

TRANSLATOR RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Readers in Hungary may be familiar with Debrecen through numerous literary works. Each work presents a different Debrecen, forming an imaginary city from a thousand fragments.

We aspire to share this experience with as many non-native Hungarian readers as possible. Even if only through the world of literary imagination, we hope they will occasionally "visit" us. And, of course, we would be delighted if they chose to visit us in person as well.

To support this vision, the city of Debrecen, through the management of the Méliusz Juhász Péter Library, promotes the international publication of works in the following way: **Translator Residency**.

The city welcome translators of literary works for a residency of 2 to 8 weeks in the former apartment of poet Szilárd Borbély. The program provides free accommodation and a weekly scholarship of €250.

Application Requirements:

- a professional CV
- publisher's letter of intent for publishing the translated work, including precise details (planned publication date, number of copies, etc.)
- publishing support

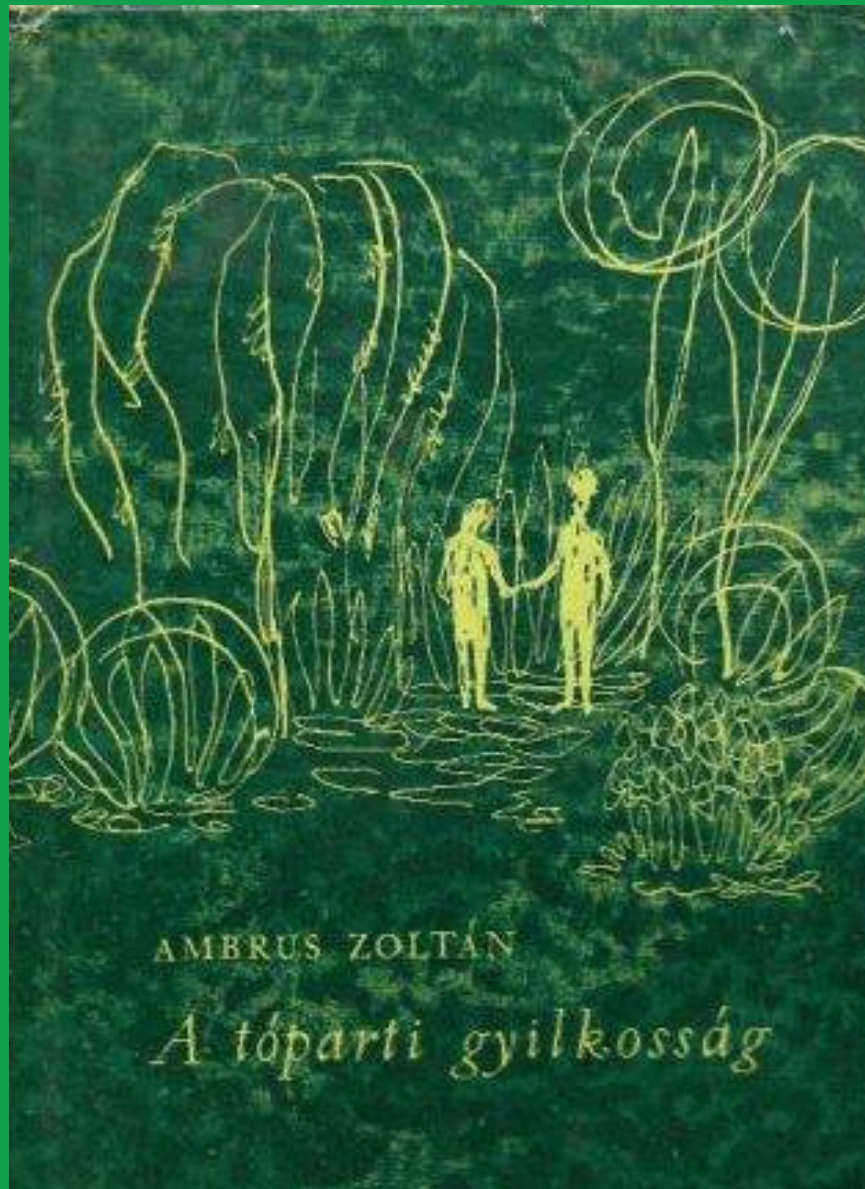
We support specific projects by publishers committed to publishing literary works with a maximum funding of €3,500.

The funding condition is the submission of the work in a print-ready PDF manuscript format. We also provide a preliminary letter of intent as a guarantee of support.

Applications should be submitted to the following e-mail address: **szilagyi.szilvia@meliusz.hu**



ZOLTÁN AMBRUS



Zoltán Ambrus (1861 – 1932) was born in Debrecen, he turned to literature after completing his legal studies, leaving a lasting legacy in the field of realist novels and short stories.

His most notable works include *King Midas* and *The Murder by the Lake*. His writings reflect a deep analysis of human character and moral dilemmas while also addressing important issues of contemporary Hungarian society.

A *tóparti gyilkosság* (*The Murder by the Lake*) tells the story of a mysterious crime, partly set in Debrecen, focusing not only on the search for truth but also on a profound analysis of human nature.

The plot unfolds with thrilling twists, while the author sensitively portrays the characters' inner struggles and moral dilemmas. The work is not only a captivating crime story but also a social and psychological snapshot of Debrecen at the time.

SZILÁRD BORBÉLY



BORBÉLY
SZILÁRD
nincstelenek

Szilárd Borbély (1963–2014) was a József Attila Prize-winning Hungarian poet, writer, literary historian, and university professor in Debrecen, whose works are characterized by profound philosophical and theological reflections as well as the exploration of personal and collective traumas.

