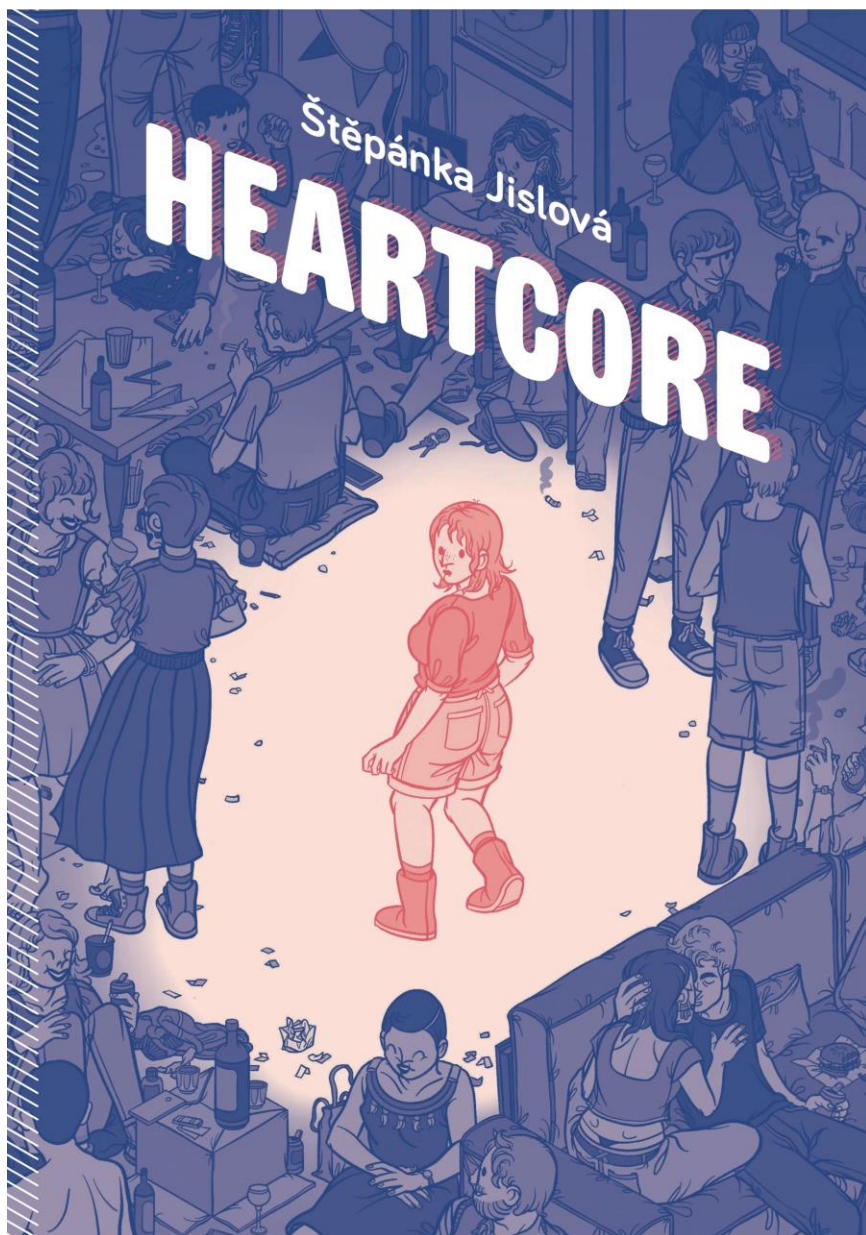




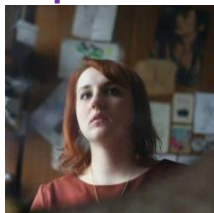
Embassy of the Czech Republic
Washington, DC



Štěpánka Jislová

September 10, 2025, 6 pm | Embassy of the Czech Republic

Štěpánka Jislová



Štěpánka Jislová (b. 1992) is an award-winning illustrator and comics creator based in Prague. A graduate of the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art in Pilsen, she has contributed to numerous Czech and international comics anthologies and co-authored seven books. *Heartcore* is her latest work,

offering a deeply personal and artistic meditation on emotional intimacy and resilience. She is also the co-founder of the Czech branch of Laydeez Do Comics, an international platform supporting women in the comics arts through events, exhibitions, and publishing. Learn more at

www.jislova.com.

HEARTCORE | SRDCOVKA

In *Heartcore* (*Srdcovka*), Jislová explores themes of love, identity, and trauma through raw, emotionally resonant storytelling. Drawing from her own experiences, the novel reflects on contemporary romantic life, touching on gender roles, online dating, vulnerability, and healing. Praised for its honesty and depth, the book earned multiple Muriel Awards, including the top prize in 2024, solidifying Jislová's place as one of the Czech Republic's most compelling voices in graphic literature.



Illustration from the book:
Heartcore by Štěpánka Jislová

Moderator: Cara Gormally

Cara Gormally (they/them) is a cartoonist, researcher, and professor. Cara's narrative nonfiction comics remix autobiographical stories with research about socio-scientific issues to make science relatable. Their comics have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Mutha Magazine*, *Spiralbound*, and other places. Their debut graphic memoir, *Everything is Fine, I'll Just Work Harder*, a story about an unexpected healing journey to come home to themselves, debuted in April 2025 from *Street Noise Books*. A second book of braided comic essays about the emotional inheritance of estrangement is underway. For more information, visit <https://www.caragormally.com/>.

Štěpánka Jislová

Marie Verhoeven
Embassy of the Czech Republic

Štěpánka Jislová (Graphic Novelist)
Cara Gormally (Moderator)



Illustration from the book: Heartcore by Štěpánka Jislová

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 16, 2025, at 6 pm

Dramatic Reading: Verdi's Verdict

Embassy of the Czech Republic

RSVP required: <https://TheVerdiVerdict.eventbrite.com>

Join us for a dramatic reading of *The Verdi Verdict*, written by conductor Murry Sidlin, inspired by the extraordinary story of Verdi's *Requiem* rehearsed in the Terezín concentration camp. The gripping two-scene drama captures the fierce debate between prisoner-conductor Rafael Schächter and the Council of Elders over faith, music, and survival. Don't miss this powerful retelling of art's defiance in the face of oppression.

October 14, 2025, 6 pm or 8 pm

Strašidla – Czech Legends and Mythical Creatures

Embassy of the Czech Republic | Ages 5-10, with a parent/guardian

RSVP required: czechembassypr@gmail.com

Specify 6 or 8 pm slot and let us know the names and ages of your children.

The Czech Embassy will host *Czech Legends and Mythical Creatures*, an evening of scares and thrills for young children, on October 14, 2025.

(Book session above.)

Ever heard of the Headless Horseman, White Lady, the Forest Demon, Water Goblin, or the Noonday Witch? Join us for a glimpse into Czech fairytales and folklore. An introduction to Czech mythical creatures will be followed by a walk, intended for children's amusement, through the haunted forest upon the grounds of the Czech Embassy. Pondering Czech legends, adults will enjoy understanding the origins and explanations behind the most notorious, intriguing, and a few lovable, fictitious yet legendary sprites, spirits, and ghosts.

*To be added to our cultural mailing events,
please email czech_events@yahoo.com.*