Tŷ y Pobl **Volkshaus** Chi a'n Bobel Narodni dom Ledowi dodóm The Feople's House



# HOW TO FIND HOME?

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From "Creative Writing" in Daruvar, Croatia, facilitated by Demi Anter. October 2025.

## Questions

What is this place? Am I at the right address? Why do I suddenly feel nostalgic? Who are these people? Are they lonely? How long does it take to feel at home? Are there few people here, or is the town square just too big? Is it just the right size for its ghosts? How long does it take to leave a home? Does the driving school make a profit? Where do the nuns live? What vegetables are they growing? How do Croatians feel about their neighbors? Do people appreciate each other? What makes this town special? Is it right to enjoy indoor smoking? And dark humor is best, right? But what do the birds feel? Why are the cars silent? How long does it take to make a new home? Isn't it weird to leave a beautiful place behind?

zakai je tako mrzlo? A allan vy lowsel bernewek yn Crontia? A des gra wit holdwh heb madhevant P De ce mi-e dor de casa, dacá mexeu vreau sa plec? Moze Kaszébóm umávic co le badz? And when we're home in... Un Dac tri sztére Sase sedem Naw

how long until we forget to notice?



I know you see me dream a little blue

feel my rough hands

smell my unwashed hair

hear my laughter—broken and ugly

and I see you

and the nights we could've been two

the cat fur on your socks

the hangover mornings

sometimes grotesque

we're miserable

the bed remembers where I lay I echo the halls of your sleep

feel the sheets crumble

the cotton melting in old dreams

and I'm too deep in thought to sleep but you're too sleepy to get up

you long for the sea but you're cold

you cry for help

even the mold in the walls pities you

and the birds are exhausted

'cause you won't let them sing

'cause you closed the window

you're just a dream

and the wind stopped blowing

you're vain

you're mean

i see navy blue in you

the sadness

'cause I'm also just a dream I won't judge you anyway

and the hoodie you hold like armour

the stained one that says

"i need a hug and 6 months of sleep"

you still wear it so poetic in your ruin

your melancholy your improvised fringe they remind me that

we are equal

the world is terrified of us, knight

we're mean

we're vain

we're just a dream

you're still blue

and your friend's cry won't bring you joy

cause you

or cigarettes

fading in spaces that live in between

you're just my dream



#### Dear diary,

Is it my family's warmth?
Is it really? Is it worth?

earlier today I was walking by the port, admiring the beautiful bay of Trieste. Opening the Narodni doms door, holding my mothers hand, I could feel the concrete under my shoes soften... A question came to mind. Does it have a meaning? The earth beneath my feet? Is it dirt? The mud I used to play with as a little explorer? The crusty jarina, where I took my first steps? The freshly cut grass in my backyard, or the smell of the flowers my neighbour waters every morning? Is it the everlasting trees, the ones that fill my lungs when I'm out of breath? Is it their branches, that touch the sky? Do they reach my heart? Do they reach my eyes? Is it their roots, the veins of our planet? Is earth the city noise? Or the countryside silence? Or is it my voice? Is earth the melody of my vocal cords? The vowels, the words, the familiar conversations? Is earth my language, my land, my nation? Is earth a feeling?

Is earth mums hug when I cry? "Mum, what's happening? Are we about to die?" Is earth suffocation? Or is it the smoke coming in the room? Is earth domination? Or is it the fuely poisonous fire, devouring my corpse? Is this hell? Is earth hell? Who did this to us? Why did we die? Why did no one help us? Could've we survived? Did we end like this? Is this a lie? In our Narodni dom? V naši hiši? In our home? Did you kill me? Did you destroy my home? Did you end my parents, my brothers, my soul? You killed my knowledge, you killed my treasure.

You killed my language,

you killed my nation.



#### NO LANGUAGE NO NATION

Bez jezika, nema naroda.
Bez jazyka, nemí naroda.
Nu există limbă, nu există națiune.
Keine Sprache, keine Nation.
Intet sprog, ingen nation.
Cenedl heb iaith cenedl heb galon.
Den heb tavas a gollas y dir.
Bez jezyka nie ma narodu.
Bez jăzeka ni ma nârodu.
Hep yejk, brocal abet.
Pas de langue, pas de nation.
Brez jezika, ni naroda.
Senza lingua, non ce nazione.

