

# ARS GRATIA ARTIS

UNIVERSITY OF BIHAĆ - PEDAGOGICAL FACULTY - DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
FOURTH-YEAR STUDENTS' E-ZINE ("ART FOR ART'S SAKE")

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Spain, 1925. Ernest Hemingway with a group of friends he later immortalised in *The Sun Also Rises*:  
Lady Duff Twysden, Hadley Hemingway, Harold Loeb, Pat Guthrie and Michael Gelen.

## NO TITLE

Bachelor? Yes, forever bachelor! But only in the sense that a master's degree is out of my budget.

My father was educated in the old school system. He lived in a world where a man with a college degree was rare and his future secured. The world has changed. He didn't. So he taught me that education is the most important thing in life. And experience taught me that a lot of people with college degrees nowadays end up frying burgers. Or in the best case scenario making čevapi.

I was also encouraged to study what I love. I had the fortune to enjoy things that are not profitable. And the misfortune to think I can make them a profession.

Education now just feels like a waste of time and money. A lot of my high school friends already have decent jobs. While I wasted time on education they were building a career. And almost none of my friends who graduated from the same college as I soon will work in our profession.

Modern slavery. Those who have hope can endure far more exploitation. Now education just feels like false hope given to the common man that he has a chance of a better life if he tries hard.

Mass production of workforce surplus. Elitist post-graduate community. But hey, false hope is better than no hope. Placebo is sometimes the right medicine. No choice but to work hard and hope for the best. And if one day you personally have enough to change something, don't change the rims on your car.

**Nermin Vukalić**

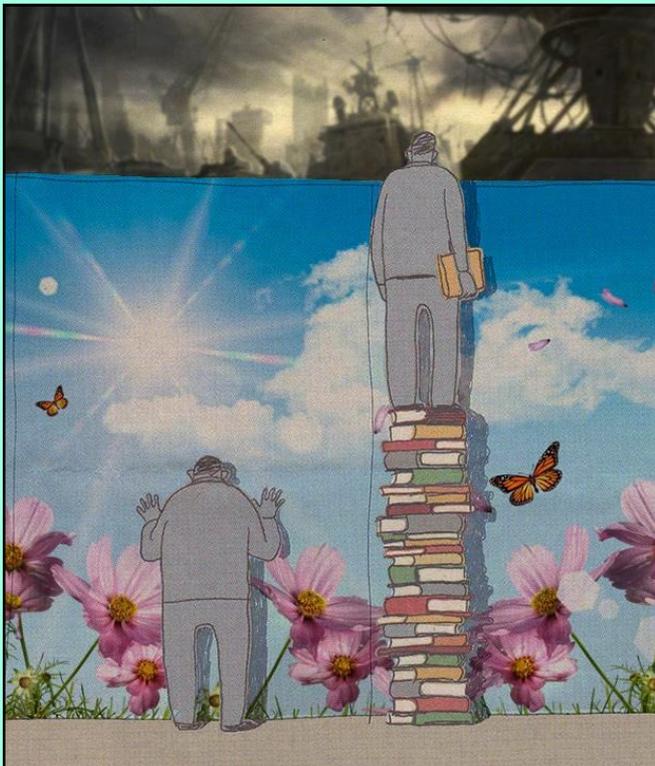


## WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

Happiness! Somehow, when we hear this word, most of us automatically connect it with these notions: fortune; exciting, rich life; a never ending smile on our faces; and having everything you ever dreamed. Well, that's not quite right.

First of all, being happy is not all about having lots of money, having material goods such as cars, big houses and other countless material things. Think a little – are all those rich and famous truly happy? Not quite. They are more likely to do some bad things than other, not-so-rich people. They are so fed up with the things they already have. When people don't have to work hard for anything, they are usually bored. They will probably try to take drugs, start gambling and other sorts of addiction. One „ordinary“, hard working person would rarely think of those things.

Laughing out loud all the time and having everything just the way you want is also not necessary to be happy. You are only a human being, and it is safe to say that you will have ups and downs. They make the rhythm of our life less monotonous. Being hurt is what it means to be alive, being sad is part of what it means to be happy. The words of one song say, *„In each tear there's a lesson, makes you wiser than before, makes you stronger than you'll know.“*





What I want to say is that it is entirely normal to feel blue sometimes. And if you do feel bad, remember that every cloud has a silver lining.

Next, only if you have everything you ever wanted will make you happy. False. If you could really have everything you dreamed of – where is the sense of dreaming and wishing? It's our dreams and goals that keep us moving on. Having your every wish come true may seem like a solution, but then you'll be even more deprived and sad, because you wouldn't have nothing to wish for, hope and pray for.

To sum up, there is no golden rule or general recipe for happiness. It's all in one's head. You already have it in you. All you need is to find your way to it. You have to be happy because of the things you have now, in this moment. If you can be happy with what you have, and who you are, then, well done. You are on your way to reach the stars. The fact is – you are not born like a winner or like a loser – only you decide what you are going to be.

**Adisa Osmanagić**

## Confession of a Misunderstood Villain

Vector! It's an amazing name, don't you think? Well, I do! And, I thought of it myself! A long time ago I was awfully bored, how couldn't I be? My name was Victor. Victor? Who names a kid (perfectly capable of great adventures) Victor? Once I calculated the opportunities a new CREATIVE name could give me, I stopped at nothing!

You must be amazed by my first impression as well. Who had ever thought of wearing pyjamas all the time and deceiving people that it is a gym suit? Who has ever known maths as well as I do and made a whole performance out of a simple line as vector? Who here has a shark in his living room, who? Not Gru, I can tell you for sure. And yet he is the despicable one. And what is with all the yellow talking monsters?! But, anyways, this is not a story I wanted to tell.

Here comes the confession of a damaged soul, the one that dreamt nothing but *her...* a soul that ended up being totally misunderstood. The story is not recommended for people allergic to love. In case of any cardiovascular disease contact your doctor or shrink.

I, Vector, an arrow with both directions and magnitude, will confess why I tried to steal the moon from a man who stole the moon. A girl, beautiful girl, named Luna, made me do it! She did! I swear! Being a sexy beast, as I am, was enough to seduce her, but to persuade her that I was a keeper... OMG! How she gave me headaches! But she, oh, she was Cinderella before her midnight transformation. One could almost say she was Belle, but I could never be the Beast! Long story short, she was worth it and I just needed to figure out how to put a ring on her precious finger. Then, it came to me; if you give a moon to a moon, you become *the one*, instantly! But I was not a main protagonist with three little orphans and hundreds of yellow creatures that still freak me out. I lost a giant glowing ball, the girl and, what is most important, my dignity. She was the only one who knew the secret about my dear pyjamas, and, guess what, the whole world knows it now! Like it wasn't enough that those three annoying girls already suspected! All that I am left with is this tiny toilet and a broken heart. But mark my words; payback is yet to come.

**Edina Latić**

## YOUNIVERSE

Good evening. In today's news: Earth, and what happened to it?

The universe begins 118 kilometres above your head! Yet, down under that line, things have gone a bit... well, wrong.

They are all equal, them humans. That's what they were always being told, what they were made to believe. Yet some were more equal than others, and the rest God made to fill his quota. They had the whole wide world to themselves, but they sold nature for the sake of progress; given enough rope, they ended up hanging themselves. But that didn't really matter all that much as long as they believed that, as long as they were not going backwards, it was still considered progress!

Something always needed to be done, the status quo either sucked or it didn't. They were afraid of change, but they were also afraid of things staying the same. They wanted results and they wanted them immediately, not realizing that the very process of doing anything *was* the result. The truth is that the solutions to many of their problems were simple, they just weren't easy.

They all liked peace but never did anything about it. They were disgusting, them humans. Not disgusting like vomit or vanity; think on the scale of genocide, nuclear weapons and concentration camps, think wars. Everything they hated and everything they loved had been created by their kind and it was destroyed by their negligence and indifference. But did they want change? Yes? No? Maybe? „Maybe“ is just a polite „no“!

But the Earth is still round, no matter where you stand. *Not only are we all in the same boat, but we are all seasick.*<sup>1</sup> And it is true what someone said that we are

dead much longer than we are alive, our existence is temporary and our nonexistence - permanent. That was also their excuse.

Regarding today's news, Henry Miller<sup>2</sup> said that „*The universe has dwindled; it is only a block long and there are no stars, no trees, no rivers. The people who live here are dead; they make chairs which other people sit on in their dreams. In the middle of the street is a wheel and in the hub of the wheel a gallows is fixed. People already dead are trying frantically to mount the gallows, but the wheel is turning too fast...*“

This has been the review of the humankind. That's all for today's news of the planet Earth. Enjoy the rest of your evening.

**Jasna Vuković**

1) G.K.Chesterton was an English writer. He wrote on philosophy, ontology, poetry, plays, journalism, public lectures and debates, literary and art criticism, biography, Christian apologetics, and fiction, including fantasy and detective fiction. Chesterton is often referred to as the "prince of paradox".

2) Henry Valentine Miller was an American writer and painter. He was known for breaking with existing literary forms and developing a new sort of "novel" that is a mixture of novel, autobiography, social criticism, philosophical reflection, surrealist free association, and mysticism, one that is distinctly always about and expressive of the real-life Henry Miller and yet is also fictional.

## BERMUDA TRIANGLE

In the middle of nowhere,  
Where no one dares to come.  
Where many ships and planes mysteriously disappear,  
Where the ocean swallows people,  
And hides them forever within its depths.  
There is a place famous by its name,  
The scariest of them all:  
Bermuda Triangle!

When someone hears the name  
First thing that comes to their mind  
Is all the missing ships and planes  
Which never have returned.

Nowadays, when science tries to find out  
What happened there,  
It stands proudly against science  
And more than ever hide its secrets.

No one can solve its secrets  
Science just spends time on solving,  
But Triangle will always stay one big mystery,  
Not just for scientists,  
But also for all mankind.

**Elvedin Oraščanin**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A TEACHER

The complexity of a classroom requires from a teacher to make hundreds of decisions and engage in interactions that directly impact the students. In a classroom teachers should focus on effective teaching, recognize and understand the power of their interactions with students, work with students at their age levels and help them to understand the subject. The most important thing for a teacher is to be well prepared for the lesson. In a well planned lesson students are more interested, motivated and involved. Teacher should pay special attention to receptive and productive skills and maybe the most important thing is to engage students into guided conversations and discussions in order to improve their speaking skills.

For teachers of English language there are a few important aspects that need to be carefully treated. One of them is vocabulary. Vocabulary is the knowledge of words and word meanings. One of the best ways of introducing new words to students is to let them read texts or listen to CD player because students need to see words in context to know how to use them in action. Teacher should always look for explanations through associations with something that is close and familiar to students. In situations when he has original ideas, students will never forget the comparison, the rules and new words. Teaching grammar is also an important part and one of the more difficult aspects of language to teach well. Teacher needs to keep the teaching of grammar based on the context, not individually, because language teachers often focus on grammar as a set of forms and rules. This results in bored, disaffected students who can produce correct forms on exercises and tests, but consistently make errors when they try to use the language in context. In order to avoid this, special attention should be dedicated to creating real, situational context and then explaining the rules. This is the best way to represent grammar to students and perhaps the most lasting effect is achieved with this kind of grammar teaching.

A teacher has to perform various different roles because of the mixed ability classes in which they often teach. The role of the teacher depends mostly on situations and context of the lesson. Good cooperation between teacher and students is the key to success. There are many benefits for the class atmosphere from a good relationship between the teacher and students, such as students' involvement in the lesson, listening to the teacher and taking notes about the lesson. Most problems occur because of large classes and mixed ability students in one class, various types of students, from passive, not willing to work to very active, lively and interested students. In classrooms with large number of students this has its advantage and disadvantage. In large classes, a teacher has always enough students to get the interaction going. In order to maintain peace in large classes, teacher needs to dedicate special attention to be well organized, to establish routines so that there is enough time for various activities and to maximize individual work.

