

### Ognjen Spahic, Punaglavaradosti (Head Full of Joy), Montenegro;

Ognjen Spahić was born in 1977 in Podgorica, Montenegro. Prior to Puna glava radosti, Spahić published two earlier collections of short stories: Sve to (All That) in 2001, and Zimska potraga (Winter Search) in 2007. His novel Hansenova djeca (Hansen's Children), published in 2004, won him the Meša Selimović prize for 2005, awarded to the best new novel from Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. To date, Hansenova djeca has been published in French, Italian, Slovenian, Romanian, Hungarian, Macedonian and English. His short story 'Rejmond je mrtav. Karver je umro, rekoh' ('Raymond is No Longer with Us – Carver is Dead') was included in the anthology Best European Fiction 2011, published by Dalkey Archive Press in the USA. In 2007, he was a resident writer at the University of Iowa's International Writing Program. In 2011, he was the recipient of Romania's Ovid Festival Prize awarded to a prominent young talent. Puna glava radosti is Spahić's most recent work, his fourth book of fiction to date.

*Nërkohë që po kaloja pranë tyre me hapa të matura, që të mos tregohesha i panjerëzishëm, dëgjova sesi djaloshi mërmëriti: "Por ai është vetëm diell!" dhe vazhdoi të arëgtoheshe me mundësinë e avancimit të mëtejshëm të situatës. E mora vesh që asaj shprehjeje të gënjeshtërt vajza nuk iu përgjigj. Këtë e mësova, kur u ndala për të shkundur rërën nga rrobat. Shkunda njëren këpucë, ngadalë i zbërtheva dhe i shtrëngova lidhëset; po kështu veprova edhe me tjetrën, me qëllim që të kënaqja kureshtjen dhe të dëgjoja se ç'përgjigje do t'u jepte dikush, cilido qoftë, fjalëve: "Por ai është vetëm Diell". Ajo duhet të thoshte: "Nëse ai është vetëm diell, atëherë edhe ti je vetëm njeri", por nuk tha gjë, duke më lënë pa material.*



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**KATRI LIPSON**

*The Ice-Cream Man*

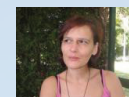
Finland



**OGNJEN SPAHIC**

*Head Full of Joy*

Montenegro



**LADA ŽIGO**

*Roulette*

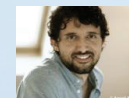
Croatia



**BIRGÜL OĞUZ**

*Hah*

Turkey



**PIERRE J. MEJLAK**

*What the Night Lets You Say*

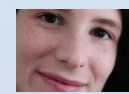
Malta



**JEAN BACK**

*Amateur*

Luxemburg

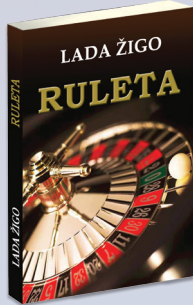


**NATAŠA KRAMBERGER**

*Heaven in a blackberry bush:  
novel in stories*

Slovenia





### Lada Žigo, Rulet (Roulette), Croatia

Lada Žigo is a Croatian writer. She was born in 1970 in Zagreb. She graduated in Comparative literature and Philosophy from the University of Zagreb. She has written literary reviews and essays for many newspapers and cultural and literary magazines (such as The Bridge, Europski glasnik, Republika, Književna republika, Kolo, Nova Istra etc.) over many years. She runs a literary panel for the Croatian Writers' Association.

Her first book, People and News People (Ljudi i novinari) came out in 2007 (published by SysPrint) and was shortlisted for two prestigious literary awards

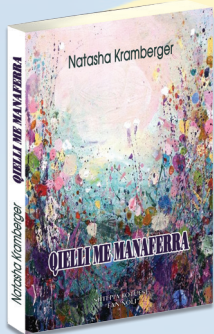
– Ksaver Šandor Gjalski and Kiklop. In that book, Ms Žigo's main theme is the issue of sensationalism in the press and its influence on both everyday life and the truth itself, which, unfortunately, often remains undiscovered in its own time.

Her second novel, Bitches (Babetine, SysPrint 2009) sets itself against the "women's writing" then in vogue.

In 2010 Ms Žigo published Roulette (Rulet, SysPrint) a novel exploring how gambling can become the only hope for people in a transitional society who have no better prospects. Essentially existentialist in character, this work has elements of a thriller, in its portrayal of a man who tries to outwit roulette, that is to say destiny, using a creative strategy based on numbers.

