

# A CHEST OF THOUGHTS

UNIVERSITY OF BIHAĆ - PEDAGOGICAL FACULTY - DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS' MAGAZINE

Featuring short stories and essays by:

Neira  
Sijamhodžić  
Hazrudin Burmić  
Adnan  
Bajrektarević  
Armin Demirović  
Fatima Tabaković  
Almin  
Muharemović  
Dino Hadžić



# HAVING A BOOK FOR BFF

For a long time life has been a struggle for me. From what I could tell, it hasn't been daisies for everyone else either. I never let go of the fantasy that one day I wouldn't feel so isolated from the rest of the normal world. My dream is what kept me going many nights when I fought the desire to just disappear. Well, that and my motto which I kind of made up: 'If life gives you lemons but you want apple juice, well, go to the damn store and buy apple juice. Sometimes, it's even on sale! Life wouldn't stop you from going to the store now, would it?' Pretty great ha? So instead of drowning myself in depression and selfpity I have focused on more important things in life. Well at least important to me - just some small, random things which made me happy. Things like music, friends, family and books – above all books.

I don't think people would believe me if I told them how much books mean to me and how much they helped me and still do. I've learned to appreciate books of all kinds and anything written by someone. The joy of reading books can't be described in words. It's something that you understand only by real experience. Books uphold and encourage me when I feel sad and despondent. They bring light into darkness and sunshine into shadow. They correct me when I go astray, amuse me when I'm bored and give me a jolly company when I feel lonely. They provide me with another angle to enjoy beauty. They take me to places I've never seen, those heights which I've never felt, and to a land which I can never imagine. I can say for myself that I've lived a thousand lives. I've lived a life in which I was Harry Potter and I experienced having been

part of the best school that ever existed or will exist – Hogwarts. I've been Jon Snow and Daenerys in Game of Thrones. I've had privilege to be in Ana Frank's head. Having Hazel Grace, Augustus Watters and Isac as my friends is a bless to me. What better experience in life can you have than running with Robert Langdon through the streets of Vatican and discovering mythical symbols. I've been and seen all of that and even more. There's still millions lives to live and discover, because there are so many books and so little time. But living all those lives have some disadvantages. Like when I finish an amazing book and look around myself and realize that everyone is just carrying on with their lives. And there's me who just experienced an emotional trauma at the hands of a paperback. Also when you start a new book and ten hours later, realize you haven't eaten or gone to the bathroom. Or that great feeling when someone sits and talks to me while I'm trying to read an awesome book. That's my personal favorite! And of course I don't want a real boyfriend because book boyfriends are so much better. Just saying.

What else is there to say. Oh yeah, I cannot imagine my life without the touch of books. Book helps me to become a complete person in life. Book is my best friend and teacher. Book gives me complete life. It gives me comfort in life. It removes my loneliness. I cannot buy happiness but I can buy books and that's kind of the same thing.

**Neira Sijamhodžić**







## TWISTS AND TURNS

Every life has its own twists and turns. My life had so much of them that I can't remember all. At first, I wanted to study History because it was my favorite subject at school and I was the best in it. But fate had other plans for me. I enrolled in English Language and Literature, and since then my problems had begun. First at home where the pressure was too high, at faculty nothing went on as planned, and as if that wasn't enough, I found a girl - or better said - 'the devil'.

I was close to passing the first year but I failed one subject. I was angry at myself, and disappointed at the same time. I renewed first year and started slowly. Then, suddenly everything changed. I met a girl and began to gain confidence and determination. I was better than ever. I enrolled again in the first year because of hatred and determination but I didn't have confidence to do it. When I met her my life changed completely. Her name was Jasmine. She was a friend when I needed one. She worked in a bet-shop near my apartment and I visited her every day. I spent more time with her than at faculty because I had more free time and only 2-3 days to go to classes. I began to fall in love with her. On New Year's Eve I was at home and she appeared in my dreams. I knew that my suspicions were true. I knew that I was in love with her. I passed all my exams and earned the right to enroll in the second year in February. I had more free time to spend with her. No one wasn't so close to me as she was. Even though she knew I loved her more than a friend, she wanted only to be friends. I accepted that but wasn't sure how to live without her. I finished my exams and went on vacation in Munich - my beloved city. I had a month and half to rest and charge batteries to continue studying. When I was in Munich, she was coming and hunting me in my dreams even when I was

awake. When I came back, the first thing on my mind was to find her. I was informed that she was working near my new apartment, one block away. Two days later I surprised her with my arrival. She hugged me and I saw the happiness on her face which has never been there before. Then it all started again. I came to her every day and she was calling me to see her when she was free. I noticed a change in her, some connection that connected us even closer. I was hoping that my determination will prevail. But I was wrong. During that summer I found a job. She went on vacation and came back soon and visited me at my workplace. I realised that she loved me but also hesitated because she was afraid to lose me. I was tired of waiting for her and started dating another girl that I didn't even like so much. I was in a dilemma and I couldn't just break someone's heart, because I'm softhearted. Then another twist happened and changed my life immediately. I broke with that girl to stay with Jasmine and after two years of a relationship she dumped me. That almost led to a destruction of my life. I was desperate and the only thing I wanted was to settle our argument which continued for the next seven long months. I stopped counting and gave up. I made a surprise for her birthday and she accepted it and was happy, but her stubbornness made up her mind. I have finally learned that she was the responsible for the bet shop where she worked banning me from entering. I laughed at that and decided to change my life.