Many students, especially from lower grades, consider the teacher to be a kind of role model – teacher is for them a person who leads, respects, and guides his or her students to become successful students. Because of his or her good qualities they look up to them. The most positive thing is that teacher can use the size of the groups to his advantage. If there are many students it means that the humor is funnier, drama is more dramatic and a good class feeling is warmer and more constructive. Teacher should never forget that every student is unique and needs a different approach. Teachers must have their own ways and methods how to teach. This is something that comes with years of experience.

**Azra Krupić**

## Now

The moment with two branches. The moment that's defined and shaped by two parties; the one that preceded it and the one that follows. But it also overtakes and controls the attitude towards the past and the future. "I'm here and now and I feel this way" - a now person would say. His or her tendencies are product of what the soul and body have been through and will produce according to what the present goal is. I don't want to leave me, I like me. Productive stagnation. Exclude passing of time. Minutes, hours and days are irrelevant factors in the equation.

I feel like telling her how I can't appreciate this moment enough. No matter how much effort I put into respecting it, tomorrow, it will seem like it could have been more. Look at me! Two sources of perception as one.

Einstein has taught us that time and space are real. They can be changed and they equally influence each other. Changes that time makes on space are quite visible, which can't be said for other way around. If we are at a particular place that we fancy, time is shorter and will much sooner venture future and ourselves from that point in time. Simple as that.

Every individual has as many "now" moments as he or she realizes. That moment must be acknowledged in order for it to be given decent dose of respect. In the worshipful process warmth comes about. No wonder it's so hard to say goodbye to a moment. They are unique. You can't go back, whatever you do is irreversible.

Staunch, current "me". Superfluous thoughts I reject and enjoy the moment.

**Melvin Porčić**



## HOW MUSIC AFFECTS CHILDREN

People of ancient civilizations observed music as a powerful tool that is able to change the character of an individual. The remains of clay tablets, found in Asia Minor and Sumeria, talk about the place and importance of music in those communities. Confucius believed that music has a huge impact on what people do in a lifetime, and that it contains good and evil. He says: "If one should desire to know whether a kingdom is well governed, if its morals are good or bad, the quality of its *music* will furnish the answer."

Music helps children to develop, to understand the world around them, but also to express their personal experiences. Since music is an integral part of the culture, it makes it easier for children to understand themselves and their relationship with others, as well as to establish a link between home, school and environment. Music is most commonly associated with enjoyment and satisfaction. However, its educational role is very significant, since it gives incentives for the overall development of the child. The latest research is about to confirm and emphasize its pervasive character. Scientists have discovered that the structure, which consists of music, is identical to those in which the human brain works. Further studies have shown that people can be born with an innate musicality and that music affects our thinking and behavior. The greatest power of music reflects in their impact on the process of learning, brain development and organizational characteristics, as well as the entire nervous system. At the same time, music shows our emotional nature.

In any case, it has an essential significance on human life, because it has the power to show others who we really are.

**Maida Falatović**

## Diary of a girl

I realize you are just a notebook in which I shall write about myself, but since we meet for the first time I feel obliged to introduce myself. My name is Amanda, I am 19 years old. I graduated a year ago. I had some thoughts about college, but I am not really sure what I want from my life, except money and good looks. I guess those are the wishes of all ordinary girls. The only exception is that I do not consider myself an ordinary girl. However, I need to emphasize that I come from a normal upper - middle - class family so my choices were not linked to anything but me. For everything I share with you nobody other than myself was responsible. I shall not talk about my future since I don't have one. Instead of that I will write about my past. So, let's begin:

May 27<sup>th</sup>, year and a day ago

I was going to the USA for my summer vacation. I explicitly demanded to go by myself because I wanted to do a lot of sightseeing and meet new people. I took a dozen of pictures at each spot I found important or just pretty.

June, 2<sup>nd</sup>

I resided in some hotel near Hollywood. Every girl's dream. After a whole day of shopping and enjoying I decided to explore the nightlife. Somehow, I ended up in a street called Sunset Boulevard. The street was full of pretty girls wearing provocative clothes and make-up. Later, I realized they were prostitutes. Some older gentleman approached me and told me I was beautiful. Like I didn't know that! Anyhow, I said I was in a mood for meeting people so I got to know him. He offered me to do 'certain things' for 2000 US dollars. Just to be clear, I had plenty of money, but for the first time I met someone who had a foot fetish. To be honest, I quite enjoyed it. With a dinner and nice conversation afterwards it was a really lovely night. Not bad for a first customer.

June 20<sup>th</sup>

I have been through pretty much all! I experienced all kinds of bodily relationships. Dear diary, I liked it every a lot! I enjoyed everything and I was the main girl in business, so powerful that I did not even need a pimp. Life was beautiful!

August 28<sup>th</sup>

I said life was beautiful, but back then I did not just how beautiful it could become. Dear diary, I found out that I was pregnant. I was going to be a mom. Ok, I did not know who the father was, but that did not matter at all. I was carrying a human being inside.

January 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear diary, in this period I was quite chubby. But still I was the most beautiful pregnant lady. I remember it like it was yesterday. I went out for some cupcakes. I was walking with a bag in my hand and I suddenly saw a flash. I won't dramatize, a car hit me. Yes, suddenly it was all white, but I was not in Heaven. After all, I was a prostitute. Instead of Heaven, I was in a coma.

January 9<sup>th</sup> - May 28<sup>th</sup> (coma period)

In this period I was half dead but I was more alive than ever. I relived my whole life. I saw my future. Me and my little angel playing, singing songs. I enjoyed cooking, changing diapers. Then a white light took my baby. I cried and cried. Deep voice kept repeating that a prostitute, immoral and wicked person like me, didn't deserve to hold an angel in her hands. But it was my baby, a part of me. Did I deserve it? I don't know. But I know I loved it, unborn and innocent. Was I an immoral, wicked prostitute? Yes, I was. Was I sorry about it? No, I wasn't. Was I glad about it? No, I wasn't.

May 28<sup>th</sup>, today

Dear diary, I woke up from the coma. They put me in this sanatorium, in this dull white room where my story ends. They claimed I was insane. I woke up in a strange mood. I wanted to strangle everybody around me, which I attempted to do, but failed. I reckon I was not mad, I was just in the mood for killing. By the way, I didn't even write this diary, because my hands are tied in this shirt and I am somehow strangled by an unknown person. As I said, there is no future for me.

**Selma Hadžibajramović**

**Aldina Abazović**

Have you seen the city on two continents? Perhaps you heard something about it? Istanbul is a good place to visit. Istanbul is an interesting city.

First, tourism of the city is very developed. Istanbul is surrounded by two seas: Black sea and sea of Marmara. It has many hotels with three, four or five stars and every of them has big sandy beach full of tourists. Tourists from all over the world, from Greeks to Japanese and Americans, go there almost every year. The second interesting thing about tourism is their traditional food and drinks, such as Turkish coffee, Turkish tea and their national dish kebab, which is made of different kind of meat, vegetables and sauces. They bake the meat on metal sticks in special ovens. When you order it, they peel the meat off and serve it in a home made rolled bread. It is very interesting because tourists eat their meals and drink the traditional tea in every restaurant you pass. You can eat or drink in Istanbul very cheap. The tourists like this very much. There are a lot of interesting places to visit which I consider to be very important for tourism, such as Bazar. Bazar looks like a big market or a mall where you can buy anything, such as gold, clothes, material for clothing, souvenirs and many other interesting things. I was impressed by how much golden jewelry was there and how cheap it was. I bought a ring for a very low price I was bargaining for it and it was successful because the seller lowered the price for me to almost fifty percent because he heard that I was from Bosnia. They like Bosnian tourists.

Another interesting thing about Istanbul is its culture. There are a lot of museums and impressive buildings that you can see. When I was there I visited Aya Sofya mosque. It was built as a church and after that was converted into a mosque. I was impressed with walls which were full of ornaments and its ceiling representing heaven. One part of the mosque is masjid, the place for prayers, while the other part exists as a museum. Every day thousands visit it. The most famous museum in Istanbul is Ataturk museum, the palace where Ataturk lived, the father of all Turkish people. He is the central person of their culture. The palace is filled with original furniture, pictures of Ataturk and other unique and priceless pieces. The third interesting thing about their culture is architecture.

## Istanbul



For example The Bosphorous bridge which connects two continents. It is famous in world literature in architectural and engineering sense. It was built in 1973 by British engineers. It is very strange when you realise that only a bridge connects two continents.

Besides culture and tourism Istanbul is known for its people. There is a mixed population. There are Greeks and Japanese people. Strangers were no longer strangers - they speak your language, or other languages, so you can meet all kinds of people which I consider to be a very good thing. I heard one man speaking Bosnian while I was passing by a shop. I started conversation immediately. The second interesting thing about people is that they are very kind. I visited one Turkish family and was impressed by their hospitality. They hosted us with their traditional meals and the atmosphere was great. They are funny and friendly people. For example I had a teacher who was from Turkey. She was very friendly and helped her students with a smile. Also, they are very similar to Bosnian people because their sense of humor is similar and they are very kind, friendly and want to meet other cultures. They wanted to tell me everything about their city and to learn something about mine.

To sum up, the city of bright lights, the city of well developed tourism, interesting culture, traditional food I left behind where two continents meet. In my opinion it is the most interesting city I have been to so far. I recommend you to visit Istanbul.

**Edina Balić**

# Long Live The King!

May 17, 1463  
Stjepan Tomašević  
Ključ

It was a typical day in May, warm and comfy. This is the time of the year when our lands are the most beautiful. The green soft grass adorns the riverbanks with the cleanest and most refreshing water. But this was no time to enjoy nature, we were at war. We were on the run; the Ottomans were on our backs. We thought that we would find security in Jajce but this was just an illusion. The Ottomans came with thousands and thousands of their best soldiers and there was not a single fortress in Bosnia that did not tremble under the war sound of Mehmed's army.

Our dear king was scared. He tried to look brave and reassuring in front of us, but the fear sometimes escaped his eyes. I did not know what he was thinking in that moment, but I presume that he was cursing his mother Katarina and all her legacy. We were a few miles away from Ključ when a messenger crossed our way. From the ribbons on his uniform I could tell that he was coming from Jajce. Heavily breathing, he moaned:

"They are on to you, my dear King!"

"Calm yourself, man!" spoke the King

"But my King, they are just 30 minutes away from us and they're slaughtering everyone who crosses their path!" screamed the messenger from the bottom of his lungs.

After hearing these words the King turned pale. He

stroke his horse as hard as he could in order to arrive to Ključ as soon as possible. We were at the gates of Ključ in the late afternoon. The servants were waiting for us in front of the gates to help us with our exhausted horses. After a few minutes, a loud shriek filled the already thin air in the town. The Ottomans were on the gate...

I was standing next to the King. He seemed afraid; almost petrified. The fight was inevitable. I drew my sword and rushed towards the gate. We knew that we were fighting an already lost battle, but nevertheless we were fighting bravely. We were beaten after only half an hour or even less, I guess. I was badly wounded from the enemy's sword and fell on the ground, bleeding from my stomach. Lying there, I saw the king who was held by two soldiers. They forced him to kneel. His face was bloody and sore. Then a man came, a general or someone who has a higher position, holding a sword in his hand. He stood in front of the king and said something to him, but I couldn't hear what since I was already falling into unconsciousness.