*Ruleta. Kjo metaforë e shoqërisë kroatë dhe e jetës njerëzore, ky rreth pa vendndodhje dhe pa logjikë përmbledh përbuzjen, shpresën, zhgënjimin, indinjatën dhe dënësën e kotë për të mundur të pavërtetën dhe fatin personal.*

*Por, vallë, a mund të mposhtet ruleta e mallkuar, e cila njëlloj luan me shpresën, ashtu siç luan shoqëria jonë me jetën?*



### Nataša Kramberger, Nebesa v robidah: roman v zgodbah (Heaven in a blackberry bush: novel in stories), Slovenia

Nataša Kramberger (b.1983) was born in Maribor, the second largest city in Slovenia. She won the Slovenian young authors prize in 2006 and her book Nebesa v robidah was nominated for the Kresnik Prize as Slovenia's best novel of the year in 2008. In the same year, Kramberger won the international short story competition, A Sea of Words, which is sponsored by the Anna Lindh Foundation, and in

2009 she won the Young Euro Connect prize. Nataša Kramberger works as a freelance writer and journalist. She pens several articles, essays and columns for daily newspapers in Slovenia and Italy, writes literary texts for magazines and radio, and works on screenplays for documentary movies. In 2009, she founded the eco-art collective Green Central, where she promotes ecology and art. She lives in Berlin and travels frequently.

*Ne nuk flasim të njëjtën gjuhë, nuk do ta flasim kurrë, ajo gjuha e përbashkët që është e gjallë, jeton në trupin tim; kur të dëgjoj ty, jeton edhe në trupin tënd, kur unë të tregoj diçka. Kur frikësohem nga afërsia, mbyll trupin dhe mendimet, lekura përreth tyre mbyllet, ndërsa kur ndahemi, me pëlthurë të gjallë ndahen dy genie dhe secila prej tyre shprehet në mënyrën e vet, bla,bla,bla, atëherë ti dëgjon vetëm fjalët që janë të huaja, kurse unë - rrapëllimën e lokomotivës*



### Katri Lipson, Jäätelökauppias (The Ice-Cream Man), Finland

Katri Lipson was born in Helsinki in 1965. After secondary school, she studied medicine in Sweden and graduated from the Medical School of Uppsala University in 1993. Since then, she has been working as a doctor in Sweden, Africa and Finland. She has always written, including fairytales, short stories, poems, plays and novels. Her debut novel, Cosmonaut (Kosmonautti), was nominated for the respected Finlandia Prize in 2008 and won the Helsingin Sanomat Debut Book of the Year Award in 2008. Her second novel, The Ice-Cream Man (Jäätelökauppias), was published in 2012. She lives with her family in Vantaa, Finland.

*Dy vjet pas përfundimit të Luftës së Dytë Botërore, një regjisor vendos të pasqyrojë jetën e vërtetë, duke krijuar një film pa skenar; ku aktorët të mësojnë historinë dhe rolin e tyre gjatë zhvillimit të skenarit. Subjekti trajton fatin e një çifti të ri në arrati gjatë pushtimit nazist, por shpejt personazhet që luajnë në të, fillojnë të marrin në dorë jetën e tyre.*

*Ashtu siç ndodh kur kombinohet elementi artistik me realitetin, edhe në këtë rast policia sekrete, e bindur se regjisori ka informacion që mund të komprometohet siguria e vendit, vendos ta marrë në pyetje në lidhje me një komplot imagjinar.*



### Birgül Oğuz, Hah (Aha), Turkey

Birgül Oğuz was born in İstanbul in 1981. She received her BA in Comparative Literature and MA in Cultural Studies from İstanbul Bilgi University. She was the recipient of the Hazel Heughan scholarship for the Modernism-Postmodernism programme at Edinburgh University in 2006. She is the author of two short fiction books, Fasulyenin Bildiği (2007) and Hah (2012). Her short stories, essays, articles and translations have been published in Turkish literary magazines and newspapers including Varlık, Notos Öykü, Dünyanın Öyküsü, Roman Kahramanları, Remzi Kitap, Radikal Kitap, İzafi, Duvar, Parşömen,

Birikim and Felsefe Logos.

In the winter of 2013, she was invited to be a writer-in-residence by quartier21 in MuseumsQuartier, Vienna. Currently, she is studying a PhD in English Literature at Boğaziçi University, and she lectures on text analysis and the European novel at Moda Sahnesi and Nazım Hikmet Academy in İstanbul.

The eight and a half stories in Hah contemplate the psychology of mourning and melancholia, and the politics of mourning in particular. This collection that reads like a novel begins with the loss of a beloved father, a member of the 1968 generation, a generation viciously treated by the Turkish state in events surrounding the 1980 military coup.

