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NOVI LEPTIRI · NEW BUTTERFLIES
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NOVI LEPTIRI · NEW BUTTERFLIES

Translation of the Poems

The poems were written by the Serbian poet Duška Kisin (born 1966). The translation reads as follows:

I

u frižideru
džem od šumskih jagoda
čami načet

II

na kućnom pijaninu
domaći mačak
šapicama prebira jednu etidu
misli postaće zvezda

III

zagrlj drvo
ne haj što već je več
svici dolaze
novi leptiri

I

in the refrigerator
an open wild strawberry jam jar
waits alone

II

on the home upright piano
a domestic cat
with little paws picks an etude
thinking of becoming a star

III

hug the tree
don't worry it's the evening already
fireflies are coming
new butterflies

Serbian Pronunciation Guide

The pronunciation of the Serbian language is fairly simple. With a few exceptions, every letter is always pronounced the same way, no matter what precedes or follows:

A	[a]	as a in car
B	[b]	as b in business
C	[ts]	always as ts in nuts ; never as <i>c</i> in <i>car</i>
Č	[tʃ]	as ch in church
Ć	[tɕ]	as ch in church , but softer; if in doubt, you may well pronounce it as the letter above
D	[d]	as d in dig
DŽ	[dʒ]	as J in John
Đ or DJ	[dʒ]	as J in John , but softer; if in doubt, you may well pronounce it as the letter above
E	[ɛ]	as e in let
F	[f]	as f in feel
G	[g]	always as g in game
H	[x]	as h in help
I	[i]	as ea in east
J	[j]	as y in year ; never as <i>J</i> in <i>John</i>
K	[k]	as k in kettle
L	[l]	as l in love
LJ	[ʎ]	as lli in million , or as gl in Italian article gli
M	[m]	as m in mouse
N	[n]	as n in nephew
NJ	[ɲ]	as ni in onion , or as gn in Italian bagno
O	[ɔ]	as au in autumn
P	[p]	as p in put
R	[r]	as r in rice ; when between consonants (eg drvo , zagri , meaning <i>tree</i> and <i>hug</i>), it should be sung as schwa [ə] with [r] at the end of the syllable, like one would sing <i>first</i> or <i>bird</i> in English, ie, dər-ʋə , za-gər-li
S	[s]	always as s in sound ; never as <i>s</i> in <i>busy</i>
Š	[ʃ]	as sh in shoe
T	[t]	as t in time
U	[u]	as oo in cool
V	[v]	as v in verb
Z	[z]	as z in zealous
Ž	[ʒ]	as s in pleasure