I only heard the King shouting in Latin: "Pro patria mori!!!"

In a split second, his head detached from his body and fell on the bloody ground. The King was no more. Long live the King!

**Ermin Beganović**  
**Ale Brkić**

## Amra



There is one angel I think about every day. She is always present in my thoughts and in my heart. She is Amra. She once was with us, but not any more. The 14th January took her away from us, the damn leukemia took her away. And I hate this feeling of knowing that she is never coming back, even though I expect her to come. I can't imagine her fragile body, her smiley face and her long golden hair lying deep under the ground. She is still very much alive in my thoughts and memories and I can still hear her voice and know how she would pronounce every word when she is mad, happy or upset.

Amra was a sixteen year old girl, she was my cousin. She died of leukemia two days after her seventeenth birthday. After seven months of suffering and struggle, she decided to take rest. Her body was tired and weak, but the strength of her soul and spirit is still alive. She fought until the end. Unfortunately, the end came very soon for my little angel. You may ask yourself why I decided to write about her? And I can't give a proper answer, because there are many and I can't find the right one, but through this paper I want to express my admiration towards Amra. If someone asked me to write a list of my inspiration people, she would be the first on the list. Why? Because she thought me things no one could imagine. A sixteen year old girl thought me to fight and never surrender, to worry about others even though you feel like you're falling apart. I saw in her eyes the beauty of life, I saw the wish to live, to love and to be loved. I saw her strength and courage to face every difficulty that cruel disease was carrying with itself. It is true that you can't go against destiny. She never let leukemia win. In seven months of the struggle I never saw fear. Through the worst pain she always had a smile on her face. There are no words good enough and strong enough to describe her. She left an emptiness and pain, but also she left us, her family, proud. The good spirit of her, her positive thoughts and her smile became a symbol of hope for children fighting leukemia. The programme for bone marrow transplantation in Italy is named after Amra and inspired by Amra. Her mission on this planet is completed and every saved life will save the memory of her. If you, cruel world, don't care, there is someone who cared, there is someone who left enough kindness and humanity on this world to save our children. There once was Amra, there still is Amra, there will always be Amra.

My divine fairy, my golden hair princess, my gentle flower...

**Aida Halavać**

## where have you been

I was tired of looking  
I thought that was impossible to find  
It was tearing me apart  
Constant defeats hurt so much  
Love is a weird thing.

Now that I have found you  
I still can't believe  
My heart beats fast at just one glance  
It makes me love this amazing thing  
I love everything that you do

You know you have my soul  
My heart belongs to you  
I hate this feeling  
The feeling of a constant need  
I don't want to be without you.

Love the way you smile  
Love how you always understand  
You know how to make things right  
Your hug feels so good  
I need you now and forever.

**Hanka Kekić**



## *Girl from the lake*

This is a story about a girl called Lucy. She was 18 years old when the Witch of the Dark Woods captured her into the Lake of Illusions which was settled hundreds of miles away from Lucy's village.

The witch came to the village and found Lucy, the only young girl that was left there. She put a spell on the village and took Lucy. She needed Lucy for her elixir of eternal beauty. When she captured her in the lake, she visited her every month to take a bit of her beauty away. Most of the people in the village were under the spells of the witch so they thought that Lucy escaped and died somewhere, but only her parents weren't and they wanted to search for her. Every night Lucy's mother heard her voice crying and yelling for help. Lucy's father ran away from home because he couldn't listen to the cries of his wife. It made him even sadder and more depressed. Her father sometimes thought that she is dead and that her ghost is walking through the Dark Woods. It was probably caught there somewhere in between two worlds, seeking escape and trying to find the way out.

Ten years passed by and Lucy's soul began to fade. She could not escape and two months more of being visited by the witch she would be gone forever.

One day a prince from a kingdom far away walked through the Dark Woods with his army. He separated from them and wanted to seek a deer that he saw somewhere in the wood. He got lost chasing it and soon after he heard cries and yelling near the lake. He tried to find the girl and suddenly he found himself near a black lake and saw Lucy's reflection. She looked at him and said, "Please help me! Do something! Don't just walk away! I can't take it anymore!"

He was frightened because he thought that Lucy was a witch, but during their conversation Lucy explained everything and he stayed with her so that she doesn't cry anymore.

The prince told her that he will be there every night for her and will help her to find a way to break the spell. Seven nights passed by and the prince was desperate. The eighth night came. He wanted to say good-bye because he felt useless and helpless. As he was getting closer to the lake, he suddenly fell into Lucy's reflection and kissed her. The spell was broken and Lucy came out from the lake young and beautiful again. The prince was shocked and he was surprised when he saw a beautiful young woman standing next to him. He asked her to come with him and marry him. Lucy accepted but first she wanted to visit her parents.

They came to the village and Lucy's mother yelled loudly, "My daughter! My daughter! She is alive! I knew it!"

The people from the village came to see her and were very happy for them.

The prince announced their wedding and they went to his kingdom. Nobody ever saw the witch again or heard something about her. Some people were saying that Lucy was killed the same day when the witch took her and that the witch took over her body and married the prince. Nobody knows the real truth because in fairytales everything is possible...

**Amra Šertović**

## *Life is what you make of it*

Life is one unfulfilled dream and in this lies its beauty! What has gone, no longer exists; what would be, had not arrived yet. So what exists? Only one point in which the past and the future meet. So at this point lies all of our life. Life is a magnificent beauty, and it should be appreciated because it is precious, it is one. Life is an eternal struggle. It is the process of birth, childhood, maturity, aging and death. The definition of a perfect life - to have health, love, happiness, money and prosperity. But we all know that something like that rarely exists or does not exist in real life. The biggest drawback of life is that it is not perfect. People say that if you want your life to be delightful, you should live it moderately but that is not the right instruction for a good life. There is no instruction that would make our lives perfect. Often we hear people who criticize the lives of other people and call them pointless. Who are they to judge what kind of life we lead? Everyone values life in their own way. Everyone evaluates differently in life. Different little things make people happy.

Life is what we make of it. We create it, we give it meaning. Many people understand life as waiting for something that will never come while other people want to use and live its every moment. Life brings us both beautiful and ugly moments. We experience disappointments, we get hurt, but then we think of all the beauty that surrounds us, of all the people we love, things that make us happy and realize that life is beautiful. We should live every moment as though it was the last one because one will really be. People say that it is not wise to say, "I will live" because tomorrow will perhaps be too late, but we should say: I live now! Life should be spent the best way possible.



The most important thing is to own your own life. When we are aware that our life is in our hands, we can do miracles with it and it is never too late to change the wrong direction. If we believe that we have no influence on destiny or exaggerate the sense of responsibility for our environment, life will slip away from our hands and slip between our fingers like sand before we get the turn. The main ingredient of a good life is optimism, the belief that our life is in our hands and taking responsibility for our fate. If we are in a bad mood, we cannot blame people around us. We are in a bad mood because we ourselves have made some bad choices. And these are good news, because the choice can always be changed. We can choose an intellectual and persistent research paths in life that we should walk through in order to feel good and be happy. We alone make our own destiny. Our life will be good if we find the joy and beauty in everything, if we give it meaning and if we find a compromise between the ideal and the possible. Life is art if it is full of happiness and beauty. This is not a perfect world. People get hurt. You laugh even when you feel like you should cry. When your world is about to crash, you act like everything is just fine... But even then, you should keep on going, let go of everything that makes you hurt and give yourself a chance to be happy. Because, that's life... It's not perfect, and only you can make it worthwhile.

**Anela Herić**

## Princess with the Blue Eyes

It was on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, 1990. The queen of Abu Dhabi, Edeen, brought into the world a beautiful little girl with big blue eyes. King Enveer immediately ordered his servants to make the biggest celebration ever. He was not like the other kings, he was very successful, but also very kind to his servants. He looked at them as if they were his friends and all of them respected the king very much. The king went to the room where his queen and just born princess were lying. He said to his wife that he has a name for his daughter and proudly said it out loud. "Aisha Emm, that is the name that I want for my daughter, princess Aisha Emm Pecheen". The queen agreed and smiled at him, because she saw in his eyes that he never felt happier as in this moment. As the days passed by, Aisha Emm was growing up. Her parents were very happy and proud of their beautiful daughter. One day, Aisha Emm was sitting in the garden and reading a book when her father came and sat next to her. He kissed her on the forehead and told her that he has to talk to her.

"What happened, father?" asked Aisha.

"It is time to talk about something very serious," he said.

"You know that there are many people who will stop at nothing to destroy me. Especially now, when the new elections are coming up. Because of that I have to send you to Istanbul. Only there you will be safe."

Aisha was sad, but in the end realized that it was the best way to be safe. The king promised her that, before she goes, she will have a celebration that will be remembered for a long time. When the celebration day came, Aisha was so excited. Her mother and she were looking for a perfect dress for a long time and finally found it. The dress was

long, navy blue, with a lot of diamonds on it. She put her long, red hair up and went downstairs. That was when she saw him. A beautiful tall man with black hair and black eyes. He smiled at her, and she smiled back. They looked at each other all night long, and finally he asked her to dance. While they were dancing all the people were looking at them and asked her parents if they were a couple. The king was scared that the young man was the one who wants to destroy him and forbade his daughter to ever see him again. She was devastated. The next morning she went to Istanbul. The young man, Deivee, didn't want to forget Aisha, so he wrote a letter to her and said that he will talk to her father and fight for her. His letter surprised Aisha very much, but she didn't believe that her father will accept it. Daivee went to the palace and explained everything to the king. He was a doctor from Turkey and was in love with Aisha for all his life. Then the king realized that he was not against him, and that he actually knows Daivee since he was a little baby. He just didn't see him for a long time. They agreed that they will surprise Aisha, they won't tell her anything until the elections are finished.

Two months later the king won the elections again and Aisha was coming home. They organized a celebration for her, but not just a welcome home celebration, but an engagement celebration as well. She could not believe that it was happening. She hugged her father and mother and started to cry. They cried too, because they knew that their little princess with blue eyes has grown up. Three months later Aisha Emm and Deivee got married. They had the biggest and the most beautiful wedding in the whole Abu Dhabi and lived happily ever after.

Emina Pečenović

# Schizophrenia

Darkness! Suffering! Voices! Isolation! Misunderstanding! Fear! "What the hell is happening with me? Am I insane or sick and how can I tell if I am insane?"

All these questions are typical for schizophrenics. But how to confess and say: "Yes, I am schizo!" Is it so hard because schizophrenics are afraid that people will judge them?

When a person hears the term "schizophrenia", the first thought that comes to mind is "crazy" or "insanity". Throughout the past centuries, schizophrenia has been known to many as a state of "crazy". However, with new research that stereotype has changed. Still, many people think that schizophrenia is a serious mental illness, that schizophrenics are totally crazy, mentally unstable, and are unable to live.

Schizophrenia is not insanity, it's a different working of the brain that in some cases comes as a result of stress or trauma, but the truth is that we actually don't know what causes schizophrenia. Anyone can be schizophrenic. It is simply a development of the mind. Geniuses such as Van Gogh, Picasso and Mozart also had schizophrenic attacks, and this means that some schizophrenic people can be extremely intelligent. But why do some people show prejudices towards them?

Being schizophrenic doesn't mean you can hurt or kill someone and do something bad. Schizophrenics sometimes feel alienated and lonely, they feel as if there is a huge gap between them and the rest of the world. Everybody seems so distant from them. Having schizophrenia doesn't mean you can't work, have relationships, and get involved in your community. It's important to set meaningful goals for yourself and participate in your own plans and goals.