*Hah rrëfen udhëtimin shpirtëror të një gruaje të re të brengosur për humbjen e idealeve të saj të vendlindjes. Solide, krijuese, e zhurmshme si një stuhi, çdo histori është një meditim i fuqishëm në aktin e zisë, duke fiksuar imazhe, mbresëlënëse në mënyra të ndryshme dramatike, zemërim, dashuri, frustrim, kapriço, butësi dhe mall. Është një libër magjik që zbulon ndryshimet që na ndodhin në momente pikëllimi, një manifest i jetës dhe vdekjes.*



### Pierre J. Mejlak, Dak li I-LejlIhallikTghid (What the Night Lets You Say), Malta

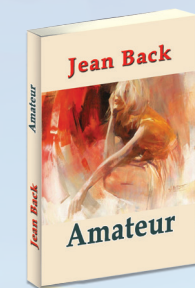
Born in Malta in 1982, Pierre J. Mejlak has been writing since he was young. Mejlak has written books for children, adaptations, a novel for adolescents and two collections of short stories, winning numerous awards, including five National Book Awards, the Commonwealth Essay Writing Award and the Sea of Words European Short Story Award.

His first collection of short stories for adults, Qed Nistenniek Niezla max-Xita (I'm Waiting for You to Fall with the Rain) was published to critical and popular acclaim in February

2009. His second collection of short stories, Dak li I-LejlIhallik Tghid (What the Night Lets You Say), considered by most critics to be superior to the previous collection of short stories, was published in June 2011. One of the short stories included in the latter book, 'Nixtieq Nghajjat lil Samirah' ('I Want to Call Out to Samirah') won the Sea of Words European Short Story Award.

A number of his short stories have been translated into English, French, Catalan, Portuguese, Serbian, Arabic, Spanish, Indonesian and Italian and were read at numerous literary festivals around Europe and the Middle East. Mejlak's award-winning novel for adolescents Rih Isfel (Southern Wind) has been turned into a 13-episode prime-time TV series for Malta's NET TV.

*Ajo i kishte thënë atij, pikërisht pak minuta pasi ishin takuar në bar; që tashmë ajo kishte jetë të dashur në shtëpi, i cili ishte i përsosur për të. Por kur tha ato fjalë, nuk ishte e vetëdijshme se sytë e saj po e largonin që aty. Ai filloi një histori tjetër, të katërtën që u fol atë natë në bar. Të dytën për të. Për një vajzë e cila, teksa rritej, dëshironte të kishte një të dashur; pikërisht ashtu siç bënte shoqja e saj. Por ajo ishte tepër inteligjente për ndonjërin nga djemtë. Sepse shumë burra parapëlqejnë gra që janë më pak inteligjente, një grua që nuk i shfryn ata me shumë lehtësi, që nuk vë re papjekurinë e tyre, një grua që në fund të fundit nuk e dallon se çfarë janë në të vërtetë ata.*



### Jean Back, Amateur, Luxembourg

Jean Back (b.1953) was born in Dudelange, an industrial city on the French border. After finishing secondary education in Esch-Alzette, he became a civil servant, first at the Ministry of Labour, then at the Ministry of Culture. Since 1989, he has been in charge of the Centre National de l'Audiovisuel in Dudelange. In 1990, he staged a photo exhibition, Lieux et Portraits du Bassin minier. In addition to his strong commitment to visual arts, in 2003 Jean Back turned to literature with Wollekestol, a tribute to his hometown and its steel industry. Jean Back writes in Luxembourgish and German. Jean Back's short novel Amateur houses a complex narrative.

*Me shumë ndjenjë dëgjoja përmbledhjen e historisë në vitin 1971. Doja ta korrigjoja dhe të shkruaja kundër luftës në*

*Vietnam. Dhe tregimi duhej të ndodhte natën e Vitit të Ri. Me trupën e zjarrfikësve dhe me të plagosur në krahë dhe në fytyra. Kjo duhet të ishte interesante në aspektin gazetaresk.*

*Kam përfunduar ngutjen e të gjitha letrave të murit me figura të pemës së Krishtlindjeve. Shiu binte litar, mbi pemë e pajfajshme të Krishtlindjeve të gjetit! Vij këtu nga qielli atje lart. Largohuni që këtej! Harro, eja! Eja pra!*

*Hungërima të rregullta qeni mbi beton.*

*Shpejt!*

*Faleminderit!*

*Asgjë!*

*Ervini ja behu mu si një thes me patate që lëshohet fare papritmas te dera. E lehura e qenit të tërbonte nga nervat.*

*Shëtt, lehtë, pa zhurmë, mik! E pikasa nga dritarja, teksa ai po ecte në shesh. Hyni! Dera ju zë.*

*Plaku me robëdëshambër banjo më thoshte, që këtu nuk banon askush.*

*Unë nuk ekzistoj për atë derr! Qumësht? Zakonisht miqtë e mi pinë qumësht.*

*Jo, faleminderit! Jo qumësht sot.*