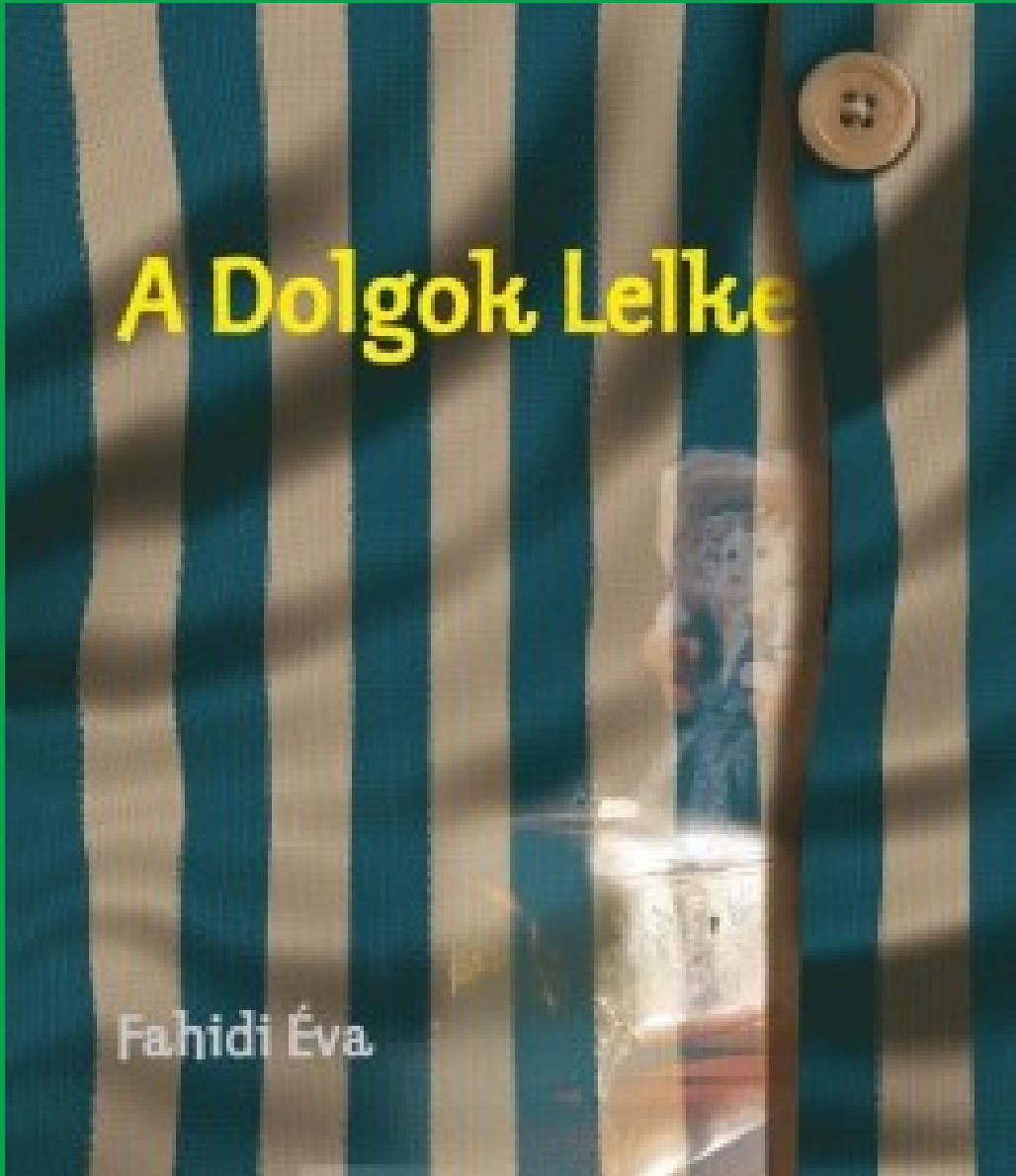
His novel *The Dispossessed* (Nincstelenek) presents the harrowing world of poverty, vulnerability, and family tragedies through the eyes of a village child. Combining lyrical and raw tones, the work is both a personal and social critique, revealing the complexity of human destinies and the destructive power of indifference.

Szilárd Borbély's novel was published in English in 2016, translated by Otilie Mulzet and released by Harper Perennial. The book received significant international acclaim, with praise from outlets such as *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

ÉVA FAHIDI

A Dolgok Lelke

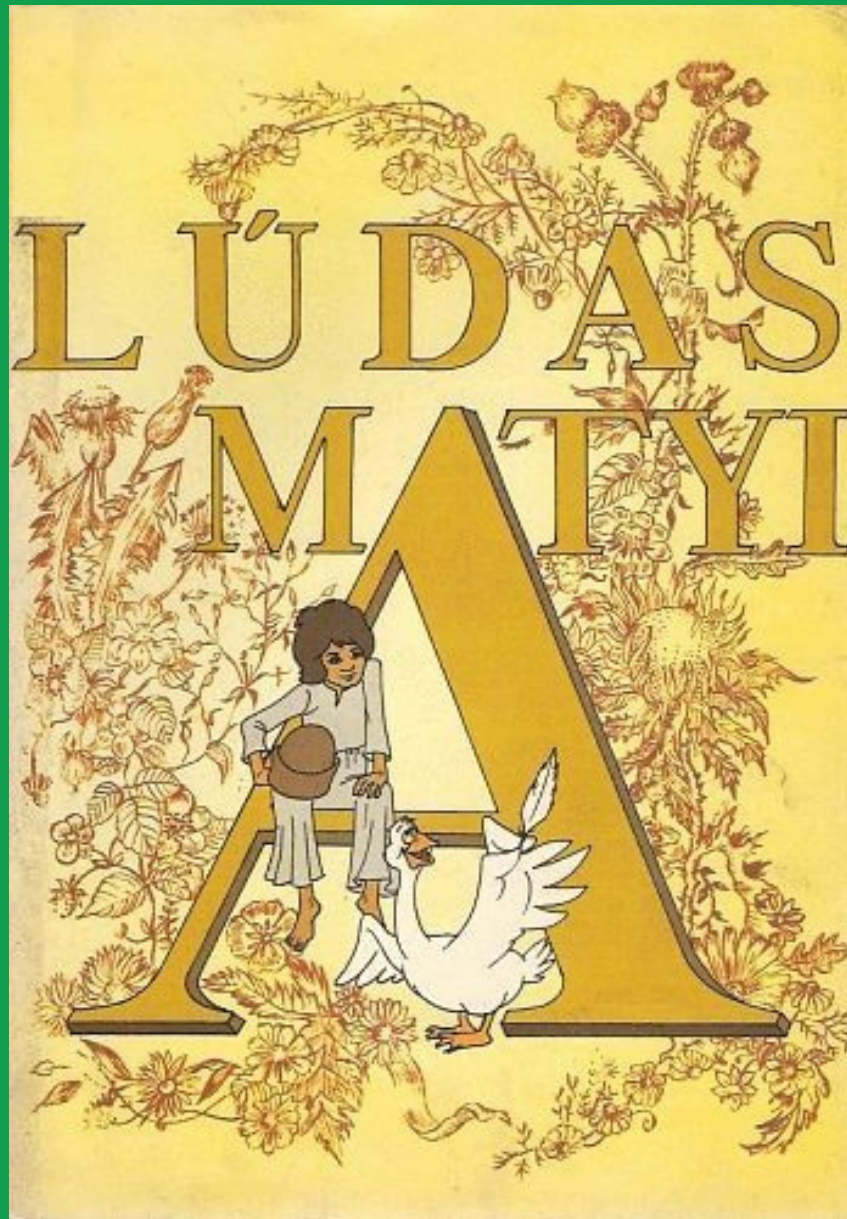
Fahidi Éva



Éva Fahidi (1925–2023) was a Holocaust survivor, writer, and human rights activist born in Debrecen. Her life and work stand as a living testament to history and the preservation of human dignity. Since 2023, she has been an Honorary Citizen of Debrecen.

In her first book *A dolgok lelke* (The Soul of Things), Éva Fahidi shares her personal memories and the tragedy of the Holocaust, offering a unique perspective on the pain of the past and the importance of remembrance. Through objects, the book tells the story of a vanished world, shedding light on the depths of human fates and emotions. The work is both a poignant testimony and a deeply human reflection on survival and the search for the meaning of life.

MIHÁLY FAZEKAS



Fazekas Mihály (1766–1828) was a writer, poet, and educator born in Debrecen, also known for his work in botany. In addition to his famous work *Lúdas Matyi*, he wrote numerous scientific pieces aimed at promoting knowledge of Hungarian flora and plant science.

