

the familiar scent of humans. Run, she wakes up her mate, those are the hunters. And they both start fleeing, running through brush, they sprint across a field, through a tall forest, but the dog barking grows stronger.

The fox can't run any farther, she crouches in pine underbrush and pants heavily. Her tiny, cautious eyes stare at the direction of the oncoming dogs. Then she spots them, coming from multiple directions onto the clearing, hunters following after them. At that moment the fox is alone, her mate disappeared somewhere in the distance, and she's exhausted and overcome with terror. And then she reminds herself of the awful life in a cage and she gets up once more. She starts running, fleeing the vicious barking, fleeing the vision of a cage and a light bulb that shines motionless from the white ceiling. She runs up a steep hill, overcomes the ridge, and nearly tumbles down to a clear stream. The fox is now swimming downstream, knowing that the water will wash away all scent and thus confuse the dogs. After a few bends, she jumps out of the water and keeps running with the last of her strength, until she realizes that the barking of the dogs is no longer getting closer, the dogs really lost her scent. Only now does the silver fox lie down, exhausted, onto the moss, her body shaking. She thinks to herself that if she had stayed in the cage, nobody would be chasing her, she wouldn't have to flee aggressive dogs. But the fox knows that every day she spent free again meant more than all the days or even years she would have spent in the cage. And she thinks to herself, if the dogs were to catch her, she'd put up a fight. She'd rather be torn to pieces or shot by hunters than let them lock her in a cage, because life without freedom is really no life at all.

The author of more than forty novels, short-story collections, plays, and books of essays, **Ivan Klíma**, born in 1931 in Prague, has been richly awarded for his work, receiving the Magnesia Litera award and the Franz Kafka Prize, among other honors. Klíma's work has been translated into thirty-two languages.

Gabriela Benish-Kalná is a Czech-American photographer, activist and freelance translator. Born in Prague, Czech Republic, she's studied in Bohemia, Germany, and California, focusing her work on bi-cultural identity. Closely connected to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Gabriela has spent the past two years documenting the Indigenous-led #noDAPL movement and fight for clean water. Beginning University at UC Santa Cruz, she is now continuing her photography studies at the Prague Film Academy.

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The Price of Freedom, 2018
Watercolor on paper, 24 x 30 in



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