I took me seven months to see what she was capable of and soon she started to annoy me. I turned my life to a better direction, and focused only on my faculty and my friends, and of course my family, who helped me stand on my feet.

**Hazrudin Burmić**

## WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE HUNGRY EVERY DAY?

Misery, hunger, sadness and struggle every single day are the words that describe the situation in most countries of the world. World leaders don't care about it and they pretend to be blind and deaf when it comes to those people that desperately need their help. If just one percent of every rich and good standing human being would help poor people, we would immediately see world hunger disappear. Is it too much we ask for? Is it that huge wealth and greed totally ruined people? Is this really necessary in this worthless life?

Imagine yourself in a situation where no one cares about you, where no one knows how you feel, where you are without everything - even without dry/moldy bread to eat. That we cannot know because we haven't been in such a situation like those people whose life is a struggle every day. Thousands of people in those countries without being hungry every day don't have a job, at least to try to earn some money for their families. Many of us cannot



imagine that most of them don't have even a place to live. They are in real misery.

I call these people fighters because every single coin they have earned has been through sweat and with hard work, and most important they earned it decently. It's a huge difference between those who have had everything and those who don't. Rich people always want more and have never been satisfied, even when they don't know where to spend it. But poor

people just want to have normal lives and dreams of not being in a situation like they were before. So many times I've learned that a person who had everything was rather selfish and someone who is thankful to you because you gave him something worthless would help you rather than that greedy person. That pure love they had inspires you to be a better person. Once upon a time some anonymous person said: "You have never lived properly unless you had done something for someone who cannot repay you until the rest of your life."

All in all we have learned that everyone who need help has to be our responsibility to do everything that we can for him, because God gave us fortune that we shall spend through life and most importantly - to help the poor. Because you could be one day in similar situation like they were, so do good stuff and remember that we are all passengers through this life. Peace :)

**Adnan Bajrektarević**

## TOMORROWLAND

This world we live in now is... well I can't find the right words to describe it. We have become selfish and cold blooded, with characteristics similar to wild animals, as if the world has come to an end and everyone is focused on themselves, people forget that they have families and friends. Sometimes I observe the people around me, boys trying everything to be more like girls, you know shaving their legs, eyebrows with haircuts that look as if a cow licked them. What the hell happened? Please Evolution go back and make things right, we don't need this. But the funny thing is that we are full of criticism, nothing is ever good for us, for example if a man grows a beard he is a terrorist. But it only happens in our region in our country, because people have not yet evolved here. Well, they have but somewhere along the way someone tripped and made the wrong turn.

There are no words to describe the situation we are in, to describe us. We are not people anymore; there is no respect, no faith, no compassion and no humanity. One simple word to describe us would be animals and our country a farm, although some animals have more humanity than the

person sitting next to you. So you see my point, I just can't find the right words. Instead of going one step forward we take the next three back, nevermind that the technology is evolving and we know how to use it. One brilliant man developed something called a Smartphone and showed us how it can take control of our lives and instead of doing the things we are supposed to, our phone can now do it instead of us. We've thrown ourselves at the mercy of technology and we like it. So what to do? You can't talk normally to anyone, without someone mentioning God or Illuminati and how they are controlling the world or you just can't talk to someone because the other person is probably on Facebook on their smartphone. One day without electricity and I think that 70% of Facebook users would probably commit suicide, no, not probably but for sure.

When I was a kid I used to be outside the entire time, no phone no internet, all you needed was friends and the ideas just came popping, let's do this let's do that and the only time you would go back home is when your mom called for lunch and then like The Flash, outside. Someone should have documented these moments to show these new generations what was it like to grow up as a normal kid.



Through the years, people have been searching for improvements and benefits in their lives, mostly because of their will or instinct for getting more goods with less time or effort. We live in a time where technology is developed so much that people cannot imagine their life without electricity, and we are surrounded by a pile of devices in our home and outside of it. Having our lifestyle shaped to fit perfectly to electronic devices, we sometimes unconsciously allow internet or TV to shape our extent of knowledge to what we see on it, and that may afford us to miss such useful and beautiful things. I will mention some of things I consider good, beautiful, worth of visiting or using.

## REFRESHING OF MIND AND BODY

**SMILING** - besides that smiling helps us to get a better mood and reduce stress, it can also lower heart rate and boost our immune system

**RUNNING** – it can kill harmful substances in our body, accelerate our metabolism and strengthen the immune system.

**ENJOY BEING IN NATURE** - fresh air also reflects well on our immune system, gives us a fresh pack of energy and increases happiness.