Lúdas Matyi is a Hungarian folk hero tale in which the young, poor boy Matyi seeks justice against the rich and oppressive Török lord. The work is one of the most famous Hungarian examples of the struggle against social injustice, filled with humor and irony. The story of *Lúdas Matyi* is not only entertaining but also a symbol of heroic resistance and the strength of character.

GÉZA GÁRDONYI

Gárdonyi Géza
A LÁMPÁS



Dante Új Könyvtár

Géza Gárdonyi (1863–1922) was a prominent figure in Hungarian literature, known primarily for his novels and historical works. His most famous work, *Eclipse of the Crescent Moon*, depicts a crucial period in Hungarian history, the fight against the Ottoman Empire, but he also wrote short stories, plays, and literary essays that explore the values and issues of Hungarian society and culture.

Géza Gárdonyi's *A lámpás* (The Lantern) is a short story that explores the themes of love and responsibility through the encounter between an old man and a young boy. The story centers on the boy who brings a lantern to the elderly man, while receiving a deeper lesson on attentiveness and humanity. The work is a simple yet touching narrative about how small actions can have a significant impact on the lives of others.

JÁNOS
GYÖRI L.



KATALIN
GYÖRI

János Győri L. (1958) is a teacher at the Debrecen Reformed College High School, a literary scholar, and a cultural historian.

Katalin Győri (1982) is a teacher at the Baár-Madas Reformed High School, a writer, and a translator.

The historical drama *Menekülők* (Refugees) depicts three days of events in 1660 in Debrecen, after the Turkish armies occupy Váradi, and part of the refugees, including nearly a hundred students and teachers from the Reformed school, seek refuge there. The play not only presents key events in the history of the College in a form accessible to today's readers but also vividly captures the tensions and interconnections of communal and individual fate, hardship and hopelessness, as well as Christian faith, hope, and responsibility.

MÓR JÓKAI

Jókaí Mór

A DEBRECENI LUNÁTIKUS



ÖREGBETŰS
KÖNYVEK

20

Mór Jókai (1825–1904) was one of the most prominent figures in 19th-century Hungarian literature, best known for his novels, which addressed important issues of Hungarian society and history. His most famous works include *Aranyember* (The Man with the Golden Touch), *A kőszívű ember fiai* (The Sons of the Stone-Hearted Man), in which adventures, heroic struggles, and questions of national identity are explored.

Jókai Mór's *A debreceni lunátikus* (The Lunatic of Debrecen) is a short story set in a psychiatric institution, where a series of unusual events unfold. The story centers around a man in Debrecen who experiences both mental and physical suffering while being rejected and stigmatized by society. The work explores the relationship between society and the individual, highlighting prejudices related to mental illness and social exclusion.

DÉNES KRUSOVSKY

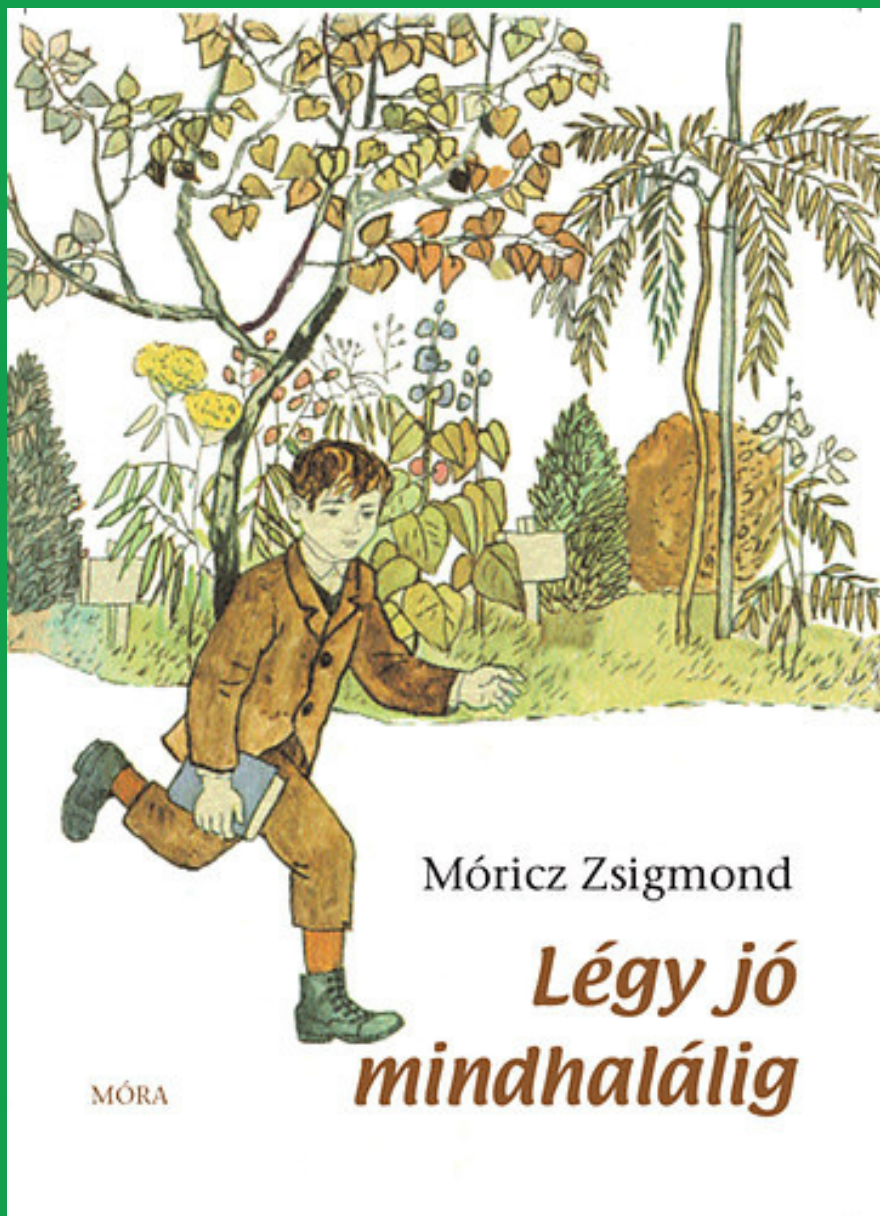


Dénes Krusovszky is a contemporary Hungarian poet, writer, translator, and editor, born in 1982 in Debrecen. He is a prominent figure in the literary world, contributing to the diversity of modern Hungarian literature through his poetry, prose, and critical essays. As a translator, he mainly works on translating English-language poetry.

Primarily known as a poet, his collections are characterized by a personal, sensitive, and thought-provoking tone. His works often explore themes of modern existence, identity, and memory.

In 2018, his debut novel, *Akik már nem leszünk sosem* (Those Who Will Never Be Us), achieved great success. The novel delves into the themes of individual and collective memory and the process of confronting the past.

