

# Contents

<b>Foreword by Milena Hübschmannová</b> .....	1
Translator's note .....	10
<b>My relatives</b>	
- I had a very good family .....	17
- How Mother came to Šariš .....	19
- What exactly is a <i>čedona</i> ? .....	24
- I wanted to live in love, like them .....	27
<b>Childhood and youth in Šariš</b>	
- The Roma of Šariš .....	33
- How we made a living .....	36
- A Rom is his own doctor .....	40
- The castle nobles .....	42
- How we ate and what we ate .....	44
- <i>Kalemardo</i> .....	45
- Christmas giving .....	47
- The butcher .....	48
- The grocer .....	49
- The prewar Communists .....	50
- Furniture polish .....	50
- Holidays .....	51
- The fairs .....	52
- Fun and jokes .....	54
- The mask .....	55
- The three-meter-tall bandit who wanted to steal our grandmother .....	57
- What the womenfolk pulled on the smugglers .....	58
- The Jews in our own Šariš .....	58
- The <i>mulo</i> .....	59
- Dreams .....	61
- Stories .....	62
- School .....	63
- The lady of Čachtice and the babbling brook .....	64
<b>Suitors, a wedding, at my mother-in-law's in Kapušany</b>	
- <i>Čhaja</i> – the girls .....	67
- Sunday with the girls .....	68
- My <i>pirano</i> .....	70
- A boy is born with a bow in his hand, a girl grows up with song .....	71
- Suitors .....	76
- How my sister Ema was married off .....	79
- How Marga got married .....	80

- My wedding and what kind of family I married into .....	81
- When I married into Kapušany .....	83

## **The Second World War**

- March 14, 1939 .....	87
- The Eržička .....	88
- The steamer .....	90
- Pačaj .....	91
- The transports .....	92
- Home defense training .....	93
- I went to complain .....	94
- Petič: the forced-labor camp .....	96
- Tobacco broth .....	100
- Jantotis .....	101
- Korpáš .....	102
- Kharasho .....	104
- At least let the children survive .....	106
- Maňa and Irenka .....	110
- The fiery rams .....	111
- Cina .....	112
- The curly-headed German .....	113
- There is no darkness not followed by the dawn .....	114

## **Performing with our Romani theater**

- The war was over .....	117
- Evička was born in the promised land – in Kladno .....	118
- An idea for a play is born .....	122
- Our first performance .....	127
- A hundred and six performances .....	127
- Everything has its end and life goes on .....	135

## **At the regional committee in Prešov, and working for the Roma in the settlements**

- You're an advanced Gypsy, comrade Lacko! .....	139
- You want to be an official? .....	143
- My heart drew me to the Gypsy settlements .....	146
- <i>Ochmančaka</i> .....	148
- What are you cooking in that pot? .....	153
- A member of the Red Cross among the high and mighty in Bratislava .....	156
- At President Gottwald's .....	159
- Dodu .....	159
- Like my own son .....	162
- Don't speak to those Gypsy children ... ..	165
- Grocery ration cards .....	166
- Just for fun .....	169
- A living bridge .....	170
- Why there was no cardboard for roofing .....	172
- Gypsy woman .....	175
- When a Rom becomes an official .....	176
- Laci Petalo .....	178

- An award .....	179
- What the citizens, Gypsy women, got out of the community meeting on health care .....	180
- The <i>bižužo</i> and the every-other-moon creature .....	181
- We don't want a Gypsy in our village .....	183
- You can get along even with dog-eaters .....	185
- Two cases of murder .....	187
- <i>Pišota</i> .....	190
<b>To Ústí nad Labem and my studies at the university</b>	
- To Ústí nad Labem .....	193
- The Black Czechs .....	196
- The first Gypsy woman at Charles University .....	197
- Hey you, Mommy, buy her a ring! .....	199
- My examinations .....	201
- Last stop: Lemešany .....	202
<b>Postscript</b>	
- I've been retired for fifteen years .....	205
- I've always been drawn to the Vlach Roma .....	207
- <i>Chundruľa</i> .....	210
<b>Map</b> .....	214
<b>Glossary of Romani words and explanations</b> .....	215
<b>Guide to pronunciation</b> .....	221
<b>List of illustrations</b> .....	223