­­Nejc Gazvoda’s stories are about a generation of 18-year-olds (the author himself was 19 at the time of first publication). Despite his youth, his book is a mature literary work, surprising in its inventiveness. The protagonists are weak and strong, they search for meaning in times of absurdity. They often retreat beyond, to the realm between the worlds of the living and the dead, itself a metaphor for the time between childhood and adulthood, abandonment and rejection. Through the local atmosphere, he offers an insight into different kinds of thinking, into fears and wishes, phobias and phantasms.

**About the Author:**

Nejc Gazvoda (b.1985) is a writer and director, an author of short stories, three novels and a drama play. All three novels were shortlisted or long-listed for the award for best novel of the year. In media, he is often referred to as a leading writer of his generation. His debut, the short story collection *Nothing Gets by the Squirrels*, received the Fabula award for best short story collection in 2006 as well as the Golden Bird award. His short story, "The Excursion," was made into a feature film, *A Trip*, that was selected as the Slovenian entry for the Best Foreign Language Oscar at the 85th Academy Awards.

**About the Author**

**Nejc Gazvoda** was born in Novo Mesto in 1985. He has a degree in Film and Television Direction from the Ljubljana Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television. At the age of 19, he published his award-winning collection of short stories, *Nothing Escapes the Squirrels* (Vevericam nič ne uide), and has since published three novels. He has directed two feature films, *A Trip* (The Excursion / Izlet) and *Dual* (Dvojina), co-written a number of other film scripts, including *Personal Baggage* (Osebna prtljaga) and *Class Enemy* (Razredni sovražnik), and entered the world of theatre having directed the play *Game* (Divjad). His play *Silent Breath* (Tih vdih), which he both wrote and directed, premiered at the MGL Ljubljana City Theatre in 2018. In 2019 he worked on a stage adaptation of Katja Perat’s novel *The Masochist* (Mazohistka).

**About the Translators**

**Erica Johnson Debeljak** (born 1961, [San Francisco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco), U.S.) is an American-[Slovenian writer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovenian_writer) and translator, and an American expatriate living in [Slovenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovenia). She studied in New York City, where she received a degree in financial economics and French literature. In the early 1990s, she followed her late husband, Slovene poet [Aleš Debeljak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ale%C5%A1_Debeljak), from the U.S. to Slovenia. They had three children together.

Since moving to Slovenia, she has worked as a translator and columnist for the local newspaper [*Delo*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delo_%28newspaper%29). Her essays and stories have also appeared in *U.S. News & World Report*, *Glimmer Train*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Missouri Review*, *Nimrod*, *Epoch*, *Common Knowledge*, and *Eurozine*. *Barren Harvest: The Selected Poems of* [*Dane Zajc*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dane_Zajc), a book she translated in 2004, was published by White Pine Press.

She has published a number of books both in Slovenian and English, including two memoirs (*Foreigner in the House of Natives* and *Forbidden Bread*), a biography of [Srečko Kosovel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sre%C4%8Dko_Kosovel) titled *Srečko Kosovel: Pesnik in jaz*, and a novel, *Anti-Fa cona*.

**Jason Blake** works in the English Department at the University of Ljubljana’s Faculty of Arts. He is the author of *Slovenia – Culture Smart!* (Kuperard, 2010), which is a guidebook to the ways and mores of Slovenia aimed at long-term visitors or newcomers to Slovenia. He has also published a trio of writing guides aimed at Slovenian students of English: *Writing Short Literature Essays*, *101 English Tips* and – with Andrej Stopar – *102 English Tips*. He translates primarily from Slovenian into English, less frequently from German, and occasionally from French. For nearly ten years he has been working regularly as a translator and copy-editor for the Vilenica International Literary festival.

Mr. Blake’s translation of an excerpt from Nico Helminger’s *Luxembourg Lions* was selected for Dalkey Archive Press’s Best European Fiction 2016. In 2017, his translation (with Jeremi Slak) of Marjan Rožanc’s selected essays *Of Freedom and God* was published within the Litteræ Slovenicæ series. His translation of Andrej Hočevar’s short story “Another Happy New Year” has been selected for Dalkey Archive’s Best European Fiction 2019, and his translation of Jasmin B. Frelih’s novel *In/Half*, which won the 2016 European Union Prize for Literature, was published in2018 by Oneworld Publications.