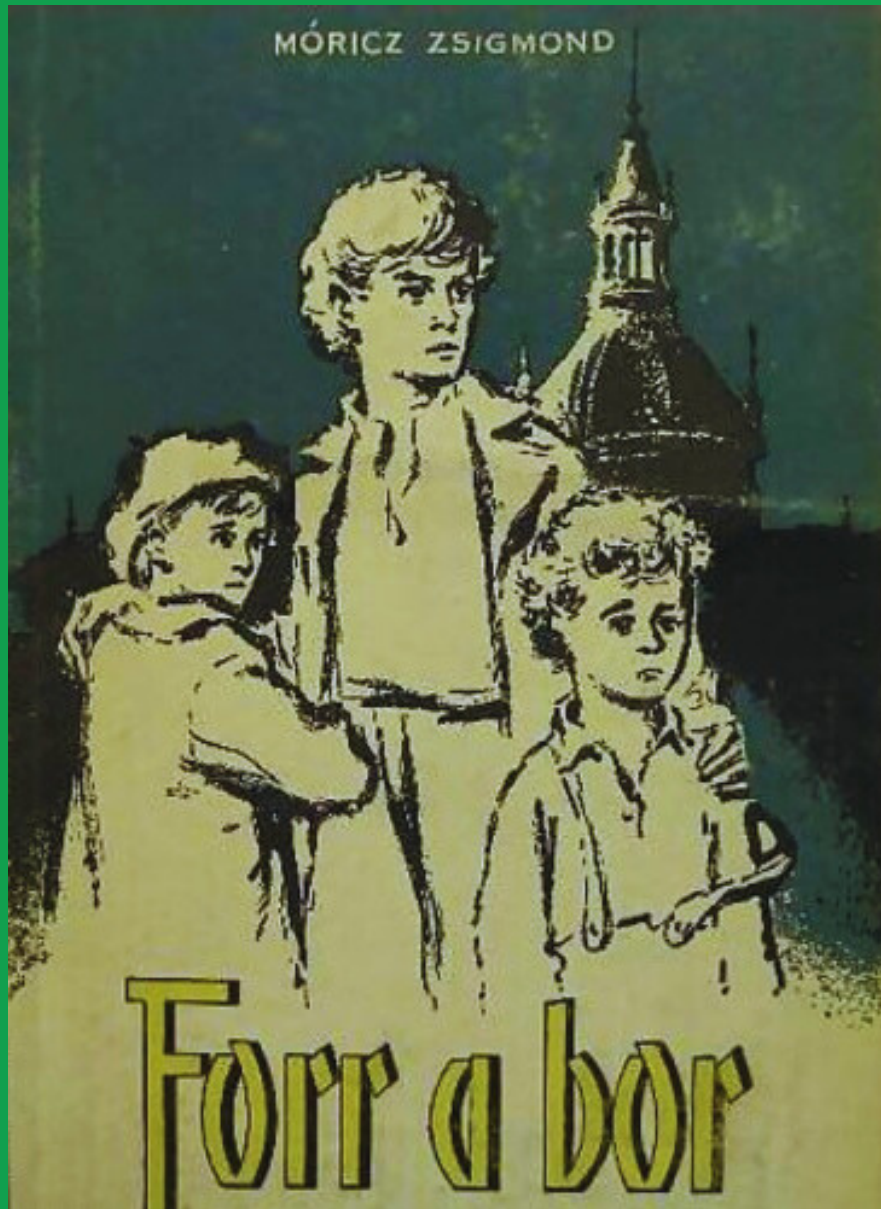
ZSIGMOND MORICZ



Zsigmond Móricz (1879–1942) was one of the greatest figures in 20th-century Hungarian literature, focusing primarily on social and psychological issues in his novels and short stories. His most famous works include *Légy jó mindhalálig* (Be Good Until Death), and *Rokonok* (Relatives), in which he depicts the social classes of rural Hungary, the struggles of country life, and individual destinies.

A *Légy jó mindhalálig* (Be Good Until Death) tells the story of a boy, Nyilas Misi, who tries to find his place in the adult world while attending a gymnasium in Debrecen. The novel explores themes of childhood, social injustice, and personal sacrifice, as the young boy struggles with the challenges of growing up. Misi's story highlights the values of loyalty, integrity, and love, while also shedding light on the flaws of the system and the oppressive nature of societal norms.

ZSIGMOND MORICZ



Zsigmond Móricz's novel *Forr a bor* (The Wine is Fermenting) aimed to uncover the reasons that plunged Hungary into economic and moral crisis in the 1930s. Móricz traced the roots of these issues to the educational system, and the novel's narrative reaches back to 1899. Through the story of Nyilas Misi and 19 of his peers, the enormous grinding machinery of the former educational system comes to life. The novel can also be regarded as a developmental narrative of the nation, focusing on the maturation and shaping of the spirit of youth.

MÓRICZ ZSIGMOND



MÓRICZ ZSIGMOND
PILLANGÓ

Osiris diákkönyvtár

Móricz Zsigmond's *Pillangó* (Butterfly) tells the story of a young girl, Mária, who lives in Debrecen and is shaped by the social and family problems of the post-war era. The novella focuses on female roles, family conflicts, and personal desires, as Mária tries to meet societal expectations. Mária's struggle for freedom and happiness, along with the symbolic role of the butterfly in the story, reflects the search for female identity. The novella vividly portrays the spiritual and social atmosphere of rural Hungary after the war, raising deeper societal questions.