The only thing that schizophrenics need is our understanding, our help and love. I'm sure they want to be normal like other people and enjoy life. Some of them who have a strong community, family, and support can lead happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives. They may be afraid of what the future will bring or feel like there is no hope. It is important to say that recovering from schizophrenia doesn't happen overnight. In my opinion, treatment works best when they, their family, and doctors and therapists are all working together.

All in all, most schizophrenics want to be understood. Loving a schizophrenic is a very difficult task. It takes an enormous amount of love, patience and effort. With proper treatment and support, many people with schizophrenia are able to reduce their symptoms, live and work independently, and build satisfying relationships. What we can offer them is our unconditional support. Let's be human!

**Aida Pašić**

## TRADITION IS WHAT MAKES PEOPLE WHO THEY ARE

You are who you are depending on where you live and with whom you live. This phrase is often said in Bosnia, to describe one's personality and being. People are also characterized by their history, religion, culture, very customs, and so are the Bosnians.

When we go way back into the past, to the Middle Ages, it is the period that marked Bosnia. The name "Bosna" was mentioned for the first time in the 10<sup>th</sup> century by Constantin Porfirogenet, and it stayed up till this day. But in the Middle Ages, the Turks came to this area and conquered it. In 1463 the Turkish Army came to Bihac and settled down. Turks are our ancestors. They brought our culture, religion, customs, tradition. They brought a new way of living to this country.

Religion was a very important part of the culture and tradition before as it is now. Turks brought Islam as a religion, and almost everybody began to practice it. It is also worth mentioning that Bosnia, from its very first beginnings, stayed a multicultural and liberal country, supporting all nations and religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism. In that period, as part of the culture, there were many architects called "mimars" who built mosques and other buildings. The mosque in Bihac, Fethija, was built in that period. So was the old bridge in Mostar, Gazi-Husrev-beg's Mosque in Sarajevo and others.



Customs are also very important part of our tradition, like specific food or folklore dance. The food itself has its origins in oriental, Turkish kitchen. Very spicy, well cooked meals, sweet and unique. One of my favourite sweet dishes is "Tufahija". It is an apple which is cooked with a lot of sugar, filled with walnuts and covered with cream. Tasty.

Folklore is one of my favourite hobbies. For over eight years I've been practising the dance, and every time I dress our old, ancient clothes and dance, I feel proud for being who I am, and being able to represent my country in that way. The best part of being a folklore dancer is that I travel a lot. I meet different people, tradition and customs, and it is amazing to see how different we really are, but also in that variety, one thing that can be singled out. That is our tradition and we need to nourish it.

In conclusion, Bosnia is a small country, very small in size, but the people are great, and our tradition, culture and customs are extraordinary and worthy.

**Emina Mujadžić**



## STAYING HEALTHY

We live in the 21st century, in a time of fast food and unhealthy drinks. There is just not enough time for us as it was in the past for making meals at home, so what replaced this is "junk" food which is cheap and tasty.

Staying healthy and eating right is a lifestyle that many people should consider. A juicy hamburger from McDonalds dripping with special sauce topped with cheese is not exactly considered a healthy meal. Our society today is busy and on the go at all times. It is so much easier to stop and get fast food and then get on. However, we should stop and think; is it really worth it to not eat right and not exercise? Studies have shown that people who do eat right and exercise live longer. Eating fattening foods clogs your heart with cholesterol and fat. People that don't exercise and continue to eat unhealthy food will have a slower metabolism. This is why over 70% of our society is overweight today.

My grandfather has had problems with his heart in the past mostly because he was overweight and ate the wrong foods. The doctor advised him to exercise and eat right. Now, after two years of following this advice, his heart is stronger than ever. The doctor informed him that at least ten years has been added to his life. Exercising and eating right really does help you to live longer.

Eating healthy foods and exercising also helps to build person's self-esteem. Many people who are overweight do not feel good about themselves. They want to be thinner, but instead of doing it the right way, they try crash diets that seem to always fail or do nothing at all about their condition. If we would exercise at least 45 minutes per day, three to four times per week, it is guaranteed that we lose weight and get in shape. When a person is at the size and stature that they would like to be, then their self-esteem rises. If one has a good attitude and think they look great, more than likely other people will think that as well. When one exercises and eats good foods then they also physically feel great. The fact that one has just spent an hour on the treadmill and a salad was for

dinner makes a person feel as if they are really accomplishing something. If people would realize what a great feeling a person gets from working out and eating healthy foods, then everyone would be doing it. It is a lifestyle that people should adopt and live by. The fact that they are doing something to better themselves should also make them feel good. All of us have areas that we can improve. By improving our physical imperfections it makes us feel great.

Some people were raised to eat everything on their plate whether it was healthy or not. If your mom made the food, then it was eaten. What our generation should do is learn from our parents' mistakes. We should start cooking our children healthier food so that they will grow up knowing and living healthier lifestyles. Others say that there is just not enough time to exercise or that fat-free foods don't taste as good as fattening foods. However, we should make the time to exercise so that we can improve our mental and physical state. Also, there are now even fat-free potato chips on the market that taste exactly the same as regular potato chips. Some people say that problems make them eat more, but we should practice more self-control during times that we are having problems. There are also people who say they are not able to exercise because of physical problems. They are, however, still able to eat healthy foods. In fact, people that do suffer from physical ailments and are not able to exercise should be that much more interested in learning to eat healthy. These excuses for choosing to live unhealthy in my opinion are just that; excuses! It is now time to make our choice. A healthy lifestyle and learning to exercise will benefit every one of us.

Will we continue to live as unhealthy blobs, or will we take a little time out of our busy schedules so that we can live longer, raise our self-esteem, and feel great? Make a choice!

**Alma Gerzić**

## *Music Saves My Soul*

One of the oldest interpretations in the world has seen harmony as one of the highest authority over the other elements of melody. Her understanding was and still remains subject to those who considered themselves philosophers. Pythagoras was the first who called himself by that name, and it is not by chance that with him begins the history of philosophy and the history of philosophy of music.

Music is art that with various combinations

of sounds affects people gifted with special, practiced sense, able to understand the music. Music is at the same time feeling and science; music of those who deal with it, artist or composer, requires natural inspiration and knowledge that is acquired only by long learning and deep reflection. The unity of knowledge and inspiration makes art. Without these conditions, musician will only be an unfinished artist. I believe that there is no human who doesn't like music, who doesn't enjoy its melody, its perfection. Music can hypnotize a person; it can reveal someone's deepest feelings, the most hidden thoughts. We have to value and cherish the beauty of melody, to enjoy various elements of music, to feel that beautiful



harmony in our soul, because the world without music would be empty. Music is something that is divine. Within us. Around us. And when we're lonely, the loneliest we can be, music is there, in us. In me. It echoes in my head with its rhythm, and verses, and text which is not that important because we feel the music with our heart and soul. With touch and smile. My life turns into music and

rhythm. Verse and text. And touch, and smile, and much, much more. I fly to music when I'm alone. When I do not feel beautiful. And also when I'm the happiest person in the world. I do not want you to leave me, song, ever. Because with you, I am... I feel divine.

I wonder very often if I've experienced music in such way that was in the musician's head and heart when he created it. How did he manage to leave such a mark on us? To make us start? To rejoice? To love? And when someone asks me, "Do you like music?" my answer is, "Do you like breathing?"

**Nina Šiljdedić**

## THE GREAT SECRET

It was a sunny day and I was resting on my terrace, drinking coffee and reading newspapers. I was finally alone, all the noise disappeared. John went to finish some business and Mary and Jacob were spending the weekend out of town. I needed that peace to fix my mind. Even though I thought it was a great time to make some decisions, my thoughts were far away. They were somewhere where they should not be. But I just couldn't get it out of my mind for years. Every day is harder. We don't talk about that anymore, it was a deal. We are going to forget everything and no one will ever find out what happened.

If you ask me if I regret anything, my answer would definitely be affirmative. I do regret a lot of things, like being in the wrong place at the wrong time, all of us shouldn't have been there. I regret not doing anything, I regret not saying anything. But there is nothing to do now.

Suddenly the doorbell stopped my thoughts. It was my neighbor Sussy. She wondered if I could borrow her car to pick her parents up at the railway station. I gave her the keys and went for a walk. This is a small town and you know almost everyone. I met a lot of people but I wasn't really in a mood to talk with anyone. I still wanted that peace, so I went down to the shore and sat near the sea. Listening to the sea waves and birds' song was very relaxing. My thoughts were still going around the night of 26<sup>th</sup> of April 6 years ago. I don't know all the facts and probably will never find out, and that is why I am not finding my peace and never will. I will never know what really happened to Robert.

**Azra Kolaković**



## FREE - DUMB

I bet you think you are free. I bet I can assume why you think so. I bet you can predict my next sentence. And yes, you are right: You are wrong! Riddle me this: Free from what/who?

If you are really free, why should that depend on somebody or something. You don't need to ask for freedom, do you? But then again, as Eddie Griffin said, "You must be dumb to think that you are getting something for free. That's why it's called freedom." If you want freedom, you don't have to state it, it's a state of mind. In order to be free, free your own mind first and unchain it. Let your personality and who you are remain untouched by any external factor and then you shall be free at last.

**Edina Pajalić**

## Have You Ever Heard Of Knocking?

We were forced to enter an old, abandoned house for cover. The house was in a very bad condition and it seemed really spooky. There was a door on the right that led to the kitchen and a few meters in front of us were stairs. As we walked into the kitchen I noticed a door. My boyfriend was talking something about the musty smell when a loud, scratching sound interrupted him. The door opened.

We ran out of the kitchen as fast as we could and ran up the stairs. There was almost complete dark. All we could see was a long narrow hallway with lots of doors on both sides. We checked all of the doors and only one was opened. We entered the room and on the wall in front of us we could see a note written with red color, it seemed like blood. It said: "Have you ever heard of knocking? When the clock strikes 11 you are mine! There is only one way out, but you have to find it by yourself!"

I screamed! He grabbed my hand and we went quickly down the stairs to the front door. He turned the handle and nothing happened. We were locked. I started to cry.

We had two hours till eleven to find our way out. We searched the entire house and we could not find any way out. I started to panic. It was five to eleven. He was constantly repeating one sentence: "It has to be way out! It has to be way out!"

Suddenly he screamed: "Look! A door!"

He noticed one small door under the stairs. It was a pantry turned into a room. This was one of the scariest sights in my life. The walls were scratched and traces of blood were all over the room. On the bed there was an old doll with a key in her hand. I looked on my watch. It was a minute to eleven. He grabbed the key and we ran to the door. We opened the door and ran outside. We were running all the way to my house. I could swear I heard someone running after us, but there was no one there. We reached my house, ran into it and locked the door twice.

As we sat down on couch we heard a scary, child's voice saying, "You did not make it out in time!"

**Najda MiskiĆ**

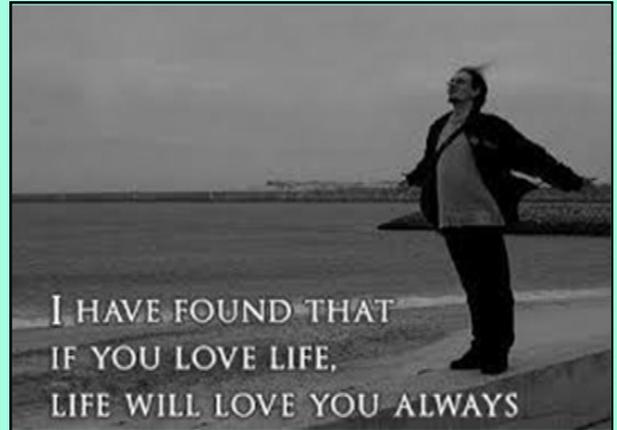


## *Life is Beautiful*

*"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain."*

Human beings are the most important and indeed the most beautiful creation of nature. They are given the opportunity to think, feel, love, but the most important is that they are given the opportunity to make changes. Every moment should be a celebration of being alive. Life is like a rose, but remember that every rose has its thorns and the beauty of life is in accepting it.

