

new release from Frog Hollow Press



on the **OVEN** sits a **MAIDEN**

13 Poems

on Ján Kadár and Elmar Klos's
The Shop on Main Street
(*Obchod na Korza*)

by

ALEXANDRA OLIVER

Loosely based on Ladislav Grosman's short story "The Trap" (which was later modified by the author into both a literary and a shootingscript), Ján Kadár and Elmar Klos's 1965 film *The Shop on Main Street* (*Obchod na Korza*) tells the tale of a good-natured but unambitious (and tragically unaware) carpenter (Jozef Kroner), enlisted by his Hlinka Guardsman brother-in-law (Frantisek Zvarik) to commandeer the haberdashery of a deaf and senile Jewish widow (Ida Kaminskaya) in the capacity of Aryan Controller. It is widely viewed as one of the most lauded works in the history of Czechoslovakian film (it was the first in the country's history to win an Oscar) as well one of the most unconventionally effective cinematic treatments of events surrounding the Holocaust. As the catalyst for a suite of poems, the film appealed to me on a number of levels. Coming from a mixed Catholic-Jewish background, I found the subject matter—the persecution of Jews coupled with the complicity of Tiso's clerical fascist government—both arresting and disturbing. In terms of the impulses governing my practice, and how they might be represented stylistically, the chance to comment on Kadár and Klos's vision was too good an opportunity to pass up.

Table of Contents

Button Molder
Prologue: On the Oven
The Cranes
Essenc the Beagle, Steps Out
What Evelyn Likes
It Actually Shines
You'll Be Like My Own Son
I Look Like Chaplin
Five Proverb Samplers
What Does She Need Money For?
Mr. Katz Closes up
It's Either You Or Me
After Mrs. Lautmann
Epilogue: The White Butterfly
Afterword

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