BARNABÁS PERJESSY- HORVÁTH

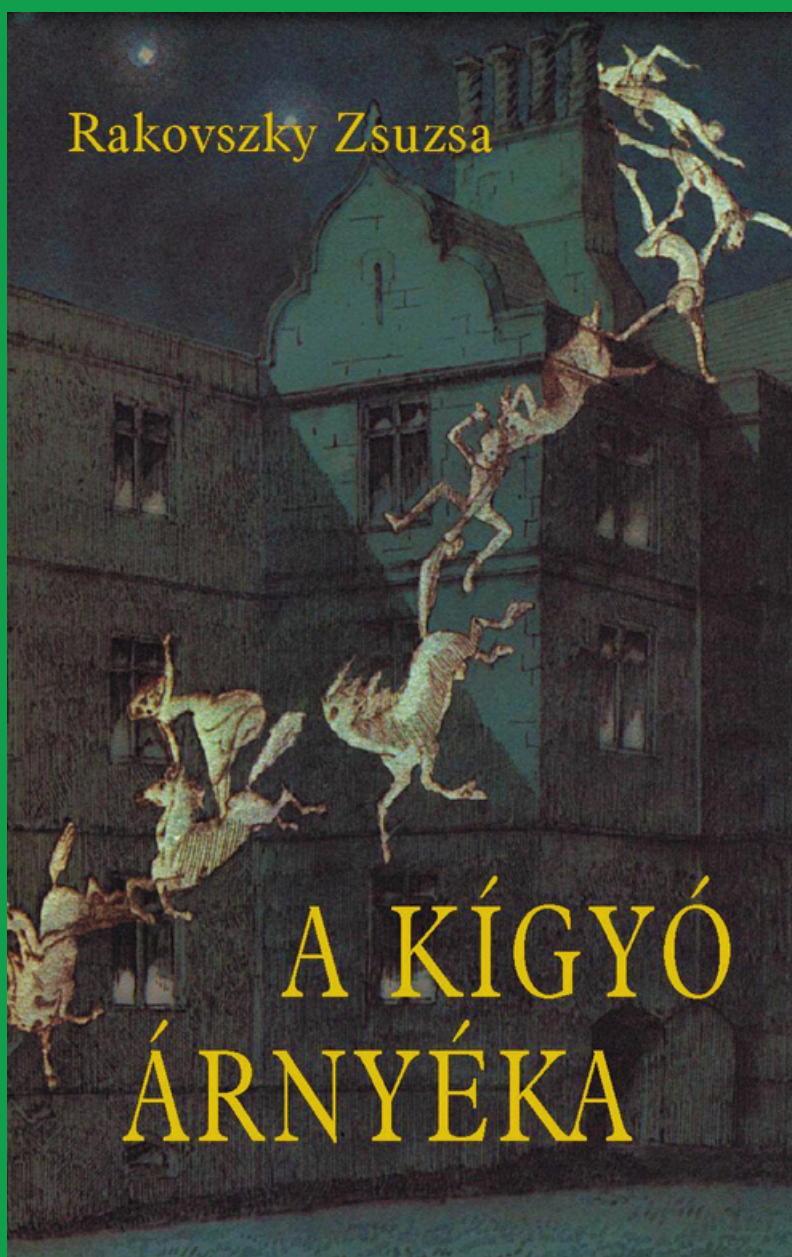


The pages of *Kollégium Blues* offer a glimpse into the everyday life and traditions of the nearly five-hundred-year-old Debrecen Reformed College, a place that provides moral, cultural, and intellectual ammunition for a lifetime.

Through the "diary" of Blue, the narrator, readers can experience the events of an entire school year, as if they, too, had moved into this ancient institution and become students once again. However, it is no ordinary year—it is one of the last "peaceful years" before the regime change, 1987-1988.

Barnabás Perjéssy-Horváth's debut novel captivates with its strikingly strong atmosphere, linguistic ease, and narrative style that integrates youthful slang, holding the reader's attention until the final scene.

RAKOVSZKY ZSUZSA



Zsuzsa Rakovszky is a contemporary Hungarian poet, writer, and translator was born on 1950, in Sopron.

Her early collections, such as *Jákob lajtorjája* (Jacob's Ladder) and *Egyirányú utca* (One-Way Street), garnered significant attention in the literary world.

As a novelist, she has also achieved outstanding success. In *A kígyó árnyéka* (The Shadow of the Serpent), an old woman recounts her childhood and youth, as well as her extraordinary life as a woman, during which she must conceal her identity for sixteen years due to a grave crime, lest she fall into the hands of the executioner. To the outside world, the girl and her pharmacist father present themselves as a loving married couple, while their secret home life is dominated by alternating waves of love, hatred, jealousy, and passion.

MAGDA SZABÓ



Szabó Magda (1917–2007), born in Debrecen, was one of Hungary's most prominent authors, celebrated for her novels, plays, essays, and poetry. Her internationally renowned works, such as *The Door* (Az ajtó), delve into themes of identity, family, and human relationships, drawing on her deep connection to her birthplace and Hungarian culture.

Szabó Magda's *Für Elise* tells the story of Blanka, a young girl navigating a complex family history set against the social and historical backdrop of Debrecen. The novel explores the transition from childhood to adulthood, delving into themes of identity, family secrets, and the intricacies of human relationships with deep emotional insight.

Szabó Magda is considered the most translated Hungarian author. Her works have been published in over 40 languages worldwide.

MAGDA SZABÓ



Szabó Magda's *Ókút* (The Ancient Well) is a deeply reflective novel that explores themes of memory, identity, and the passage of time. It follows the narrator's return to her childhood home, where she confronts her past and her relationship with her family, particularly her mother. Through vivid descriptions and emotional introspection, the novel delves into the complexities of familial bonds and the search for personal truth within the context of Hungarian history and rural life.

Szabó Magda's novel is closely connected to the author's own life, particularly her experiences from childhood and her family background.

MAGDA SZABÓ



Szabó Magda Disznótor (The Pig Killing) is a powerful and intimate novel that explores themes of family dynamics and social rituals in a rural Hungarian setting. The story unfolds during a traditional pig slaughtering event, where various characters, including family members and locals, come together, revealing complex emotional undercurrents and personal histories. Through this seemingly mundane yet deeply symbolic event, Szabó delves into the tensions between tradition and modernity, as well as the conflicts and bonds that shape human relationships.

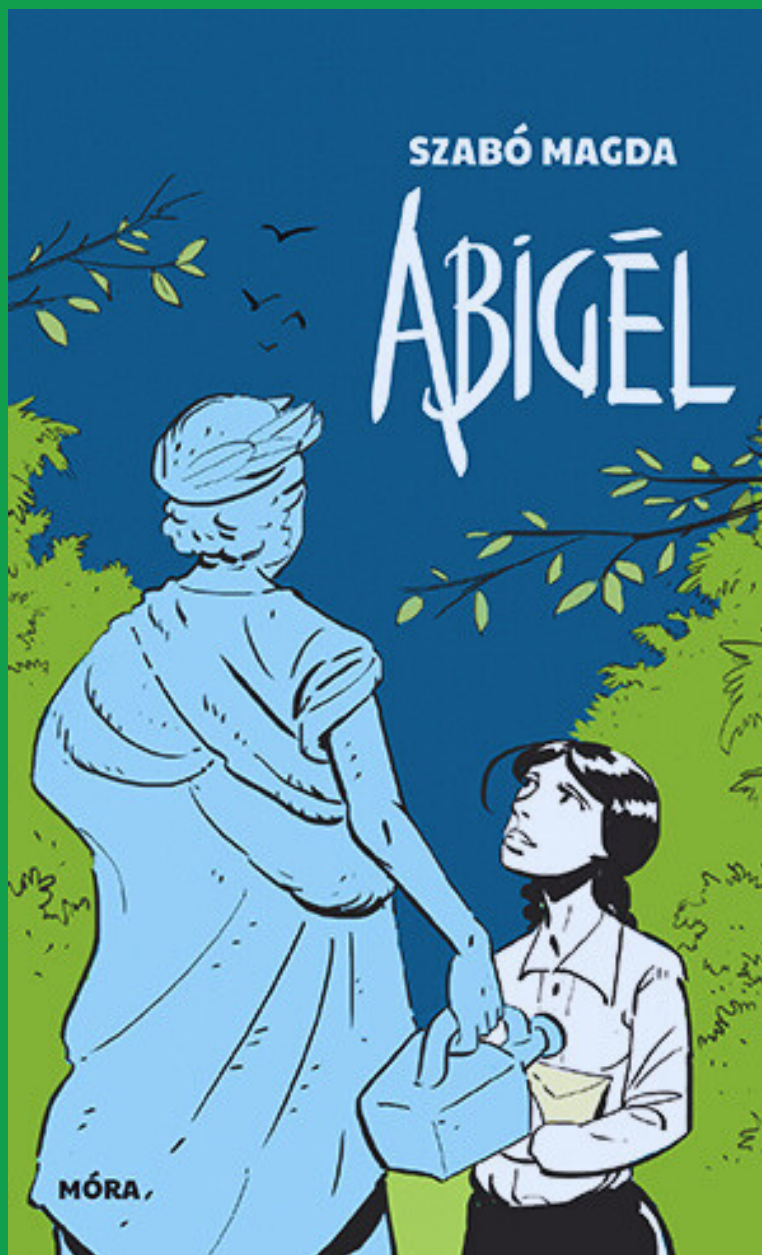
MAGDA SZABÓ



Szabó Magda's *Régimódi történet* (Old-fashioned Story) is a novel that delves into the life of the author's family, exploring the intricacies of personal history, memory, and the passage of time. The narrative is centered around the protagonist's reflections on her family and the impact of past events on the present, highlighting the tensions between generational differences and the evolving role of memory. This deeply personal work paints a picture of Szabó Magda's own family, using it as a lens to examine broader themes of identity and the weight of the past in shaping one's present life.