From the day we are born people around us teach us how beautiful life is. But what they somehow forget to mention is how many downs and difficulties we have to face during our lives and how hard it may be to overcome it. They say that life is made of moments that take your breath away, but that does not always refer to good things. We are faced with the other side of the coin in every aspect of our lives. Some moments are so difficult that it looks like we will never overcome it. Sometimes you feel like you don't have the strength to continue. But people have to be aware of the fact that nothing in life comes for granted and that suffering is an important part of life. Suffering makes you stronger, every fall makes you wiser, every person that let you down makes you love people even more. Difficulties test the courage, patience, perseverance and true character of a human being. Adversity and hardships make a person strong and ready to face the challenges of life with equanimity. There is no doubt that there can be no gain without pain. However, in all that pain and difficulties people often forget the other side of life. They forget to smile, to enjoy, to tell their loved ones how much they mean to them. They forget how quickly life passes and before you realize it is gone and you regret for not living it better.



Life is a gift and we should be aware of it. It has its ups and downs, but that is the beauty of it. No matter how difficult it may seem or how disappointed you are, never forget to enjoy life. You are given this chance only once and it is your responsibility to use it. It has no instructions, no right or wrong answers. Use it the best you can!

**Melita Egrlić**

## **LIFE**

Darkness.  
Thick and full.  
No way out, no shread of light.  
Just ignorant souls,  
Worshipping the God of Illusion.

**Emina Dekanović**

# ELIZABETH

My name is Catherine Carey, and I am a close friend of the magnificent Queen Elizabeth I. I write this in hope that these words will serve as a guideline for those who doubt the power, strength and will of my best friend.

Elizabeth and I know each other since early childhood, which was in bad light for her. Even though she had all the benefits of a royal member, her relationship with her father and her mother's untimely death shaped her into what she is today. I remember the date when she was crowned. Although to others she seemed like a strong girl, in chambers she squeezed my hand and said how much she was afraid.

Elizabeth I was crowned on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1559. She was twenty-five years old. The full sovereign title of Elizabeth I was: Grace od God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, the supreme Head of the Church of England and the Church of Ireland. I remember that I started to cry, because I know that deep in her soul she wanted that her father could see her. I believed that she will bring changes and that she will restore England's previous luster. I knew that her name will be remembered forever.

From that day until now, she has not ceased to believe in a better world. She showed to the male gender that women can be great rulers. I know that she regrets not feeling the real magic of love and motherhood. Although she faced many problems such as internal rebellion, gossips about her sexual life, problems with the church, with Spain and France, as well as serious illness, these 44



years were the golden years of the Elizabethan era. In addition of being an experienced ruler, she is a great person and an even greater friend.

I sit beside her bed, asking God to give her another day of life. I do not want her to die, I do not want that anything stops this time of prosperity, philosophy, science, theater and great writers, and still if it does happen I want for her to be remembered for good things. In this moment, I realised that I had been involved in a significant period of history.

Eldina Husić

**"TOGETHER ON THE THRONE, AND IN THE GRAVE  
HERE WE LIE, TWO SISTERS,  
ELIZABETH AND MARY  
HOPING FOR RESURRECTION."**

## FADEAWAY



I awakened in a place I have never seen before. I still do not know how I got here, or how long it will take me to get out. Everything is blurred, yet somehow I can see clearly for the first time. It is almost similar to the way one perceives a dream. You can clearly see things, but cannot determine their true shape even when you get closer. The only trouble is that I am not able to break away from this dream.

I wandered through this foggy reality with the hope of finding some clue, which could lead me to enlightenment, because I am completely lost. Besides the fact that I couldn't remember anything, I couldn't even remember my own name and everybody's got to know their name. I started to feel uneasy and even fearful. In the next moment, I found myself facing a wooden cottage, which appeared out of nowhere. It got colder, so I decided to go in. The cottage was empty and without windows, except the a lit-up fireplace and a small door through which I entered. I felt so confused and lonely with not a single soul to talk to. It got late and I lay down on the floor to get a little bit of sleep. When I woke up, I noticed something glimmering in one corner. As I came closer, it appeared to be some sort of a key. I took it, because I thought it might be important and walked out. Oh, the light; it was blinding. For a few moments, I could not open my eyes. However, when I did, the only thing I could do was look in astonishment at the majestic scene in the distance. What I saw was something that looked like an enormous tree. It had a strange power

over me and I had the urge to go and investigate it. I started to run, without knowing why – I just knew I had to. When I got there, I could see that the tree was in a beautiful garden, and the only thing that separated me from it was a huge fence. I must have been walking for hours until I found the gate. Yet, when I tried to enter and pulled the door-knob, I found that the gate was locked. I remembered the key I had picked up earlier and hoped that it would fit the lock. The feeling of happiness was indescribable when I heard the unlocking sound. After getting in, I started to walk faster and faster towards the tree, for I knew that it held the answers to all of my questions. When I was just a few steps away from it, I stopped and stared at it in amazement. It was even more beautiful than from the distance. I looked up and saw a myriad of little bottles, all of which were filled with the brightest glowing spheres. I began to understand, but still, I was not sure. I came closer until I could finally reach the tree's trunk. Suddenly, it hit me - all of my memories returned at once. I was overwhelmed and started to cry because everything became clear.

So, here I am now. And I am ready. I am ready to slowly drift into the depths of oblivion, having lived a life that fulfilled me to the smallest bit. I am not sad or afraid that every trace of my existence is going to vanish. All I feel, at this point, is... some kind of relief.

**Armela Ćeman**

## HER MAJESTY — THE HIGH HEEL

Stiletos! Ladies, feel sexy, more confident and glamorous! There are different theories about the origin of the first high heels and they have great significance from their formation until today. High heels have a long and rich history. They were worn in ancient Egypt. They were worn also by women as well as men, mostly for ceremonial purposes. The purpose of wearing high heels changed throughout the history. Wearing high heels was not only a fashion trend, they were worn for practical purposes. During the medieval period, high heels were used to protect both men and women from rugged streets. Wearing high heels for fashion purposes was probably invented by Catherine de Medici in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. She decided to wear heels on her wedding day to Henry II, the future King of France, to impress the French

Court. After the French Revolution the high heels were banned because of general opinion that society moved away from aristocratic values. In America, during the 18th century, The Massachusetts Colony banned women wearing high heels because it was believed that women used them to trap men. It was in the 1920s when the heel regained its full glory. Wearing high heels boosts our confidence, makes us look and feel sexy and throughout the history it reflected woman's personality and status.

We, as human beings, want to reveal our unique individuality through clothing.

High-heeled shoes are quite special and important for ladies. A pair of high-heeled shoes lead women to believe that they are more beautiful, elegant and sophisticated. First of all, they will express image of professionalism which is very important for today's busi-

ness women. The heels with a skirt and a suit jacket go together perfectly, giving the wearer a classy touch. Many business women wear high heels because it's simply a fashion trend. It is natural that high heels go with certain outfits such as business suits.

High heels represent a prominent fixture in fashion. They always complete an outfit and make a woman feel sexy and seductive. By wearing high-heeled shoes we can improve our height, giving the illusion of longer legs and a slender look. When a woman wears high heels, she thinks that she is sexier because of the sex appeal that is made by the shoes. If she thinks she looks good, she will feel good. As long as a woman feels confident and secure about what she is wearing, we should let her.

High heels make you feel confident and make a great difference to your body posture. If you have a good posture, it makes you appear more attractive to other people. We should keep in mind that heels are part of our personality and it is very important what we buy and what we wear.

We live in a competitive world where looks seem to come first because that is our first impression. People judge by appearances before getting to know the person first. Some of us think that high heels are the perfect shoes for special occasions. But there are women who think that every day is a special occasion, they are part of their personality and status. High heels were important through history and will never go out of style.

**Elma Mujnović**

## TOKEN

It was a beautiful summer day. In the afternoon, while I was walking, I saw something glinting near the road. I ran to see what it is. I hoped it was five bucks, or even a buck. But, it was only an old coin, very old and corroded. There was a tree and triangle around the tree drawn on the coin. I wanted to know what it means, so I searched on the Internet what that symbol represents, but I couldn't find it. I also searched in the magazines, and asked the historians – I thought that maybe it was valuable! No one could tell me what the coin represented, but one day someone came to my door. I opened the door and in front of me appeared a short, fat man - a Gypsy, judging by his clothes - who had one glass eye. He asked me if I had the token of life. I didn't understand what he was talking about. I was confused. The last thing on my mind was that old coin whose origin I desperately wanted to figure out. I asked that strange visitor his name. He answered: "Call me Redzep!" I wanted him to explain how that token of life looked like. He described me, in details, the old coin I found a few weeks ago. He also told me that, in the wrong hands, the token represents danger for the human kind, because it disturbs the flow of life and kills compassion and feelings in people.

I found the coin and offered it to Redzep to take with him, because I couldn't take the burden which that little coin gave to its owner. It was too much for me – the realisation that I could change the world and everything in it. Redzep refused my generous offer and said that the token had chosen me as its protector. Redzep was only here to tell me everything I needed to know about the token. He also told me that some very bad and powerful people are searching for me, but I must not give the coin to them, no matter what, because if I did that, the result would be disastrous – it would destroy the world. Furthermore, Redzep explained that the token gives supernatural power to its guardian, among which is also the power to control fire. These supernatural powers are given to the guardian in order to protect the token of life.

Redzep left. As time was passing by, I gained control over my new power. My courage increased, as well as my wish to protect mankind. Until now, I was putting the villains behind bars and in graves. One can never know what the future holds..

**Almira Sedić**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF EATING HEALTHY FOOD

People have to be aware that healthy food helps us to protect our general health. It is one of the most important segments of a healthy body and mind. There are a lot of recommendations of how to eat food the proper way, but I think that people are not aware that food can kill them.

Healthy food can lower a lot of health risks such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer and so on. Healthy food includes consuming fruit, vegetables and whole grains in order to satisfy caloric requirements with lower input of food and adequate intake of water.

Our immune system is a combination of structures as input of antioxidants, nutrients, proteins, vitamins and minerals. Besides all the facts that eating junk food can kill us, we can notice that this food is cheaper than vegetables, fruit and other healthy food. Why? It is obvious that our economical system is trying to kill us with unemployment for young people and with other factors. Then the question is how can people afford healthy food in this kind of situation. We can all agree that it is really hard but we have to put our health on the first place and try to do everything in order to enhance it. I've made a list of the most important healthy food which we have to consume:

- grains, condiments which include extra-virgin olive oil,
- eggs, milk, orange or grapefruit juice,
- yogurt with active cultures - probiotic,
- meat, poultry/ fish (contain high quality of protein, vitamins, minerals),
- fruits and vegetables.

This short list presents food which I consider important for everyone, but we have to be aware that we have to use it the proper way. For example, red meat is good to eat but only once or twice a week and through the week we can replace it with fish or poultry and so on.

We have all heard the saying that we are what we eat, I believe that this is true and in order to prevent illness we have to value our health and eat healthy.

