

Czech Republic

Emil Haki

Of Kids and Parents

Haki's fiction is set in Prague, inhabited by intriguing characters that speak the language of the city's pubs and bars.

Bohumil Hrabal

Cutting it short

I Served the King of England

Too Loud a Solitude

Vivid imagery and tragicomedy distinguish the works of this important Czech author.

Ivan Klima

Love and garbage

No Saints or Angels

Klima survived a concentration camp and life under two totalitarian regimes. He elected to stay in Czechoslovakia after 1968, when many other writers went into exile.

Pavel Kohout

The Widow Killer

Kohout was a dissident writer under the communist regime. This novel is a crime story set in the last days of the Nazi occupation of Prague, as the Soviet armies close in.

Milan Kundera

Life is Elsewhere

The Unbearable Lightness of Being

One of the most important contemporary Czech writers and intellectuals.

Arnost Lustig

Lovely green eyes

Lustig is himself an Auschwitz survivor and draws on this experience in his novels. *Lovely Green Eyes* is the story of a fifteen year old Jewish girl who escapes the gas chamber but has to face the experience of an SS brothel.

Vladimir Paral

Lovers and Murderers

A black comedy about the battle between the 'haves' and 'have-nots'. This novelist's unique style makes for an exhilarating read.

Milos Urban

Seven Churches

Sensationalist murder story with a gothic atmosphere, calling up ghosts from Prague's past.

Michael Viewegh

Bringing up Girls in Bohemia

This popular Czech author writes with irreverent wit about the effects that the sudden influx of western influences and new freedom have on old habits and human weaknesses.

Slovakia

In Search of Homo Sapiens (short stories)

Did you enjoy the books from this selection, or have you any comments or suggestions? We always like to hear feedback about our promotions.

Heart of Europe



Modern Fiction
from Central Europe
at Shetland Library

2008

Poland

Pawel Huelle

Mercedes-Benz

Tales based round driving lessons contrast the golden era of Poland's pre-war independence with the dismal communist years, and with the uncertain new chapter in the country's history that had only just begun when Huelle was learning to drive.

Marek Krajewski

Death in Breslau

Breslau in 1933: a German city on the fault line of Europe is rocked by macabre murders. Meanwhile the Nazi regime tightens its grip. Classic Polish crime novel steeped in history.

Stanislaw Lem

Solaris

His Master's Voice *Cyberiad*

A sci-fi writer who has an international reputation and a big following.

Dorota Maslowska

White and red

Young author and a controversial book, both funny and disturbing; "an audacious portrait of marginalized, fatalistic, post-communist youth."

Jerzy Pilch

His current woman

A comic novel of adultery and its consequences.

Andrzej Sapkowski

The Last Wish

Acclaimed fantasy author: has based a series of tales on the world of *The Witcher*. The main character is a mutant assassin trained to hunt down monsters.

Andrzej Stasiuk

Nine

An "existential crime novel" - a tale of post-communist Polish youth and the hostile urban wastelands of Warsaw: a country in transition.

Olga Tokarczuk

House of Day, House of Night

"At the heart of Europe, where borders move and languages and their speakers come and go, ordinary lives are not as simple as they appear. When the narrator and her husband settle in the area, she soon discovers that the locals all have their secrets."

Michal Witkowski

Lovetown

Only just translated into English - a provocative novel about gay subculture in Poland.

Anthologies:

The Deladus Book of Polish Fantasy

The Eagle and the Crow: Modern Polish Short Stories

Treasury of Polish Love Stories

Selected Polish Tales

Hungary

Gyorgy Dragoman

The White King

The story of a life-changing year for a young boy in a totalitarian state.

Peter Esterhazy

Celestial harmonies

A biographical novel in the grand European literary tradition that spans generations and three centuries of Central European history.

Irmre Kertesz

Fateless; Liquidation

Liquidation is the story of a Hungarian writer whose death forces his circle of friends to confront their own terrible moment in history.

Peter Nadas

The End of a Family Story *A Lovely Tale of Photography*

The latter is set in Hungary in the 1950s, when Stalinist repression has reduced the populace to silence and deception. An old man flees to his memories of the past, and invents for his grandson a fantastic tapestry of stories.

Andras Palyi

Out Of Oneself

Explore two epochs in Hungarian history through the sexual relationships of the characters.

Also try: **Magda Szabo; Miklos Banffy**