The book has been translated into several languages and was adapted into a film in 2006, directed by Géza Bereményi.

MAGDA SZABÓ



The protagonist of *Abigél* is Gina, the spoiled little daughter of General Vitay, whose world is turned upside down in the autumn of 1943. She must leave her home, her school, her friends, and be separated from her father. It is as if a whirlwind carries the little girl into the gloomy walls of the Arkod boarding school, where the black-and-white world is surrounded by prohibitions. How is a fifteen-year-old girl supposed to navigate this heavy world burdened with adult secrets? How can she fit into the community of girls and share in their childish joys? Perhaps she, too, must believe in the student legend that the girls have woven around the statue standing in the garden.

SZÜCS PÉTER

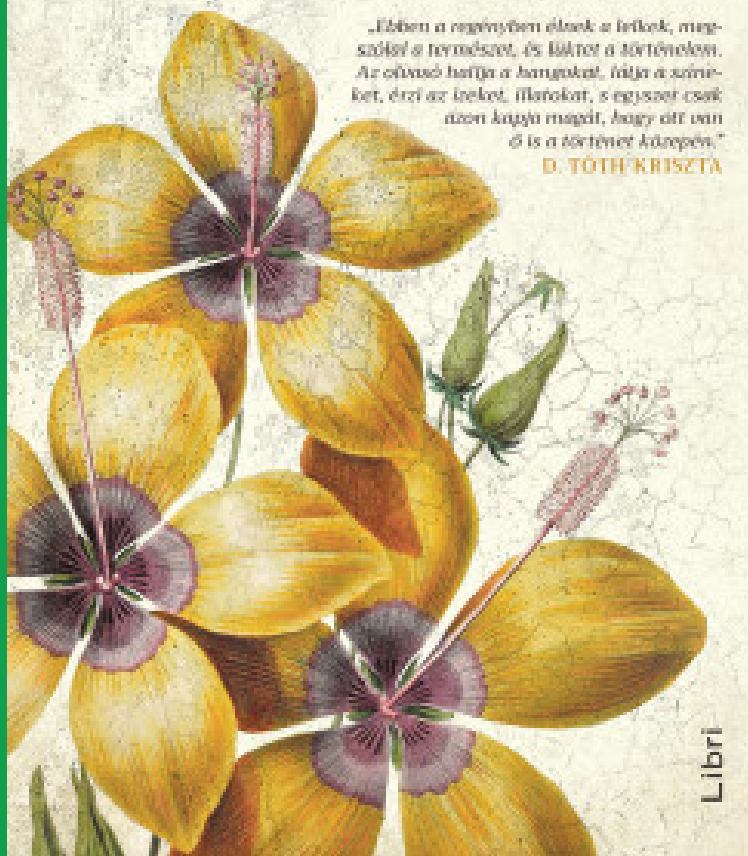
SZÜCS PÉTER

Dharma

EGY CSALÁD REGÉNYES TÖRTÉNETE
A TISZÁTÓL A GANGESZIG

„Ebben a regényben élnek a lelkek, megszállt a természet, és látkor a történelem. Az olvasó hallja a hangokat, látja a színeket, érzé az ízeket, illatokat, s egyszer csak azon kapja magát, hogy ott van ő is a történet közepén.”

