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## Award-winning Czech novel *Rustic Baroque* debuts in English

Acclaimed work by author Jiří Hájíček now available to readers in the USA

Real World Press is pleased to announce release to the American market 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.

Included in the European Society of Authors' Finnegan's List 2013 as an author whose recent work is particularly deserving of translation, Hájíček is accessible to English-language readers for the first time through this English version of *Rustic Baroque*. In the original Czech (*Selský baroko*), the novel had been awarded the Czech Republic's Magnesia Litera prize as the Best Czech Novel for 2005.

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. Through his simple yet powerful prose, Hájíček presents characters grappling to resolve their conflicting feelings of guilt, thirst for revenge and desire to forgive.

In this unique volume, Hájíček's novel is complemented by four stories from his collection *The Wooden Knife*. Moreover, the translator, an American writer who has lived in the Czech Republic for nearly 20 years, has provided a brief introduction and carefully annotated the novel to enhance English-language readers' appreciation for Czech life and culture.

In his review of the newly released book for *The Prague Post*, Nick Hudáč writes that, "**Kirking's translation reads crisply and cleanly... Hájíček's prose itself (both in translation and in the original) is sparse and elegantly simple... (T)he story crackles with nervous energy, highlighted by Hájíček's hauntingly unadorned words and keen ear for dialogue.**"

***Rustic Baroque* is distributed by Amazon in paperback and Kindle formats. Excerpts are available at Amazon and [www.realworldpress.cz](http://www.realworldpress.cz)**

For more information about the author, the unique story behind the translation and publishing of this work, or to obtain a review copy, please contact:

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