

Title: *White Horse, Yellow Dragon: A Twenty-first Century Czech Literary Mystification*
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In 2009 the Czech publishing house Knižní klub awarded its annual literary prize for the best submitted prose fiction manuscript to the novel *White Horse, Yellow Dragon* (Bílej kůň, žlutěj drak) and simultaneously published it. It was ostensibly the debut of a young, female Vietnamese-Czech author named Lan Pham Thi. In addition to winning the approval of the writers and critics who chose the manuscript for the Knižní klub award, *White Horse, Yellow Dragon* captured the interest of readers, who elevated it to Czech bestseller status by purchasing several thousand copies of the book in the first three months after its release. At the end of that period, however, the book's fortunes shifted somewhat when it was discovered that the real author was not a nineteen-year-old daughter of Vietnamese immigrants, but Jan Cempírek, a thirty-nine-year-old white male from České Budějovice, the published author of one other novel and a volume of short stories. The present study examines the phenomenon of *White Horse, Yellow Dragon* from several perspectives, considering the novel's plot and its literary qualities; the author's intentions and achievement in carrying out the mystification; and the place the work occupies in the long and diverse history of Czech cultural mystifications. Although it is by any account a thin novel, the text and the history of *White Horse, Yellow Dragon* provide many insights into the contemporary Czech literary scene and into contemporary Czech society, as well as a unique instance of what has sometimes been called the "Czech national sport" of mystification.