D. TÓTH KRISZTA

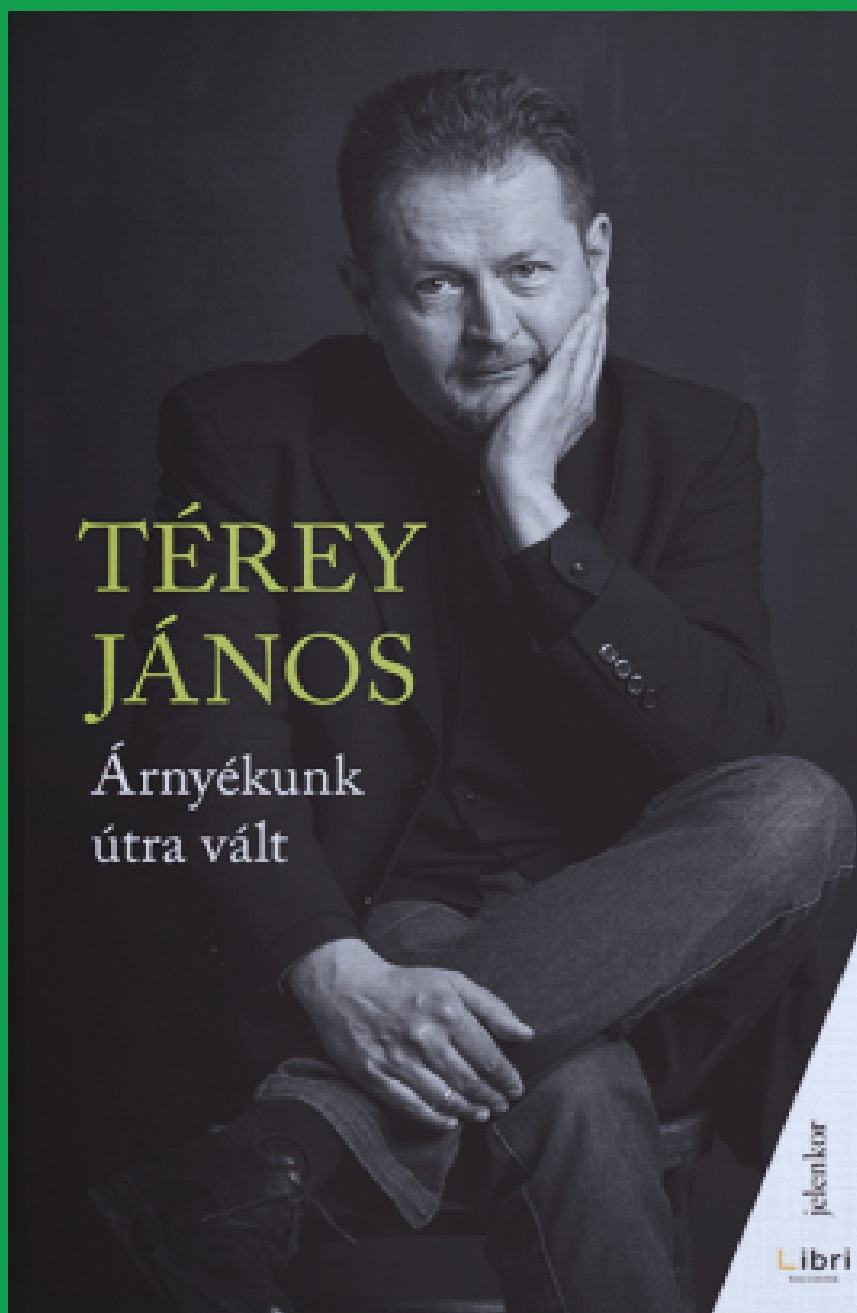


Libri

Péter Szűcs (1976) writer was born in Berettyóújfalu. In 2004, he won the audience award of the literary competition jointly organized by Litera.hu, the Goethe Institute, and the Berlin-based Kafka magazine with his piece Kafka Under the Tree. He joined the founding team of Marie Claire magazine as the managing editor, and later served as the editor-in-chief of InStyle for several years. He is also the founder of the travel magazine PetersPlanet.

Szűcs Péter's Dharma follows a young man's search for self and inner struggles as he embarks on a journey from Biharnagybajom to find his place in the world. Through a blend of Buddhism and Western lifestyles, the protagonist faces the meaning of existence and a deep spiritual quest. The novel is a philosophical and emotional journey that combines the teachings of Eastern religions with the challenges of modern life.

JÁNOS TÉREY



TÉREY
JÁNOS

Árnyékunk
útra vált

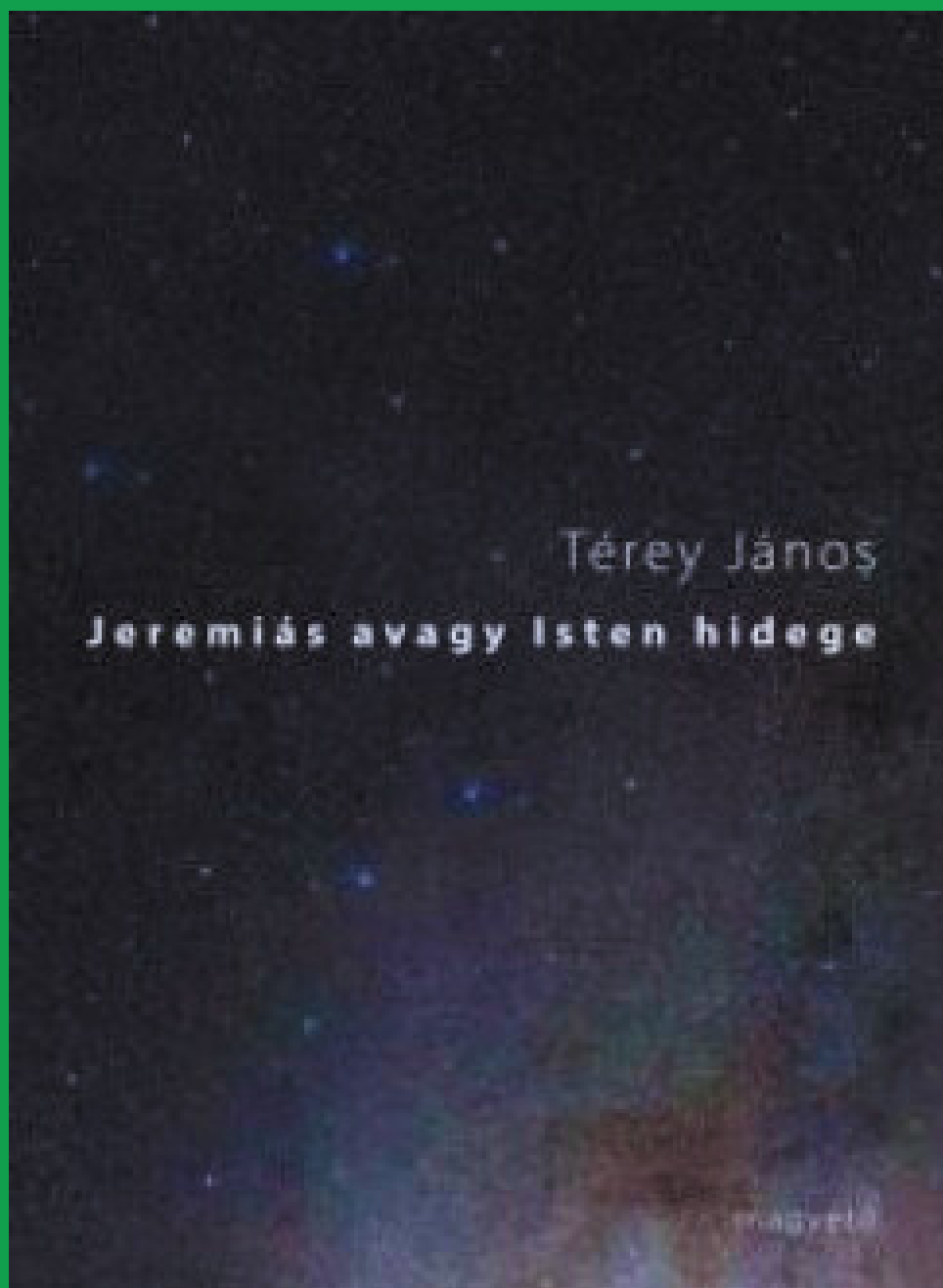
jelenkor

Libri

János Térey (1966–2019) was a poet, writer, and playwright born in Debrecen. His significant body of work has made him one of the most important authors in 21st-century Hungarian literature. After a powerful start as a poet, he conquered new genres: writing narrative poetry, short prose, drama, and novels. With a deep understanding of literary tradition, he expertly handled classic forms while striving for radical innovations in every work.

