hitler*, in Stockholm



15. LITERÁRNÍ FESTIVAL S RADKOU DENEMARKOVOU

Annual children's literature festival, Company children's school, Prague. Fifteenth participation of the author. 2024



Presenting *Studen aus blei's* (Hoffmann und Campe 2022) in Berlin with the literary editor and critic editor Jörg Plath



Warsaw Book Fair 2021



Schloss Bellevue, residence of the German President, 2023



Giving a speech at the UNESCO, on the inauguration of an international center for human rights in Graz



Guadalajara Book Fair 2017



Embracing her friend, Ivan Havel, Czech scientist and philosopher, brother of President Václav Havel



Concert of the Prague State Opera as a tribute to the victims and survivors of Nazi persecution, whose title refers to Radka Denemarková's recently published essay, *As if it all happened yesterday*, organized by the Czech National Theater and the Czech-German Fund for the Future.



Prague's Theatre Na zábradlí premiered the play by Radka Denemarková *Spací vady*



Money from Hitler, in one of its theatrical adaptations, directed by Michal Lang, at the Švandovo Theater in Prague.



Find more photos and information on activities carried out by the author on her **facebook** or **twitter** account. Click on the logos to access directly.



Spací vady was again performed in theater by the independent company Divadlo Kolárka in 2022

Complete Bibliography

A bit overwhelmed when you see how many interesting titles has Radka Denemarková written? Having doubts about where to start or which titles are available and which ones are not? Contact us, we manage its rights, but we are publishers. We will be glad to suggest the best alternatives for a publication plan tailored to your expectations.

Galaxia Gutenberg

Foreign Rights_ Nuria Cicero
ncicero@galaxiagutenberg.com

2005 WHO'S THAT BANGING ON THE DOOR? (or The Devil by the Nose) [A já pořád kdo to tluče...]

Fiction. 180 pages. Presto, 2005, Druhé mesto 2012 and Host, last reedition 2022. Manuscript available in Czech. Two English translation samples from different chapters of the novel, translated by Alex Zucker and Andrew Oackland.

The now almost legendary prose debut that launched Radka Denemarková's extraordinarily successful writing career. A dark comedy from the streets of Prague. One Crime. One Game. Birgit Stadtherr, a brilliant playwright, bound by her own demons, unable to attend even the premiere of her play. Petr Buch, an obsessive sadistic director hiding a secret. Theatre as an escape from reality. Theatre as a therapeutic tool. Theatre as our world. They all must play their part to the bitter end. It's the same in life as it is in the theatre. As one grows older, the roles one can play diminish.

*And I'm still who I am,
who won't leave me alone,
and I'm still who's beating it -
and he's the devil on the hoop...*

This mature first novel contains a vivid parable: a darkened picture of humanity, where the devilish circle cannot be broken.

- Hungarian: *Ki dörömböl? Európa Kiado*, 2007 Rights **FREE** again!
- Slovenian: *Jaz pa vprašam, kdo to tolče*. Police dubova 2013.

2006 MONEY FROM HITLER [Peníze od Hitlera]

Fiction. 248 pages. Host. Manuscript available in Czech, English, German, Italian or Spanish Theatre adaptation played at the Švandovo Theatre in Smichov.

FIND THIS NOVEL FULL REVIEW IN THIS DOSSIER.

2008 DEATH, THOU SHALT NOT FEAR OR THE STORY OF PETR LÉBL [Smrt nebudeš se báti aneb Příběh Petra Lébla]

Nonfiction. 648 pages. Host. Manuscript available in Czech.

Petr Lébl (1965-1999) is a myth, a phenomenon, a cult figure of the Czech theater of the 1990s. Theater director, stage designer, actor. He was only 34 years old when he took his own life in the Na Zabradi Theatre. This book, on which Denemarková worked on for several years, may be of interest not only to theologians and theater buffs, but to everyone who enjoys thinking in terms of art. It is an attempt to map the life of an unfortunate young man and the times in which he lived. The book is thus not only the story of Lébl's theatre work: it captures the changes in the contemporary perception of theatre and art in a broader context, but it is also a chronicle of the turn of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. A period that catapulted Lébl into the limelight. However, Denemarková also asks whether this was not just a "bubble" that appeared after the desolate and ideologically uncompromising

years, or whether something essential from Lébl's controversial way of working has survived to this day. Nor does she shy away from the extreme thesis of whether Lébl's distinctive and elusive "image" was more "remarkable" than the work itself.

2011 KOBOLD [Kobold]

Fiction. 198 pages. Host. Manuscript available in Czech or Polish. English and German samples, available.

FIND THIS NOVEL FULL REVIEW IN THIS DOSSIER.

2010 SLEEPING DEFICIENCIES [Spací Vady]

Theater Piece. World premiere at the Na zábradlí theatre in Prague in 2010 converted to a book in 2012. Manuscript available in Czech. Sample in Swedish or German, available.

Why did the very two who might have been Virginia Woolf and Sylvia Plath get stuck together on a rather inhospitable mezzanine floor after death? What do they do, what do they talk about and what do they eat? What's so special about the bathtub and the oven, and what happens when the glamorous Ivana T. arrives and turns things upside down?

- German: Staged reading of the translation *Schlafstörungen*, at the Kunsthau Graz, 2022
- Swedish: staged reading of the translation *Sömnstörningar* made by Karin Eriksson displayed at the Regina Theatre, Uppsala, 2022
- Polish: *Wady Snu - Ksiązkowe Klimaty*, 2020

2014 A CONTRIBUTION TO HISTORY OF JOY [Příspěvek k dějinám radosti]

Fiction. 334 pages. Host. Manuscript available in Czech, German or Spanish. English sample available.

FIND THIS NOVEL FULL REVIEW IN THIS DOSSIER.

2018 HOURS OF LEAD [Hodiny z olova]

Fiction. 752 pages. Manuscript available in Czech or German. English sample available.

FIND THIS NOVEL FULL REVIEW IN THIS DOSSIER.

2021 AS IF IT ALL HAPPENED YESTERDAY [Jako by se to všechno stalo včera]

Nonfiction. Essay. Bilingual, Czech-German. Deutsch-Tschechischer Zukunftsfonds, Praha.

A tribute to the victims and survivors of the Nazi regime in the Czech Republic with an essay by Radka Denemarková and portraits by Karel Cudlín. Radka Denemarková, one of the best-known contemporary Czech authors who dealt with the persecuted, was inspired by memoirs to write a remarkable essay on the Holocaust, modern society and the mechanisms of power inherent in it.

2023 CHOCOLATE BLOOD [Cokoládová krev]

Fiction. 338 MS pages. Available in Czec-

FIND THIS NOVEL FULL REVIEW IN THIS DOSSIER.



**Ministry of Culture grants
for publishing Czech
literature abroad**

[www.czechlit.cz/en/grant/
translation/](http://www.czechlit.cz/en/grant/translation/)

Don't hesitate to ask for
further information

You can find Radka Denemarková at:

 [Twitter](#)

 [Facebook](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

www.galaxiagutenberg.com/foreign-rights/

Galaxia Gutenberg

Avinguda Diagonal, 361, 2^o1^a
08037 Barcelona - Spain
www.galaxiagutenberg.com

Foreign Rights_ Nuria Cicero
ncicero@galaxiagutenberg.com

RADKA DENEMA

DOO

Appointed

**MEMBER OF
THE GERMAN
ACADEMY FOR
LANGUAGE AND
POETRY**

2024