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Secret Zagreb

SECRET ZAGREB BOOK CLUB QUEST

Chapter: Lower Town

by Secret Zagreb



7 "It can be erased without a second thought."

MIROSLAV KRLEŽA (1893. - 1981.)

Near this square, there are many literary memories. You passed the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography, which explains the quote – it is found all over Krleža's comments on encyclopedia entries. Croatian National Theatre has, since its founding, staged plays by Croatian authors, including Krleža. Over there, the Kavkaz cafe was a favourite meeting spot for writers. But first, let's pause next to this sculpture by Ivan Meštrović to check whether you know how to read.



8 "If you want others to cry, dear poet, you must cry first."

You've found a piece of art by Frano Kršinić – a monument to a writer on a pedestal made of marble from his birthplace, the Kvarner region. You would hate to feature in the 'love' stories from his harsh novels. In real life, the writer was happily in love. We know this because, as the saying goes, the way to a person's heart is through their stomach, and his wife, Marija, also a writer, wrote *The New Zagreb Cookbook*. Published by Kugli, of course.



1 "Be still, be still, my heart"

PETAR PRERADOVIĆ (1818. - 1872.)

Start at the square named after a poet. Nearby is a street with the same name. If you need further proof of how much Petar meant to Croatians, his funeral was among the most spectacular in Zagreb's history. His daughter, Paola, inherited his gift for poetry. Paola's verses (certainly), together with Mozart's music (probably), form the Austrian national anthem.



2 "I will die tonight of beauty"

TIN UJEVIĆ (1891. - 1955.)

How could anyone remain indifferent to the powerful verses of the eternal boho? If you had lived in his time, you might have met him on these streets, and he might have slipped you a poem scribbled on a napkin from the nearby tavern, Blato. Nearby, you can find busts of two sisters. It is lesser known that one of the sisters also wrote poetry.



3

We will only tell you that his friends called him *Mačica* (Kitten). As for the verses, you'll have to find them yourself. Ask a local what they mean if you need help.



4

A bookstore and stationery shop stood in the same place in Ilica Street for more than 130 years. It all started with the legendary Kugli bookstore. Stjepan Kugli joined forces with several other entrepreneurs and, in 1896, opened the store that soon became a lively meeting place. Let's meet at Kugli's, flip through magazines, catch up on the latest news, and browse inviting editions, maps, postcards... There is even a chance we'll run into Ujević, since he often visits the former Corso coffeehouse across the street. Only memories now remain of Kugli and his bookstore.



5 "Spacious sky stands proud and bright, for light and grace upon it stay, yet if there weren't stars in sight, all'd be lost in darksome grey."

ANDRIJA KAČIĆ MIOŠIĆ (1704. - 1760.)

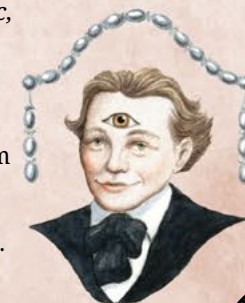
These verses are so pleasing to the ear! At least that was the case three centuries ago, when Andrija drew inspiration from folk history and eternalised it in verse. His famous work, *Pleasant Conversation of the Slavic People*, reached even those who couldn't read, thanks to its appealing rhythm. It was commonly passed by word of mouth. And still, it remained the most published book of its time in these parts.



6 "No one has the duty to bring light to moles."

MILAN ŠUFFLAY (1838. - 1881.)

Eamon O'Leigh was Milan's pen name, which he used for the novel *Pacific, 2255*. Many consider it the first Croatian SciFi novel, but they also agree it lacks smooth storytelling. That is a pity, because it offers unusual visions of the future - from exploring ideas of genderlessness and climate change to a world turning toward Far-Eastern values.



9 "When you are happy, even the sun rushes to follow you."

IVANA BRLIĆ MAŽURANIĆ (1874. - 1938.)

Mažuranić Square is named after three members of the famous family. But Ivana, the one who drew the most attention, is not among them. For a while, *Mažuranac* was the main gathering spot for punk and alternative scenes. Quite fitting, as Ivana was her family's true punk, challenging male literary dominance through her writing. While her male peers dismissed women writers, Ivana embraced children's literature, an area others ignored. And that is how she rose to the very top of Croatian literature.



10 "Of Judith most holy the praises shall I sing, And of her noble deed the tale I forth shall bring."