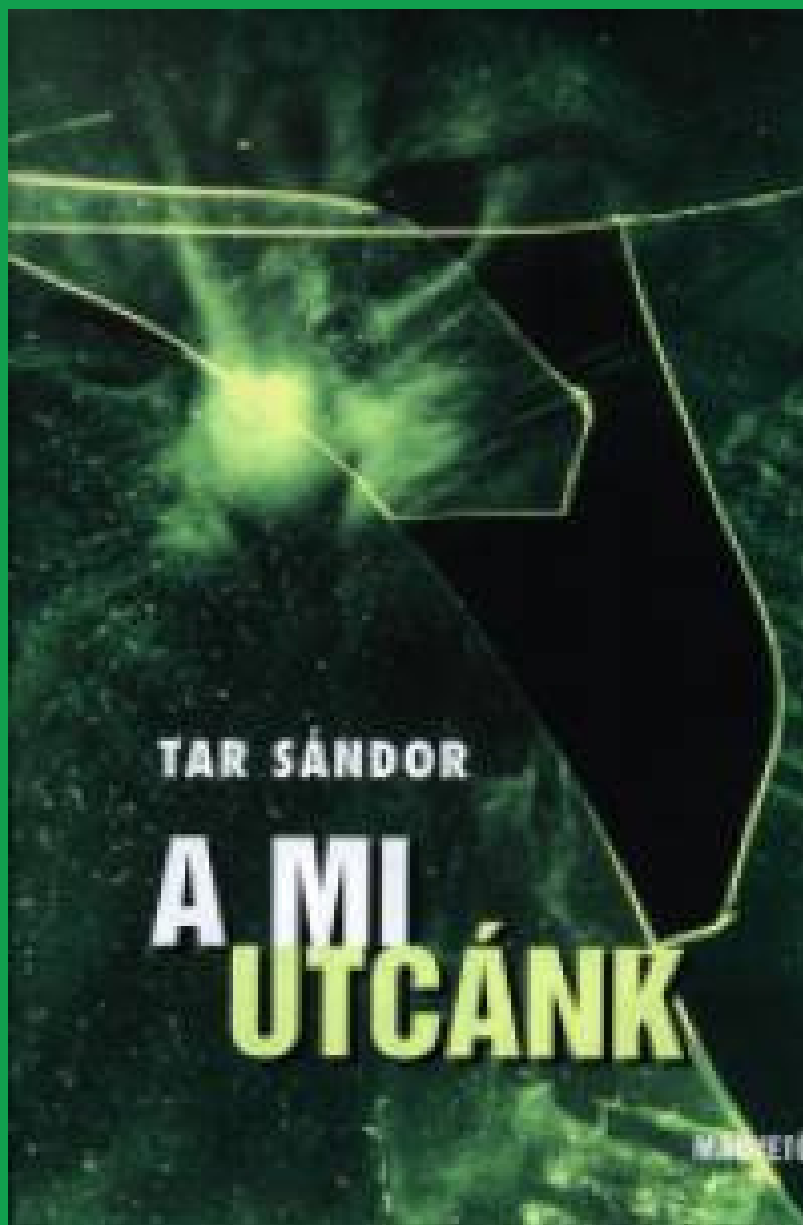
The collection *Árnyékunk útra vált* ("Our Shadow Took to the Road") traces the arc of János Térey's literary career, from his early poems to his posthumously published autobiography. It showcases a selection of remarkable and characteristic works from Térey's rich oeuvre.

JÁNOS TEREY



Jeremiás avagy az Isten hidege is the third play in János Térey's "Hungarian Trilogy," following the tragedy Kazamaták co-written with András Papp and the conversational drama Asztalizene. In the play, Jeremiás, a member of parliament, gets stranded in his hometown of Debrecen due to a transportation strike at an imaginary metro station, suddenly finding himself very far from the life he leads in the capital. Through eight locations, Jeremiás confronts his past, where his former lovers, friends, enemies, and family members appear in a death-dance-like manner.

SÁNDOR TAR

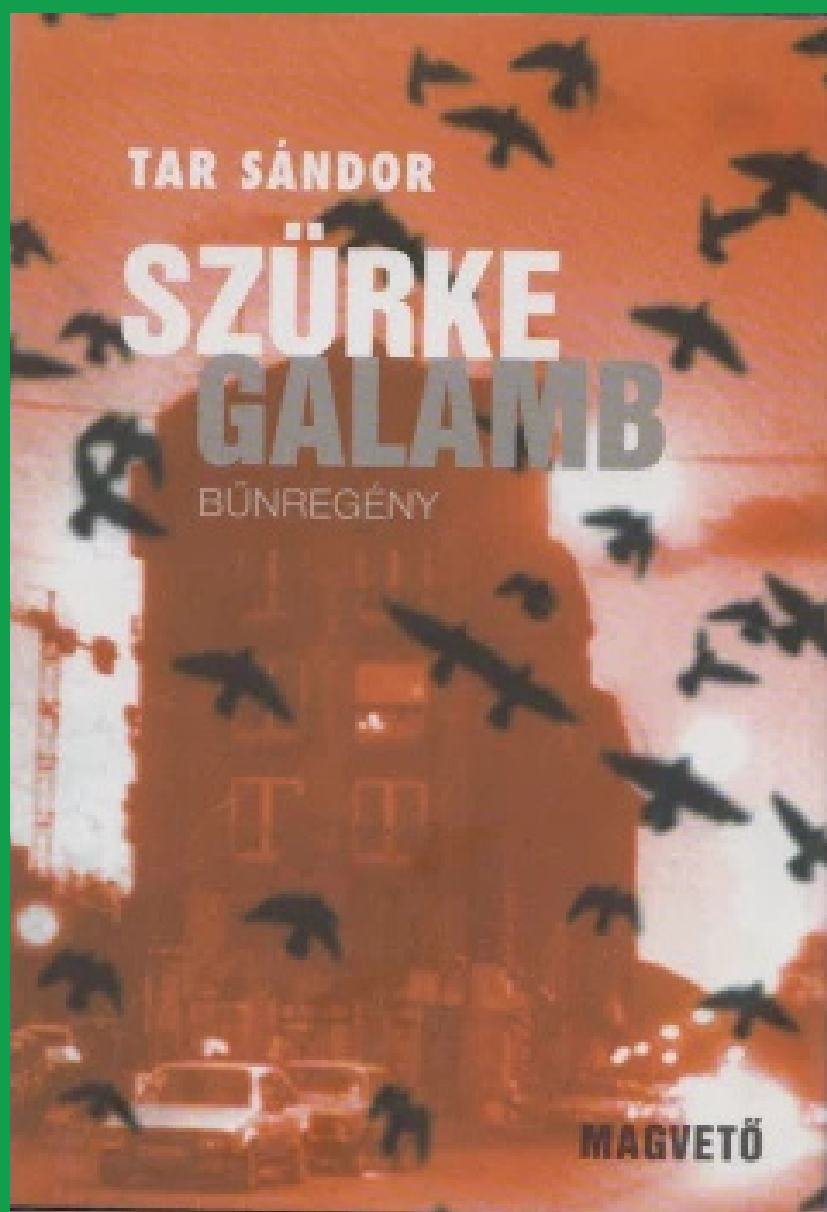


Sándor Tar (1941–2005) was a Hungarian writer, recipient of the Kossuth and Attila József Prizes, renowned for his short stories and novels that authentically portray the everyday life of socialism and the deep vulnerability of the human condition.

A Mi utcánk (Our Street) is one of Sándor Tar's most renowned short story collections, depicting the everyday lives of Hungary's working class before and after the political transition. The book reveals, with poignant honesty, stories of loneliness, vulnerability, and the decline of human relationships.

Tar Sándor's A mi utcánk was translated into English and published in 2015 by Contra Mundum Press under the title Our Street.

SÁNDOR TAR



Szürke galamb (Grey Pigeon) is one of Sándor Tar's darkest novels, set in a small town where a series of murders unfold, and the community members gradually lose their sense of security. The story is both sociographically rich and intertwined with crime elements, focusing on human vulnerability and moral decay.

Tar Sándor's Szürke galamb (Gray Pigeon) has been translated into Bulgarian. The Bulgarian translation, titled Szivija golob, was published in 2008 by the Ergo publishing house.