**Sabina Muharemović**

# THINK LOST, NOT STRAY

As circumstances require, I decided to write about one of the biggest problems in my town. I live in a city where stray dogs are a significant part of daily life. They are called mad, bloodthirsty killers and seen as nuisance and health hazard by the people who live alongside them. Huge numbers of stray dogs are hungry, injured and tired of agonising death from various diseases. They are alone and relinquished to the ruthless game of destiny. I wonder what we have to do, primarily as citizens, to get these dogs homes, food and protection. By courtesy of a wonderful experience of childhood, my love for animals grew from day to day. However, enormous

amount of problems affect the animals of my city.

The first and biggest problem is our government. We live in the country where lies, theft and empty promises are the main distinctive peculiarities of government and municipality. For several times they found donors to help them build an asylum, get the money, but nothing was fulfilled. Of course, the money disappeared in a short time and individuals with power in their hands ended up with a bigger amount of money on their bank accounts. It is common knowledge that homeless dogs assault many passers-by. According to this, an emergency department has registered considerable number of intervention caused by stray dogs. In such cases, our government offers a solution throughout false statements proclaimed by mass media. In order to push citizens, most of the individuals who have competence and money found a place for a shelter. It is good to know that this place exist, but that's all. We have a place, or to put it more breafly, only an empty space! Rumour has it that the government doesn't have enough money to promote the rest of the plan.

Another problem that we encountered are individuals, who call dogs with offensive names, and they agree with euthanasia and similar ventures. These manners are ineffective and inhuman, because they're afraid to be attacked and bitten by "contaminated" animals. However, life on the street is hard! They are suffering from hunger, and many infectious diseases. In the absence of basic life conditions, they attack people. This is certainly not the best part of their story, but we have to understand they are not guilty. These are beings who are driven by animal instinct and the only thing they need is love, respect, food and shelter. Dogs are supposed to be our best friends, but hundreds of dogs in Bihac are betrayed by many of us.



Last but not least is the irresponsible animal ownership. There is an overpopulation of dogs right now because of lack of sufficient spaying. The vast majority of stray dogs have been abandoned by their owner or are owned but allowed to roam freely. The unsupervised dogs then breed, resulting in unwanted puppies. They try to get rid of them, and thanks to this we have a city full of homeless animals. It is very hard to understand how people can renounce their best friends and put them in an open jail. However, a few simple actions can help save the dogs. These are castration, sterilization, registration and, in my opinion the most important, hosting, which can ensure the our own safety as well.

To sum up, we need to find an adequate solution. Stray dogs have proliferated in recent times in vast number on the streets. There are numerous non governmental associations from European countries dealing with the protection of animals, who discussed the protection of a shelter. However, everything is still just talk. It is an ongoing problem, and future holds nothing but hours, days, months and even years of pain for inculpable animals. I vent my rage which I hide deep in myself and it culminated in this paper. Our mission as people is to help and protect them. They are innocent beings who are loved and protected by few, tolerated by many people and hated by even more. As a pet lover, I should say that animals inspire our imagination and thrill our spirit. It's a partnership that will continue as long as humans respect them as they do us. Unfortunately, they cannot speak, so we must speak for them and do all we can to love and protect them.

**Arijana Čirić**

## WHY WE SHOULD ALL DO OUR BEST TO SAVE THE EARTH



'People are the most responsible for global warming and they play the biggest role in saving the earth.' Nowadays when global warming is one of the biggest international problems, we see this message everywhere we look. If you ever wondered why we should do our best to save our planet, in this essay I will try to number and explain the most important reasons.

First of all, we have huge climate changes. Every now and then we are victims of heat waves. For example, in Croatia in 2011, temperatures of 40 Celcius were measured, which were very hard for most of the people, and sadly even led to many deaths of the elderly. Also, there are floods which are provoked with these climate changes. We have such example in the eastern part of our country, known as Semberija. Floods which occurred in 2011 destroyed all the crops and left many people desperate and with huge damages. The third example of climate changes is drought which often takes many lives. For example, also in Croatia, we have more and more

droughts which then lead to extremely big fires, which leave nothing but wasteland.

Second, reason why we should do our best to protect and save our Earth is an environment which is getting more and more polluted. Air pollution is one of them and is causing damage not only to our environment but also to our health. We have such example in Zenica, where we have big coal factories which burn fossil fuels and release carbon dioxide in atmosphere. So with air we also have water pollution. Water pollution is a problem in the whole country, but most recently researched is the river Miljacka in our capital - Sarajevo. It was discovered that collectors for water which were built for the Olympic Games in 1984 are still there and that water is polluted with feces.

The third reason for treating our planet with care and love is life and for me that's the most important reason. Animal life is endangered, not only in our country but in the whole world, and we all know it. We have many endangered species today, such as the American bald eagle, whales, pandas and so on. Also, we have deforestation as one more thing that we are responsible and guilty of. Through deforestation we destroy the ecosystem, and enable many arthropods to survive which are of great significance for other species and for the whole chain of animal and plant life. And last but not least, we are there - humans - and our lives. We need fresh air and clean water, natural habitat to live on like all the other species.

To sum up, all that exists on planet Earth is connected. We need one another to survive. When we destroy the environment, nature is not the only one that suffers. Our personal life is in danger. So that is why we need to protect and save our planet, by treating it with respect. If not because of all these factors and devastating information, we need to do it because of our future generations.

**Anita Skakić**



# MOTHER

How long was she asleep? A moment? Decades? Centuries? The last time she was awake they have just grasped the principles of culture, and look how much they have achieved since then. Soon, she hoped, they would be able to communicate with her. But something was not right. They were still aggressive, they still waged war over mindless disputes and figments of their imagination, they were still afraid of true progress, and the worst thing was that they were desecrating her body without any thought. They were destroying the very ground they walked upon. This wasn't supposed to happen.

Her sisters and herself were the first beings to arise from the primordial chaos, when the stars were still forming. For a long time they waited for someone or something else to join them. They were wandering the young universe in search of a purpose and after a long time they realised the meaning of their existence. They had to create their companions. Each one of them left in search for a suitable place to start their experiment. It was hard work but all of her sisters found suitable planets and created life there, which slowly evolved into sentient beings. Those beings, after grasping science and reason, would be able to step in contact with their Mother and together they would prosper. All of them managed that, except for her. Only she was still searching, only she was still longing, and she was getting desperate. Finally in a far corner of the universe she found the perfect place, a small, blue, beautiful planet. It looked more perfect than all the planets her sister have seeded. She entered the planet and it became her body. Creation of life was easy for her, the first cells were planted and now all she had to do was wait. She carefully watched how her creation prospered, soon her body was blooming with life. Species evolved and went extinct, only to make room for the next generation of more advanced lifeforms. Finally a species rose above the others, her champions had arrived. By then she was tired and went to sleep only to occasionally wake to watch their progress. They were aggressive and selfish but she thought they would be wiser as the progressed.

She was wrong.

After all that time they still remained the same,

and instead of joining her, these "humans", how they called themselves, became a menace to all her other children. If they continued this path they would destroy her body and all her hard work with it. But she would not let that happen. She waited far too long. This planet and the life on it still had time. But not them. It was time for her to strike back, to smite them, erase them from existence. She was life, but she was also death. It was time to show herself, her true form.

She entered their minds and spoke to them, and her voice was so terrible that all of them fell to the ground, driven insane. She spoke of their atrocities, their failed potential, how much hope she had for them and how much disappointed she was. And then there was silence. The final thing they saw was a vision of a beautiful woman with tears in their eyes waving them goodbye. With one more thought, humanity was extinguished.

Merima Kartal

## THE FUTURE OF PRINT

Will books disappear in the future? This is the question that has been pondering many publicists, students and book lovers alike. In recent years the sales of digital books online and the closing of a couple of libraries has led many of us to think about the future of printed books. Although many people are using digital devices for reading books it is unlikely that printed books will disappear anytime soon because print is still the most superior form of information storage.

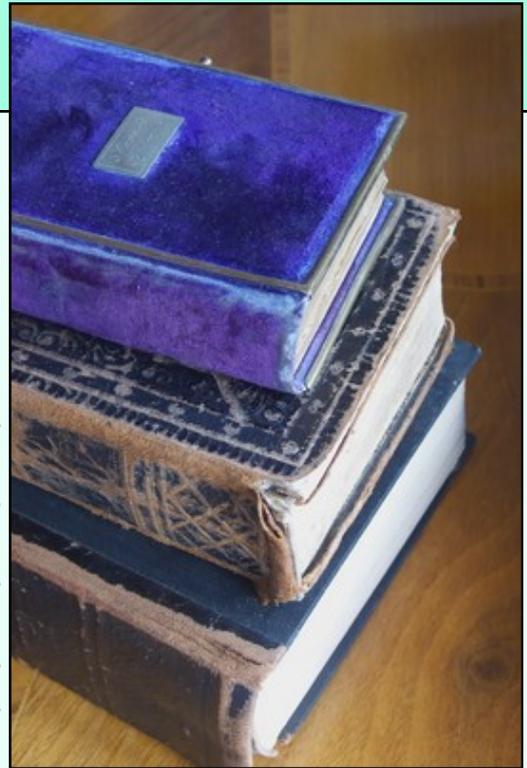
Books have been major information storage and presentation devices for hundreds of years. They collected and shared human knowledge and are to this day the best way to maintain gathered information. These days there are many devices and gadgets that imitate real books and which are in their own right a good presentation of books. But can these gadgets replace real books? Well, for starters, iPads and tablets can contain a great deal of information in them which isn't necessarily a good thing in this case. Imagine that you are on a vacation and brought with you an iPad containing two hundred books. Suppose your iPad is stolen or broken and all your books are permanently deleted and you cannot recover them. You lose the expensive device plus two hundred books which you paid for, whereas in the case of bringing a printed paperback, you lose only the one mentioned which costs approximately fifteen dollars. The bottom line is: print cannot be deleted. Moreover, printed books do not suffer power shortages and blackouts, and are more resistant to shocks. It is certain that, up to now at least, books still represent the most economical and flexible way to transport information at a very low cost.

Considering the usage of digital devices it is very likely that printed books and digital books will continue to coexist in the future. Even today many people read magazines and newspapers by electronic equipment, and these two, along with cookbooks and dictionaries, which are used infrequently only to look up specific passages, are in all probability going mostly digital. But new technologies rarely completely replace old ones. For example, when the mobile phone was invented, it didn't kill home telephone. Likewise, after the advent of the cinema, people continued going to

live theatre. People still go to cinema even though they can watch movies in their homes and we still listen to radio even though we have iPods.

The book in its printed form has a traditional value and it has a special place in our society and probably will in the future. It's in our nature to view objects as material, and many readers love to have a physical presentation of their book. The feeling of holding your favourite book in hardcover edition admiring its design, the sound when they make when you open a new page. We love filling shelves with them. Books are not just collection of data and information, they are also beautiful object in themselves, and every one of them is special just because it is differently designed. With these new technologies there will be many people who will still keep to the traditional reading of a book because formats to which lots of people are attached often take longer time to go away.

There is, however, no point in denying that digital technology that the future brings will make some changes to our reading materials but also that does not mean that book will ever be in danger of total extinction. Just the fact that books in their printed form had been with us for hundreds of years is enough to assure us that they are still too important to our society to give up on.



**Emir Ramić**

## Teenagers in the Amish World

Being a teenager is not a very simple period in our life. Through that period we face difficulties and learn how to be a better person, how to grow up in this world of evil and power. But being an Amish teenager is even more confusing because they live under Amish rules and must decide whether to stay in the Church or live a "normal" English life.

Young people are curious and tired of living in the Amish community, so they want to try something else, be somebody else. "Rumspringa" is a kind of experiment for them, something like a test in which they are able to find themselves, to live a different life, try new things and decide whether to go back to the church or live normally. That is what makes them more confused. They are doubtful and unsure what will happen if they leave the church and if they will find themselves in that new life. The choices are free and determined at the same time. When they experience the other way of living, they are hooked up to it, but at the same time they are isolated from their families and that makes pressure on them.