MARKO MARULIĆ (1450. - 1524.)

Many Croatians know by heart the first verses of the first Croatian artistic epic poem. As this walk concludes, we reach the man who started it all – the Father of Croatian Literature. Three editions in eighteen months? Such was the demand when Marulić's *Judith* appeared in 1521. There is good news for those of us with an unpublished manuscript in a drawer: Marulić completed *Judith* in 1501, but it was 20 years before the masterpiece was published. We just need to be patient!



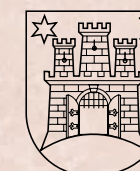
For those who want to know more



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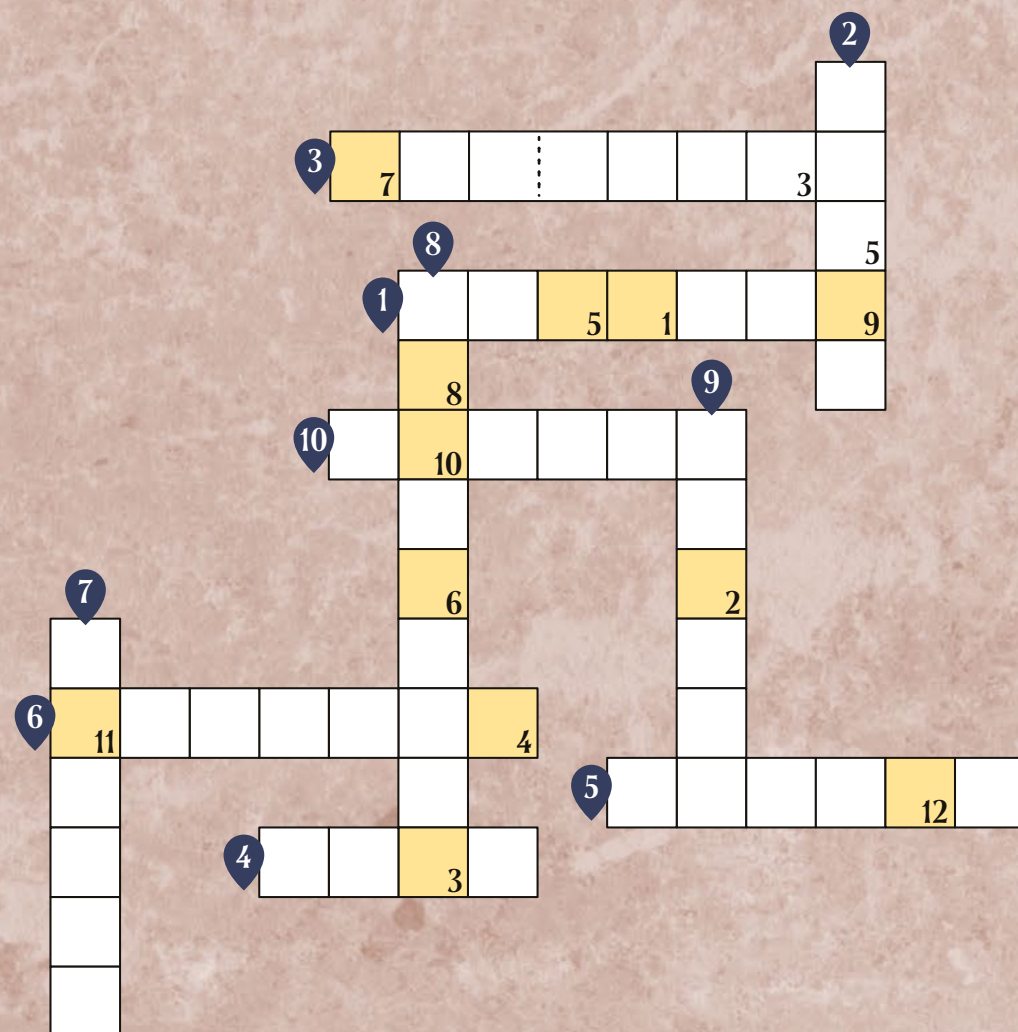
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"Secret Zagreb Book Club Quest – Chapter: Lower Town" was supported by the City of Zagreb.

How to play

Find the ten locations. They hide answers to riddles.
It's not hard. All you have to do is – read!



Send the correct solution to info@secret-zagreb.com for
20% discount on Secret Zagreb tours and activities.

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