

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations xi

Preface xv

Prelude <i>17 November</i>	1
ACT 1. RECTO 1918–1945	11
1 <i>Kafkárna</i>	13
<i>Love Letters</i>	13
<i>Ratcatcher's Beauties</i>	16
<i>Language Games</i>	22
<i>German Prague!</i>	28
<i>A Little Bit of Sulfur, a Little Bit of Hell</i>	35
2 <i>A Modern Woman</i>	41
<i>Am I, above All, a Czech?</i>	41
<i>Enriching the Old, Domestic Repertoire</i>	49
<i>Moscow—The Border</i>	59
<i>The Refuse of the Past</i>	70
<i>Hundreds of Thousands Seeking No-Man's-Land</i>	75
<i>Youthful Calves in White Kneesocks</i>	81
3 <i>Love and Theft</i>	90
<i>Poldi Kladno</i>	90
<i>From Taliesin to Tokyo</i>	94

	<i>The Sorrows of Poor Friccek</i>	100
	<i>An Ashram in Pondicherry</i>	108
	<i>Dugway Proving Ground, Utah</i>	118
	<i>The Atomic Bomb Dome</i>	124
4	<i>But Miss, We Can't Help It</i>	130
	<i>The Last Train Out</i>	130
	<i>15 March 1939</i>	135
	<i>Smetanesque</i>	141
	<i>The Age of the Concentration Camp</i>	150
5	<i>The Void at the Core of Things</i>	159
	<i>Mendelssohn Is on the Roof</i>	159
	<i>Hitler's Hangman</i>	168
	<i>But Lidice Is in Europe</i>	179
	<i>Monumental Details</i>	188
6	<i>Avant-garde and Kitsch</i>	199
	<i>The He and the She of It</i>	199
	<i>A Used Bookstore of Dead Styles</i>	206
	<i>Manon the Sinner</i>	212
	<i>The Strongholds of Sleep</i>	220
	<i>The World in which We Live</i>	229
	ACT 2. VERSO 1938-1989	237
7	<i>As Time Goes By</i>	239
	<i>A Citizen of the World</i>	239
	<i>The Usual Suspects</i>	247
	<i>Transit</i>	255
	<i>The Strip Street</i>	267
	<i>Here's Looking at You, Kid!</i>	274
	<i>A Première in Terezín</i>	284

8	The Cleansing of the Homeland	293
	<i>Why Should We Not Rejoice?</i>	293
	<i>This Sweet Apocalypse</i>	300
	<i>Forward, Backward Not a Step!</i>	309
	<i>Victorious February</i>	315
	<i>Sentence First, Verdict Afterwards</i>	324
9	The Lyrical Age	336
	<i>A Dream of Meissen Breasts</i>	336
	<i>Torn Dolls</i>	343
	<i>Danse Macabre in Smíchov</i>	350
	<i>Country Music</i>	359
	<i>The Tender Barbarians</i>	367
	<i>A Pearl at the Bottom of a Chasm</i>	376
10	Midcentury Modern	386
	<i>National Artists</i>	386
	<i>An Age-Old Checkerboard of Modernity</i>	396
	<i>Art of Another Kind</i>	402
	<i>The Brussels Style</i>	410
	<i>The Magician's Lantern</i>	417
	<i>If a Thousand Clarinets</i>	423
11	The Prague Spring	434
	<i>The King of May</i>	434
	<i>We Want Light, We Want More Light!</i>	445
	<i>It Starts with the Arts</i>	452
	<i>The Odium of Treason</i>	463
	<i>The First Torch</i>	474
12	Normalization and Its Discontents	487
	<i>Our Věra</i>	487
	<i>Liquidation of a Person</i>	494

X CONTENTS

<i>Splinters of Dreams</i>	504
<i>Home and Away</i>	516
<i>Notes from Underground</i>	524
<i>Largo Desolato</i>	534
Coda <i>Living in Truth</i>	545

Notes 557

Sources 653

Index 691