While watching the film "The Devil's Playground" I found the idea of "bed courtship" wrong. I think that using other women as bait is a cruel way of showing the power of their church; they are brainwashing them.

In my opinion the Amish world is all they have. Those teenagers cannot live a different life. Perhaps they have a choice but they are under pressure from what will happen if they run away from that life. That is the reason why so many teenagers return to the church instead of staying in the "English world".

I don't want to judge Amish teenagers. They are just living their life. They have their tradition and customs. Maybe it isn't a perfect way of life but it is their life and no one should tell them what is right or what is wrong. They are tired of being told what to think. Amish teenagers have their own small world like everyone else has its own.

**Danijela Muslić**



## Healthy Life

Things which should be practicable to follow in order to stay healthy would be taking exercises, eat a lot of fruit and vegetables, avoid smoking if possible, and it is also important to be persistent and doing it regularly in order to, so to speak, make a move. Due to the fact that stress has a major impact on our health, we should first try to make ourselves "spiritually" stable and focused, to organise our everyday habits and after that make a plan of things we should do, food we should eat more often, etc.

As far as stress is concerned, the food is not that much important as much as our mental, emotional condition is concerned. People are different, we react differently, we choose sometimes our own therapy, whether it is related to stress, depression, or some physical problem.

However, we are responsible for ourselves and have to react the moment we notice that stress is leading us to an unhealthy way of living – and what I mean with "unhealthy way of living", I am not only talking about food and what we eat, but also about the state of mind, ability of self-control, etc. Maybe a simple walk in the nature and enjoying the sunshine could at least be an inspiration for a more optimistic point of view.

**Azra Kozlica**

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA—A DREAM DESTINATION!

Looking for somewhere to go away for a long weekend?

At this time of year, there is nowhere better than the unspoilt countryside of Bosnia and Herzegovina. BiH is full of beauty, with high hills and mountains, wooded countryside and picturesque towns and villages, all of which means that it is an ideal place to visit.

First, BiH is very enriched with natural resources. It has many snow-capped mountains which are very beautiful. Some of them are Bjelašnica, Jahorina, which are ideal for adventure sports like hang gliding, skiing and snowboarding, and it is also known that on these surrounding mountains Winter Olympic Games were held in 1984. Rivers are kind of protective sign of BiH. However, my country has many rivers which are chosen for the cleanest and prettiest rivers. For example: River Una in Bihać has been selected as a National Park, waterfall in Jajce, river Neretva in Mostar, etc. Most of these rivers are available for canoeing. What is specific about my country is that it has an opening to the Jadran Sea. What makes BiH a dream destination are also forests which are widespread in the whole country. Personally, I would mention the forest in my city, which is settled on mountain Grmeč in Ključ. I like it because I think it is enriched with many different trees.

Second, each year our streets are thronged with more and more tourists who are interested in the elegant architecture of BiH. Moreover, historic towns are making my country even more beautiful. For instance, Sarajevo, which is known for its old libraries, museums, mosques ("Gazi Husrev beg's mosque", for example), and the fact that the Ottoman period began there; then Ključ, known because that was the town where the last Bosnian king Stjepan Tomašević was captured, and there is also Stolac which is specific and known for its breathtaking monuments. Apart from that, what is worth to visit in BiH are many bridges which are old and cultural. The most impressive bridge is the one in Mostar on the River Neretva which is known in the whole of Europe and beyond. What else makes that bridge specific are the jumpers who jump from the bridge and make that scenery even prettier. There are also many other bridges for example the bridge in Višegrad, Zvornik etc. Something else we can praise with, are the pyramids. Recently, researchers discovered some pyramids in Visoko and since then many people visited our pyramids. Also, Angelina Jolie visited them. It is probably possible that more pyramids exist in BiH but researchers and archeologists must find them first.



Finally, whoever decides to visit BiH will certainly not be hungry because BiH offers plenty of traditional food which is delicious. If you try our food it is impossible to ever forget the taste of it. During the Ottoman Empire traditional meals were prepared and passed from generation to generation. Today, the most usual food in our country are "ćevapi", "sarma" and "baklava". "Ćevapi" are made of meat and a type of flat bread and you can eat it with onion. "Sarma" is made of rice, meat and you put cabbage in it and fill it. "Baklava" is a special sweet food but we can not call it cake because it is made from sweet flour and walnuts. Our dishes are specific and unique and I think nowhere in the world you can find similar food. There are also many other kinds of food such as "kljukuša" which is made with flour, little salt, bake powder and water, then "čorba", "tarhana", "ćufte" (meat rolls), "lutma" (sweet cake) made of flour, eggs and sugar. I think that food in other countries is also tasty and delicious, but I simply must say that Bosnian food is definitely worth tasting. I mean, who could resist tasting our "burek" (meat pie), "krompiruša" (potato pie) which are made with lots of love? When tourists try it, they certainly want to come back to eat our food again.

To summarize, as you can read, BiH has a lot to offer you either natural resources, cultural melting-pot, historic buildings or romantic atmosphere and all this is making BiH a dream destination. Someone once said: "When you first come to Bosnia you want and must come back again". So, what are you waiting for? Go and buy a ticket and fulfill your dream!

**Azra Harambašić**

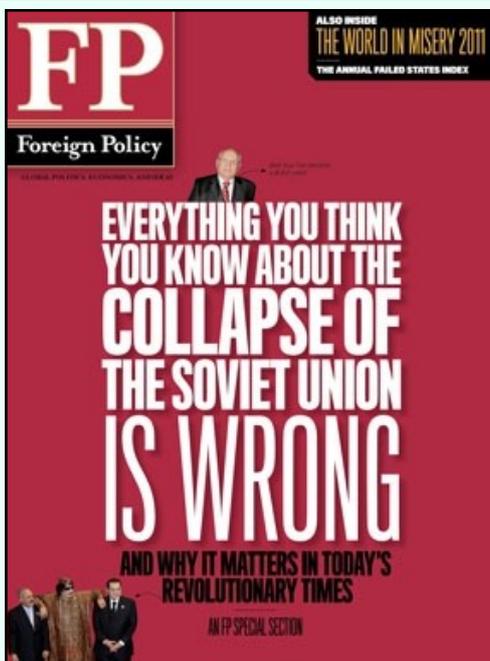
## Essay on “Everything You Think You Know About the Collapse of the Soviet Union Is Wrong”, by L. Aron.

A considerable amount of literature has been published on the collapse of the USSR and its influence on current international affairs. One such article by L. Aron, entitled “Everything You Think You Know about the Collapse of the Soviet Union Is Wrong”, published in Foreign Policy, addresses several interesting, and to him less obvious, reasons for the unpredictable and quite unexpected “liberalization from above” of the Soviet Union.

The “widely missed” signs of the Soviet Union’s destruction, Aron sees not only in the economic, political and social but also in the cultural factors. Many historians have argued that these features played a crucial role in USSR’s collapse; Nevertheless, in Aron’s opinion; they fall short in explaining how and when it exactly happened. The failure of many western scholars and officers, such as G. Kennan and R. Pipes, to foresee the impending fall of Soviet communism, Aron attributes to a sort of historical revisionism, the alleged anti-anti communism.

In the first half of the article, he tries to establish the general tone of his argumentation by evaluating economic, security and political state of affairs, and one by one, excluding and underestimating the importance of those various reasons influencing the USSR’s fall; for instance economic fluctuations in the country throughout two decades, sharp drop in oil prices in 1986, importance of security issues, such as Regan’s doctrine or SDI, as well as the influence of USSR’s participation in Afghan war and financial burdens to its budget, with simple and (un)empirical explanation “the Soviet Union had known far greater calamities and coped without sacrificing an iota of the state's grip on society and economy, much less surrendering it”.

Instead, Aron argues that the reforms Glasnost and Perestroika, initiated by Gorbachev, gave rise to a revolution by 1989, mostly due to largely to another “idealistic” cause – “Gorbachev's personal aversion to violence and his stubborn refusal to resort to mass coercion when the scale and depth of change began to outstrip his original intent”. This view is supported by A. Bovin, who writes that “the ideals of perestroika had “ripened” amid people's increasing “irritation” at corruption, brazen thievery, lies, and the obstacles in the way of honest work.” Swiftly, those ideas themselves became a material, structural factor in the unfolding revolution which was apparently not anticipated anytime soon.



Aron indicates that a “radical break in consciousness”, and overwhelming support for competitive elections and the legalization of parties other than the Soviet Communist Party, which were still illegal at the time, have become an important feature of the revolution, after four generations under a one-party dictatorship. Furthermore, he advocates that the Russian moral renaissance was let down by the “atomization and mistrust bred by 70 years of totalitarianism”. The heritage of imperial philosophy for millions of Russians has since made them “receptive to neo-authoritarian Putinism, with its propaganda leitmotifs of hostile encirclement and Russia rising off its knees”.

In my opinion, the fascinating feature of Aron's article is the fact that he gives almost no credit to economic and security reasons explaining why the USSR collapsed. Even though he begins with highlighting the economic, security and political argumentation within the frame of the topic, he fails to specify to what extent these factors actually helped the collapse in general or in what way they influenced each other.

In addition, Aron puts forward an interesting idea that virtually no Western expert on Eastern Europe, diplomat or politician foresaw the impending collapse of the Soviet Union, which is relatively hard to prove or believe. I believe he was trying to narrow down a very complex set of reasons and factors to support his own claims that the USSR’s collapse was merely a result of failing ideology and misguided political reforms taking place in the late 80s.

The third critical point of his argumentation is narrowed focus on the USSR’s fall from the Russian - central perspective, without evaluating or reflecting any other viewpoint of the satellite countries within the Union, let alone other communist centers in the world (like Yugoslavia or even China) or the West. What's more, the importance of another revolutionary events taking place in Europe at the time, for instance the Velvet revolution in CSSR or the fall of the Berlin Wall, was largely neglected in the article.

In conclusion, I believe that this paper has raised many questions in need of further investigation, mostly in comparative perspective to the recent uprisings in the north of Africa. Considerably more work will need to be done to determine whether these revolutions are in line with new age democratic changes described in the Russian case study.

Aida Tulić

## Why is Mr. Darcy the perfect man?



*Flowering, pinz\**

*Greatbath, sculp\**

### PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.

*She then told him what Mr. Darcy had voluntarily done for Lydia. He heard her with astonishment.*

*London. Published by Richard Bentley, 1833.*

For centuries women of all age, especially young ones, have dreamed of finding their Prince Charming. Even though we have heard about him in children fairytales and we know that these men are only seen in fiction, it is in female nature to dream about him and even to try to find him in real life.

One of the examples of Prince Charming can be found in the most famous romantic novel of all time, *Pride and Prejudice*. Jane Austen, the author, sets her novel in the Victorian period, which was considered to be the most luxurious and most elegant one. Everything what that era represented was shown in Austen's novels. They are based on love stories between the main characters who were usually people in their young adulthood. In *Pride and Preju-*

*dice*, there is a story about two sisters, Elizabeth and Jane, who became objects of admiration of two wealthy men. The sisters belong to a middle class family but they manage to get married to these young men and to have their own happy ending.

