

he lights then a cigarette to cheer himself up
he chews on it between his teeth like an ox chewing hay in May

buys a coffee goes out of the bar cannot find any peace
runs up to the door of Menco the baker

from there he gazes out on the road the four giants took
watches them to the Arcaleni turn-off then takes a step inside and
knocks on Maria's door

and if Maria is back he finds peace again right away
he does not think of the four greats because he likes Maria more

DEAREST THRUSHES

dearest thrushes on your way back to your country
make a circle around Tuscany
because that's where all the traps of the world are made

electric calls
and limed twigs
are set to get thousands of you in each roundup

have trust in me
I am setting you on a safe course
since by nature I am honest

therefore as you reach the top
of that mountain which is called Montanina, do a left
if you don't want to lose your lives

the road leads to Marzano, there
you can rest without fear
the inhabitants of that high place are all down in the plains

but be very careful you do not make the wrong turn
or you will end up in Caspignano
that ravenous valley

inhabited by the Tormentoni brothers
and the Nebbias
who will capture binfuls of you little thrushes

as you go on you will get to Roccagnano
a priestless parish but for the Boari brothers
always with rifles in their hands

further on
there lie Toppo—Vena—Valle—Castro
where one hundred hunters wouldn't be the half of them

still further out
as I've been saying
lies your worst enemy

it's your ancient cemetery at Fiorano
with the Camparinis and the hangman of Toricella
who will have caught you, need I add, in crossfire.

THE FLOWER OF NO SMELL IS SPEAKING

I do not feel ungraced in any way
if, unlike other flowers, I give no smell

nature made me this way
by rooting me onto the branch of a tree

I live on mountain heights
and am washed only by rains

I am always fresh, never down
the hard frost does not touch my crown

in the month of December I yield goodly fruit
not to be eaten but to serve as a gift