

# ĆAJA

Dobriła Franetović Kuzmić

# PA<sup>1</sup>

trans. by Mirna Čudić

Ćaja,  
kad mislin nã te  
òpèt san màli  
pristràšeni štić.

Svè ti svojè griže,  
gropè i mrkìnte  
klãjdèn nã prsi.

Sedìn ti na kolina,  
glèdãn tvojù  
kapitãnsku kãpu  
i znãn,  
da si bì  
nãjlipji kãpo  
na svitù.

Pa,  
whenever I think of you,  
I once again become a  
frightened little bird.

All my rocks,  
knots, and crags  
I lay upon your chest.

Sitting on your knees,  
I look at your  
captain's cap  
and I know  
that you were  
the handsomest *kapo*<sup>2</sup>  
in the world.

## RJEČNIK

ćaja	tata, tatica
štić	ptičica
griža	kamen, stijena u krševitu kraju
mrkinta	hrid, izbrazdan oštar kamen uz more
klajdat	stavljati
sediti	s jediti
kapo	upravitelj stroja

1. An old-fashioned hypocoristic for 'father': 'dad', 'daddy'.  
2. A Croatian dialectal expression (Italian loanword *capo di macchina*) for 'chief engineer', a person in charge of a ship's engine room and its equipment.