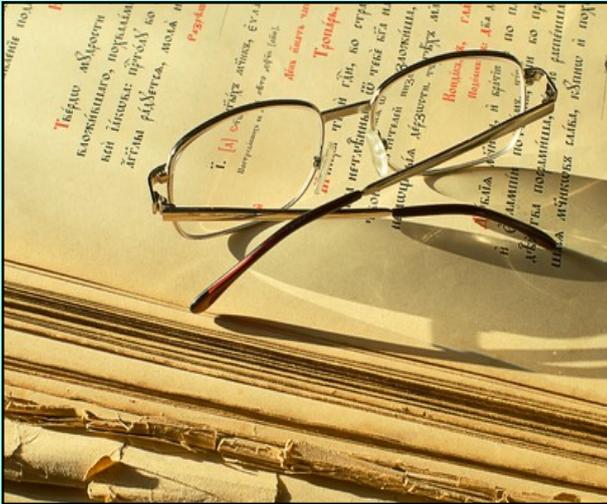
In the novel, Austen shows us the image of Prince Charming in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a man who is challenging in many ways. He is tall, handsome, dark-haired, intelligent, hard on the outside but kind and gentle on the inside. He is mysterious, loyal, sometimes arrogant, but still passionately devoted to his loved ones. In a word he is perfection and his name is Mr. Darcy. At the beginning of the novel, through the eyes of the main heroine Elizabeth, he is presented as the proudest man alive. Although this characteristic is partly true, it is not the one worth mentioning since he changes throughout the story. Moreover, he has many other characteristics that speak in his favour.

But what makes Mr. Darcy the perfect man?

His physical appearance, his gentlemanlike manners, his pure and kind heart, his honesty and loyalty, among other qualities are what make him the man whom every girl would want for herself. Surely his physical appearance is not important because what counts is the inside of a man, but in Mr. Darcy's case, his beauty can only be the appearance of his heart and his soul. His heart and his beautiful soul are particularly important when it comes to defining Mr. Darcy as the perfect man since these enable him to love profoundly those around him, especially his sister and the woman of his life. The love between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth is a story that speaks for itself. It is important to mention that he truly loved her for who she was. Her inferior birth and her middle-class relatives did not have any impact on his love and attitude towards her. The way he loves a woman and puts up with problems that they have encountered is really admirable. He changed himself because of Elizabeth. He was proud and she was prejudiced, still that did not diminish their worth and quality as people. Instead, it made them better and their love stronger.

But, Mr. Darcy does not only have a kind and good heart. He is also an open, honest man and a loyal friend. His honesty and loyalty are evident in many parts of the novel, especially when he tells everyone everything directly to their faces. It does not matter what or when, he will tell what he thinks or feels about a particular situation directly and without hesitation. Darcy is the kind of man who never tells lies and who is likely to say nothing rather than say something false. His honesty is quite a remarkable quality in a man and that is probably one of the reasons why Eliza-

## OUR FUTURE WITHOUT OUR PAST?



both fell for him, in the first place.

Mr. Darcy is a virtuous man, a gentleman with the most extraordinary manners and a man who deeply admires and respects his friends and his love, above everything. Jane Austen depicted him as the perfect man for a reason. Most likely, she was describing the man of her dreams, who knows, but one thing is for sure, and that is that there are no women who were left indifferent to him when they first read the novel. And even though Darcy is only a fictional character, every woman wants a man like Darcy in her real life.

Still, a perfect man for all women should not be the real personification of Mr. Darcy since men are not alike. Each of them is created to be different in their own way. But women should at least try to find a man who is able to love, to listen and care for them. The perfect man does not have to be wealthy, handsome or powerful because those are the things that matter the least, but he must possess some of the good qualities such as manners, good heart, kindness and loyalty to a woman. The chances are that no couple will ever experience the unconditional love like Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth, but that is alright since real life is much harder than imagination, and reality demands more sacrifice and more struggle and more fight for what one wants.

**Aida (Mirsad) Pašić**

Among a wide range of subjects in school, there is also history, the subject that deals with the events that happened in the past. But why do students have to hear about the events that happened hundreds and thousands of years ago? Why bother people with the past when we live in present and think about the future? These are the questions that many people think about and that should finally be answered.

History, for sure, is one of the most important subjects in our education.

First of all, by knowing history we know our identity. That means that we know who we actually are, where we came from, who our ancestors are, how our society is created and many other very important things.

Second and also very important thing that is connected with previously mentioned is that knowing our history and our identity, as well as the history of other people, we will understand the society we live in, as well as the other people's societies. This means that we will be able to understand why societies differ and which events in the past made them what they are today. For example, when we look at our country we can see that many people emigrated in other countries. We can also see that our economy, education and many other things are not developed as in other countries. Without knowing that there was a war between the nations we would not understand why things are as they are.

Finally, without understanding why our society is the way it is we would not be able to change it. That means that if we do not know the reason of some problem, in other words the cause of the problem, we won't be able to fix it.

On the other side, history also teaches us morals. People should learn from mistakes which means that if we know the history and we talk about the mistakes that lead us to war or some crisis, we will make an effort not to do the same thing again.

To sum up, history is very important in our education. Children are our future. They are our successors and our future leaders. If they do not know what happened in the past, they won't be able to improve our society and to prevent things that happened in the past from happening again.

**Emina Subašić**



## The Internet

Because of that, today, we have blogs about health, fashion, love, relationships and many other interesting topics.

The internet also improved our education through online education. Today, we can find a lot of e-books on web pages. They can be very useful if you're unable to find them in libraries. The internet also made it easier for many people to read newspapers, articles, magazines which are not printed in their countries. So, today almost every newspaper has its online version, and thanks to that, we can always stay up-to-date with the events in the rest of the world. Additionally, internet communication helps in studying and providing an alternative educational system. One of the best corporate services on the network is probably Windows Live Service, which offers a simple and unique access to a lot of internet services from the same point, and the range of them is getting bigger every day.

Besides education and socialisation, internet can be fun. For example, you can watch movies online. If you are interested in one particular you can find its trailer, watch it and then decide if you want to find it in the cinema and watch it completely. If you have trouble making decision about a place to visit and where to spend the holiday, the internet allows you to search for destinations, look pictures if you are interested and what's best, you can make arrangements online. To complete the fun of spending time online, there is music and music videos. The most famous internet page for that is YouTube. It allows you to make your own account and your playlist, so you can enjoy music videos while surfing the internet.

All in all, we are all aware of the progress of technology in the last few years. One of those inventions is certainly internet and probably the best for mankind. The internet is a whole new world opening up.

Can you imagine how our life used to be in those days without internet? We're so occupied with it and its new content that almost nobody thinks about the advantages it brought. I hope this essay will remind you how useful and important internet is and in which way it made our lives easier.

First of all, it helped very much with improving the process of socialisation. There are new social networks, for example Facebook and Twitter. They are created to help us find new friends, but also to find those whom you haven't heard anything from for a long time. Another thing which helps in socialisation are different forums. Forums enable you to discuss the themes you are interested in and subjects you like. The internet is full of personal pages called blogs. There you can write your own opinion and share it, or write about your hobbies.

**Almedina Durić**

## English is necessary for my future

Learn English and you will never be alone. I have found this to be true many times in my life when I needed help with something and only I could help myself by knowing English. The English language has become global and anyone living on this planet should know it. I believe English will be important and necessary for my future in education, my future job and travel.

Learning any foreign language is great, but learning English is extraordinary, especially because of my education. English gives a lot of opportunities to students around the world to study anywhere they want, because most countries offer classes in English. For example, the University of Graz in Austria offers classes in English in most of their fields of studies for undergraduate, graduate, master and doctoral studies. Education is very important today, as well as knowing English, so if we put these two factors together, we have a perfect match for a successful life. Our education presents who we are and English language is a part of it.

The second reason why English is very important is getting a job. In the century we live in, using English language is like knowing how to walk. If you want to apply for a job one of the things you must know is how to speak English. A long time ago that was not a necessity, but now it is a must if you want a good job with a good salary. This is the case especially if you work with computers, you have to know English because every program is made in that language. By knowing this language you have a lot more choices for jobs. This is true because almost every company has foreign partners and no matter where they are from, we can communicate in this unique, global language that we all know, or want to learn.

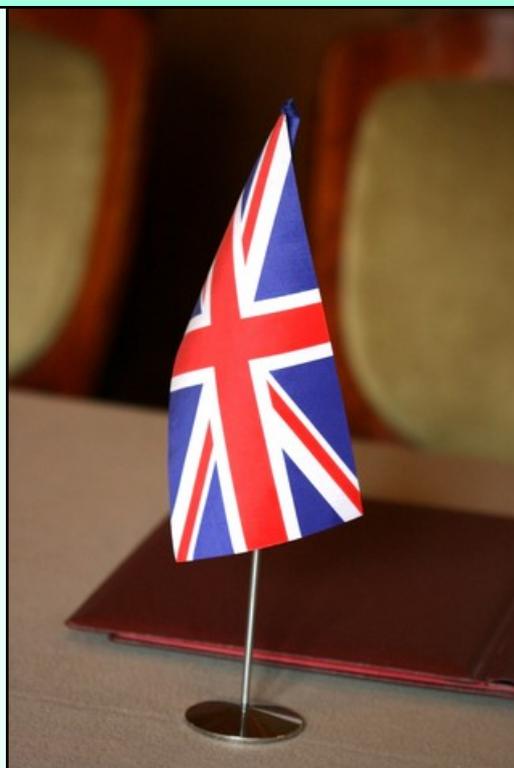
Traveling is also one of the great things in life we need English for. If you go somewhere and if you know just a little bit of English, be sure that you will enjoy your journey. Every country in the world has tourist guides that know English. This language can sometimes get you out of trouble when you are in a country that you don't know much about. When I was in Turkey with my class in high school, I wanted to

check something out in one of the shops and I was laughing and speaking with my friends, and the seller found us suspicious and started yelling at me in Turkish. I couldn't understand him, but then I spoke to him in

English and he apologized to us and explained that earlier that day a group of foreigners stole something from his shop and he thought we might do the same. That day, I realized how English is one of the best things I have learned and am still learning. I love traveling everywhere, but without English it's a drag. Sometimes you get lost or do not know what to do in a specific city or country. These are the times when you need to know English, otherwise you are lost.

All in all, for me English is something that every man in this world should know or learn. This is the common language of all of us, and world communication is better with it. This language provides us with knowledge, self-esteem, jobs, new life opportunities and a lot more. My future is connected with English through my present and my future education, my job and everything related with me could be related to English. English is my future.

**Anel Viteškić**



## EDITOR'S NOTE

*When my students and I were discussing possible titles for our magazine, several suggestions were tossed around, from the utterly ridiculous ones to titles such as "The Lost Generation". Despite their resignation with the adolescent time full of hope and (sometimes) a bleak view on the endless possibilities in the future, I found them to be far from lost. This generation proved itself through four years at this faculty and will continue to prove its worth in time to come.*

*"ARS GRATIA ARTIS" might give a light impression when taking into account the meaning behind the title, but its content shows true depth and versatility of these young writers. Some of them tackled the eternal "What if?" question and imagined themselves as confidants of kings and queens; others contemplated life, happiness, the teaching profession and saving the planet; one student even wrote a Lovecraftian revenge story of Mother Earth.*

*What they all have in common is... well, a number of qualities. I will name two: the ability to express themselves and perseverance. Sometimes you don't need anything else to succeed in life. And succeed they will. "ART FOR ART'S SAKE" offers not just their art (satisfaction of the now), but also the belief in their bright tomorrow.*

Ilhana Škrgić, M.Sc.



## IMPRESSUM

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Magazine printed in digital format,  
2013

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UNIVERSITY OF BIHAĆ - PEDAGOGICAL FACULTY - DEPARTMENT  
OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
FOURTH-YEAR STUDENTS' E-ZINE ("ART FOR ART'S SAKE")