

Miha Pintarič
WANDER TO A WONDER
A Poetic Itinerary in Slovenia

illustrated by Luka Kravanja

There is something obvious about this volume which you are about to buy. It is not written in Slovenian, although it is a Slovenian book: published, as you can see, in Ljubljana and sent into the world by a Slovenian author. Why? The reason is simple: the book aims to reach a foreign reading public without excluding Slovenian readers. Most Slovenians speak English, and few English people speak Slovenian. Most foreign visitors to Slovenia, meanwhile, can get by in English fairly well. So the book will hopefully keep all these potential readers happy.

One more thing. This is a gnostic book and shares insider knowledge about several Slovenian tourist destinations. If you have a keen observing eye, you may notice some of them. This book will help you. (If you do not know what ‘gnostic’ means, do not worry. Neither do I.)

The Author

Fly-in

(N. B.: Slovenia does have an airport.)



Brnik Airport

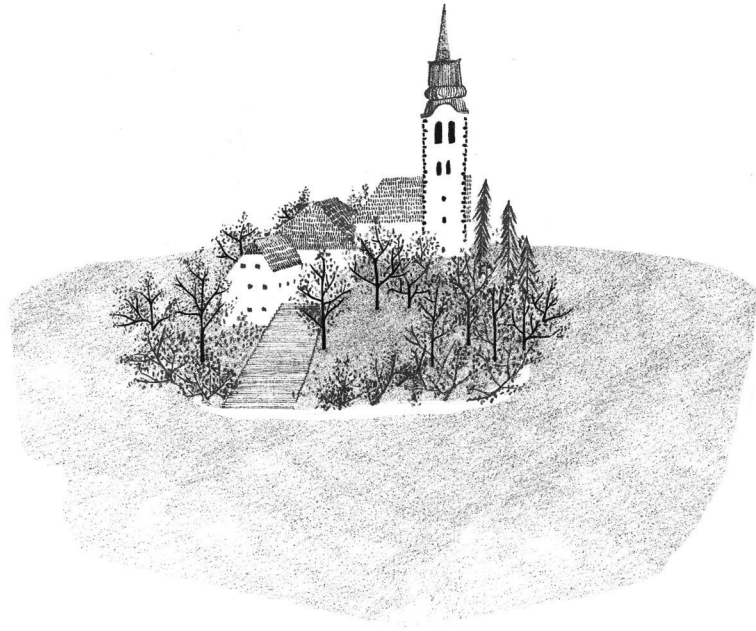
Long before the brothers Wright,
here the sky was full, by night,
of traffic jams and flashing light,
broomsticks rushing left and right.

Today, on rare occasions
we still get weird invasions.
But where do weirdos live out there?
We're the weirdos now – beware!

Wonders of Nature, Blunders of Man

Bled

There is an island in the sun
when mists lift up into the sky,
it is the size of a small bun,
a church... But, oh! See Bled and die.



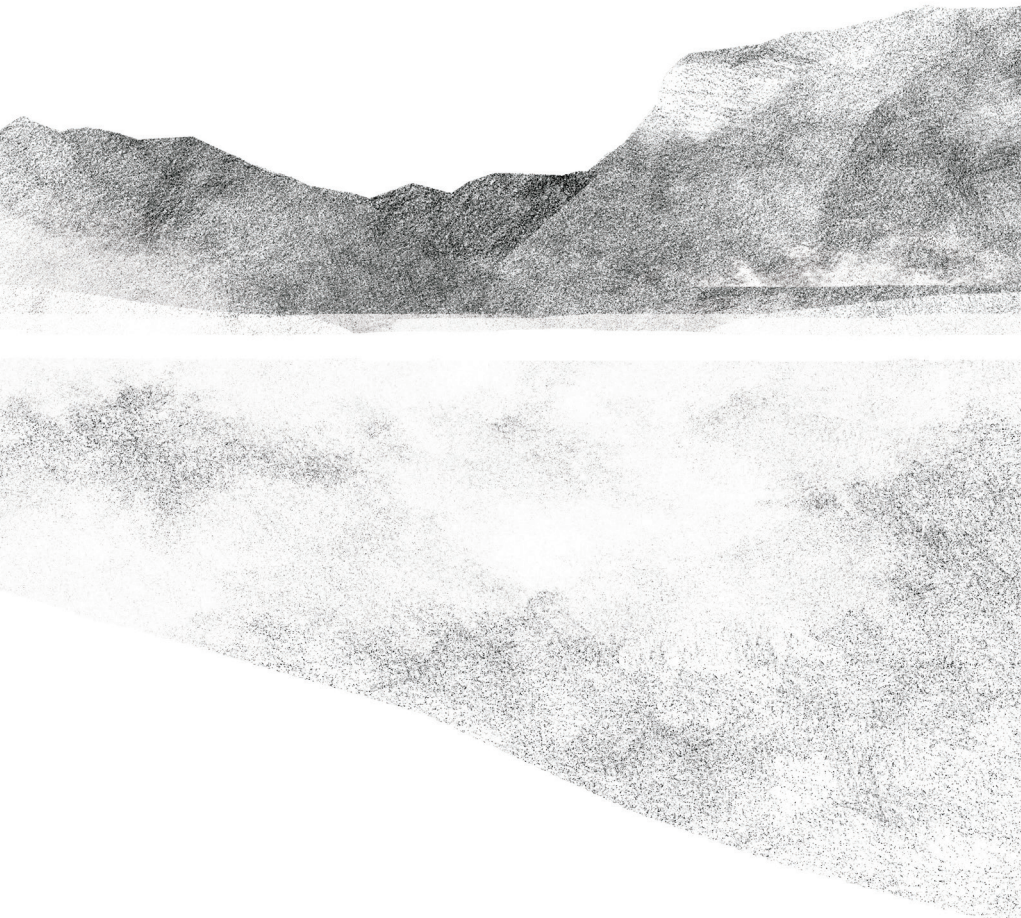
Bled Romantic

There are still romantic places
undisclosed to common eyes;
Bled will shelter your embraces,
treasure memories of your sighs.

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Any place will do, a lawn, bench, boat,
how many love when the urge pushes
or get romantic when afloat,
then sport themselves in the bushes.





Lake Bohinj

This place must be a destination
where Beauty comes on her vacation! –
No. For Beauty, like the Pope in Rome,
has taken Bohinj for her home.

For Beauty thought: »Happy are those
who of so many places chose
this Alpine paradise on earth
to bless it with their love and mirth!«

Complaining cut short Beauty's bliss;
there she was trespassing, no doubt,
before she knew what went amiss,
from Bohinj she was grunted out.

Yet she returned, rain-clad and grey,
to shine but seldom, like a star
fed up with hearing bored clouds say:
»We're good enough just as we are.«

The people of Bohinj are renowned for their 'character'.



The Waterfalls of Slovenia

Malta is renowned for churches,
Russia is replete with birches,
Finland has a thousand lakes,
Greece boasts temples on its islands,
Scotland, fur cows in the Highlands,
self-producing porridge cakes.

In Slovenia, unknown, small,
and hardly a tourist attraction,
from each rock a waterfall
gushes out when rain is in action.



Triglav, the National Emblem

Three-headed dragons used to haunt
Carniolan mounts and valleys,
now, in Slovenia, heads don't count,
our monster has three bellies.

Two in waiting, one in action,
should they bring another trough
for immediate inspection,
one belly wouldn't be enough.

The beast is called both Fraud and Theft,
its watchword goes »Yours can be mine«,
give it a... Look! Its foot is cleft!
Don't panic, it is just a swine.