

# Rustic Baroque

a novel by Jiří Hájíček

Winner of the Magnesia Litera prize for literature



Also in this volume,  
selected stories from  
*The Wooden Knife*

# Jiří Hájíček's award-winning novel *Rustic Baroque* debuts in English

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Real World Press is pleased to announce release of the new and original English translation of Jiří Hájíček's *Rustic Baroque*, one of the most important works of Czech literature in recent years.

*Rustic Baroque* is distributed by Amazon in paperback and Kindle formats. It already is available, too, at selected stores in the Czech Republic and abroad. *Rustic Baroque* is a must-read for enthusiasts of Czech literature and culture, and for anyone who seeks to connect with the country on an intimate level.

Set in South Bohemia about a decade after the Velvet Revolution, *Rustic Baroque* recalls the tumult in the countryside during the 1950s collectivization of agriculture, sheds light upon the torn social fabric in the decades to follow, and characterizes how Czech people of all generations struggle to come to grips with the unresolved remnants of their past since totalitarian communists were driven from power in 1989. The story combines drama and mystery with history, architecture and a little romance against a background that is the natural beauty of South Bohemia. The characters struggle to resolve their feelings of guilt, thirst for revenge and desire to forgive. In the original Czech, *Rustic Baroque* (*Selský baroko*) was awarded the Magnesia Litera prize as the Best Czech Novel for 2005.

In this unique volume, Hájíček's novel is complemented by four stories from his collection *The Wooden Knife*. Moreover, the translator has annotated the novel to enhance English-language readers' appreciation for Czech life and culture. In combination with the Czech language original, *Rustic Baroque* makes an excellent study reader for those who are learning Czech or for Czech speakers wishing to improve their English.

**A free sample excerpt from *Rustic Baroque* is available at Amazon.com and at [www.realworldpress.cz](http://www.realworldpress.cz).**



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November 2012