

## “A mate, Pacheco...”

by Susana Pujol

tr. Molly Weigel

—A mate, Pacheco.  
Yes, my Brigadier.

—Ah...the country of apple trees...  
The water flows sweetly here...all so green...

—Ne u quén...cou nt ry of ap ple trees...

Huidobro spoke of the country of the Ranqueles, Brigadier...

—Aha...but here the sun slips down through the hollows, they say... and  
the apples poison themselves...

I don't know...it must be...the mountain gets angry with the intrusions...  
said the old man...

—Some little apples...from the heart of the mountain...these Indian  
women with firm skin...no, Pacheco?

Do you think the mountain will get angry, Brigadier?

### THE COLORADO ENCAMPMENT Campaign to the Desert/September 1838/1983

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*Mate* is a South American green tea with twice the caffeine of coffee. Neuquén is a province to the southwest of Buenos Aires that comprises the high mountains of the Andes and the northwest limit of the pampa. The Ranqueles were an Araucani tribe that formerly inhabited the area of the present-day province of Neuquén.

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—Un mate, Pacheco.\Sí, mi Brigadier.\—Ah... el país de los manzanos...\Corre el agua  
lindo aquí... todo tan verde...\—Ne u quén... pa ís de los man za nos...\Huidobro hablaba  
del país de los ranqueles, Brigadier...\—Aha... Pero aquí el sol se descuelga por las  
cañadas, dicen... y las manzanas se envenenan...\No sé... ha de ser... la montaña se enoja  
con los intrusos... dijo el viejo...\—Unas manzanitas... del corazón de la montaña... estas  
indias de piel dura... ¿no, Pacheco?\Usté cree que la montaña se ha de enojar, Brigadier?\  
CAMPAMENTO DEL COLORADO\Campaña al Desierto /setiembre de 1838/1983