Moje gore, moje gore.

My mountains, my mountains.

Radožive, že od zore,

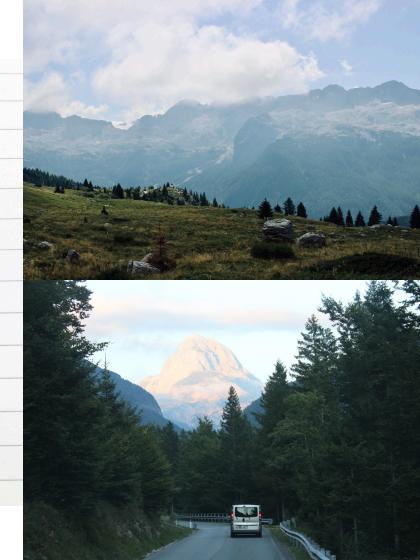
glowing in the morning sunshine.

Moje gore, moje gore.

My mountains, my mountains.

Ko zaide S:D:NCE moje,

they're my tender sumrise.



home has the load Sings of heir something but where Can't identify , 1 sof now asweets now the mining Gingko tree feel. The middle of powhere within the of everywhere when you we in Fornwall. Take a Stank over If Past the blackbarries, our loca smet But be carefull where you neath you feet grant Stopes whe Degre laidaste à quiet void, colors of 11 & Maining an estate. luys ad gas dynamph. But perhap

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eassuring about unpoduced of the will have

the inland townwell of the local will have A proverb says, "A true man should plant a tree, build a house and raise a son." Antun may not have met the last requirement, but he surely built a house and planted a tree. And that's been really successful – otherwise I couldn't watch these today. But, I shall start the story from somewhere else.

Entering Antun's park in Daruvar feels almost like freeing yourself from time. The sun makes the views seem like a movie frame. Green grass and trees help to soothe the nerves of restless people. Not fully maintained gate, garden plinths and the statue attract my attention. Nearby, the monument dedicated to the memory of fighters for communist ideals during World War II is standing still – athletic men holding their rifles in a gesture of victory – even if they died before achieving it. One odd thing is that instead of candles or bouquets, I found trash under the pedestal. Who did this? Why did they do this? I don't expect a deeper motivation, but it really makes me think about national remembrance.

National remembrance which seems to vary greatly over the 50 years. The park is home to another a place of commemoration – a concrete-stone gazebo, pillars of which are filled with names of the defenders of the town from the Yugoslav Wars. It's well-kept and neat – some candles are still burning (someone must have lit them recently). Most of the people remembered there would be around 60

years old if they hadn't been killed. The proximity of time probably forces people to venerate them, one would rather honor one's father, husband or brother than a great-grandfather. In my opinion, however, the apotheosis of the historical memory of this place is not contained in these monuments. I seek it in the Antun's tree.

Ginkgo is an Asian species, brought to Europe not long before - it might have been the first tree of its kind in Croatia. Imported, just like the Czechs, Serbs, Jews, or Antun himself. He was a foreigner – the tree reflects his alienness. It used to be a small sapling standing in front of a trendy, charming baroque palace Antun had built. Witnessing the immigrants becoming natives, its small twigs turned into mighty branches. Antun died, so did all his family. Tito's partisans died, so did the soldiers from the 90s. And yet the tree reigns over the area, it doesn't exalt, but everyone knows that it's the one. I can't resist climbing it (which I might be not supposed to), old and beautiful, grasping the mossy logs. I have dirt in the pores of my hands and cobwebs get stuck in my hair. I'm soaking up nature and history.

Being outside of time, everyday worries knock and bang to my door, but they have to wait, because I need to tell a few words first:

"Antun, you're indeed a true man."

## Bal

Pón Midas pòszedł na bal, bónerków tam nie przedôwôł, wino pił i sznaps téż béł, to dało pëszną zôbawã.

W krācëszkù, zgwarze, tuńcëkach, w głowie cepło sã zaczāło: grużdżił sã, zwrôcôł përznã, w zalë rokòkò nastało.

Wzãlë pana, bë szedł rum! Stoją zestëdłé sztaturë, Złoté scanë, nawet strop, mòżni jak w banie Hitlera.

W dzele architekturë leno niedoszłi do se chłop, a wkół złotô pòmiéra, biwszi ósmé cëdo swiata.

Kò nen detal, kò nen łisk, atmòsfera, wôrtnosc, skala! A pón Midas dëcht nick, z żalu leżi dót na zalë...

### Ball

Sir Midas went to a ball, Charming the ladies, he won them all, He drank wine, and schnapps was there, This sparked a merry affair.

In chatter, dance, and revelry,
His head began to warm with glee:
He stumbled, turned with flair,
A rococo scene filled the air.

They took the man to kick him out! The statues stood, all stiffly stout, Golden walls, even the ceiling, Like Hitler's golden train reeling.

In the work of architecture,
Only this lad fell short, poor creature,
Surrounded by golden splendor,
Outshone, the eighth world's wonder.

Oh, that detail, oh, that gleam,
The atmosphere, the worth, the dream!
But sir Midas, dead from grief,
Lies lifeless now, beyond relief...



Ti'n gwybod da ni gyd yn siarad Cymraeg yma Take pride, you know we all speak Welsh here We live in a spectacular place, just look how how the tourists are moving here

Bod yn diolchgar Be grateful For Broken glass

For Poverty
For plenty of drugs
The stench of our Welsh slaughterhouse gently
wafting through the air

Uffar o le del Hell of a pretty place

Our beautiful Welsh farms, the smell is in your classroom, it's in your eyes, it's everywhere, on everything

Our children have no park Burned and destroyed, not once but twice

Our filthy river full of broken shopping carts, broken from the start

Hungry children, gaunt and pale

Blue school clothes now grey and worn ragged

But wow what a coastline, they envy us you know Ymfalchiwch

We have small grey houses just perfect for our small grey lives

Iceland for us, Waitrose for them

Ymfalchiwch |

Prison or poverty, take your pick washi

Owain Glynd r is at the job centre

Llywelyn ein llyw olaf is on his knees cleaning their AirBnB

Gareth Bale, oh what a hero! Adrodd, Eisteddfodau, Da ni yma o hyd

But why aren't you proud!
You are our future, everything depends on you
You know, we all can speak Welsh here
Peidiwch â gadael!
Don't leave!

Ymfalchiwch Take pride
Ymfalchiwch Take Pride
Ymfalchiwch Take Pride

# Cornish (17) Daruvar

Autumn began in Daruvar.

We were welcomed here by the Czech minority under tiled roofs and the gentle descent of leaves. We savoured the sunshine 

//machow/ ow Splanna./ But aware of the changing breeze on our cheeks

Meur ras dhewgh hwi Kothmans. Yma lowen dhyn dhe vos omma.

We are told that Cornish won't take us anywhere. "It's a dead language". Mes do I look like a zombie? Unable to travel free.

Eus bewnans ragon ni?

Yma! There must be life. If we

Kowse! in the yeth every dydh

Especially in the tavern

Welsh, Cornish & Bretons together
Brythonic humor doesn't seem to matter
Here in a bar beside Balkan blasphemy.

We breathe. A little easier.

Even amongst the cigarette smoke.

Hag... yma pintys rag 3 euro 20!

Gwra eva Korev The locals say it's good for you.

I sit on my stool. Piggy in the middle.

Cymru to the gledh. Breizh to the dyghow.

England isn't my home.

Across the street, a statue.

A plinth for bronze rifles.

Our Pan-keltek revolution not yet realised ties with its nostalgic ties.

Writers may say "my language is a weapon"

But in Daruvar, on the lawn, there are no metaphors.

Weapons are weapons.

So here we are, the next generation.

Organising ourselves for National Liberation
But I ask apprehensively, how do you feel?

Violence in the struggle will take time to heal.

Today in Daruva we came under one roof.
A house of nations - living proof.
To find our next steps, solidarity calls.
Like the seasons we may change
But we stand together, Onon has Oll.

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