Our health is priceless, and that is why we are strengthening our immune system. Sometimes people believe more in medicine shown in advertisement on TV than healthful plants shown to be effective. I'm going to mention some of the healthiest fruits:

**POMEGRANATE** - considered the most powerful antioxidant of all fruits, it may have benefits to relieve or protect against depression and osteoporosis;

**FIG** - protective against postmenopausal breast cancer and consuming fig leaves helps diabetics with insulin-lowering.;

**BLACK CUMIN** - The seeds are very effective in curing abscesses and tumors of the eye, abdomen and liver, probably due in great part to the anti-tumor compound beta-sitosterol found in the seeds.

Besides fruit there are also a few factors which can affect our health such as:

### DESTINATIONS

Some of these destinations you might never heard of:

**GLOW WORM CAVE, NEW ZEALAND** – cave on the North Island on New Zealand, popular because of glowworms, species that can be found on New Zealand!

**PAMUKKALE, TURKEY**– Because of its appearance it got the name Pamukkale ('Cotton Castle' in Turkish).

**KLAMATH RIVER, CALIFORNIA** – famous of its sweet water facing salt water, but not blending!

**FINGAL'S CAVE, SCOTLAND** – known for its natural acoustics, it is formed of many beautiful and interesting columns.

**ILLUMINATED CAVES, JAPAN** – second largest series of caves in Japan, attractive mostly because of their illuminating colours.

Armin Demirović



Glow Worm Cave, photo courtesy of worldtravel.com

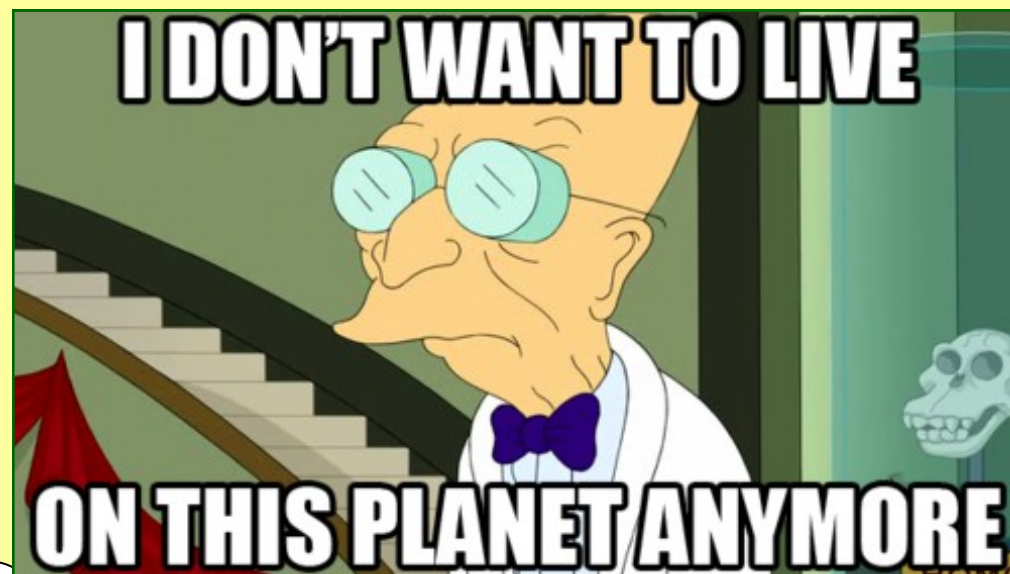
## *A Page from a Bride's Diary*

I always thought that every woman is happy when her boyfriend asks her :“Will you marry me? “ and now I know that she is the happiest person in the world at that moment. However, I didn't know that answer “Yes, I will marry you” will also bring a lot of worries and stress. Especially if you decide to get married in ten days. I don't know what's wrong with me. I can't sleep. I can't eat. I can't learn, but I can think. That's the only thing I can do. I'm so nervous. I feel that I'm not ready yet for all that. “Am I allowed to feel all these things or to simply be happy because every bride is supposed to be HAPPY when getting married?” says one online blog bride, and I can only agree.

The wedding is in ten days and I don't even have a wedding gown. I don't have jewellery. I don't have anything. At this moment I want to leave everything to the wind and go somewhere far away. This is so difficult. I have so many things to do, but I don't have time for it. I have only ten days.

The wedding day will come very soon and I can't get used to it that in a few days everything is going to be different and I feel that I need 'few days more' in my home, with my family and friends. I hope the entire obsession over jewelry, dresses, honeymoon etc will gone. That is so stressful for me. And the most confusing part is that on one hand I wanted a few more days and on the other I wanted to get everything done fast —wedding in a rapid fire motion. It's all very confusing at this moment. My friends were a valuable support during these days because talking to mom or dad about these feelings would mean tears, tears and more tears. Friends are there to listen to what you have to say and they won't call you a water-tank (like your fiancé) if you indeed give into tears sometimes. It's very hard to be a bride.

**Fatima Tabaković**



Continued from page 4:

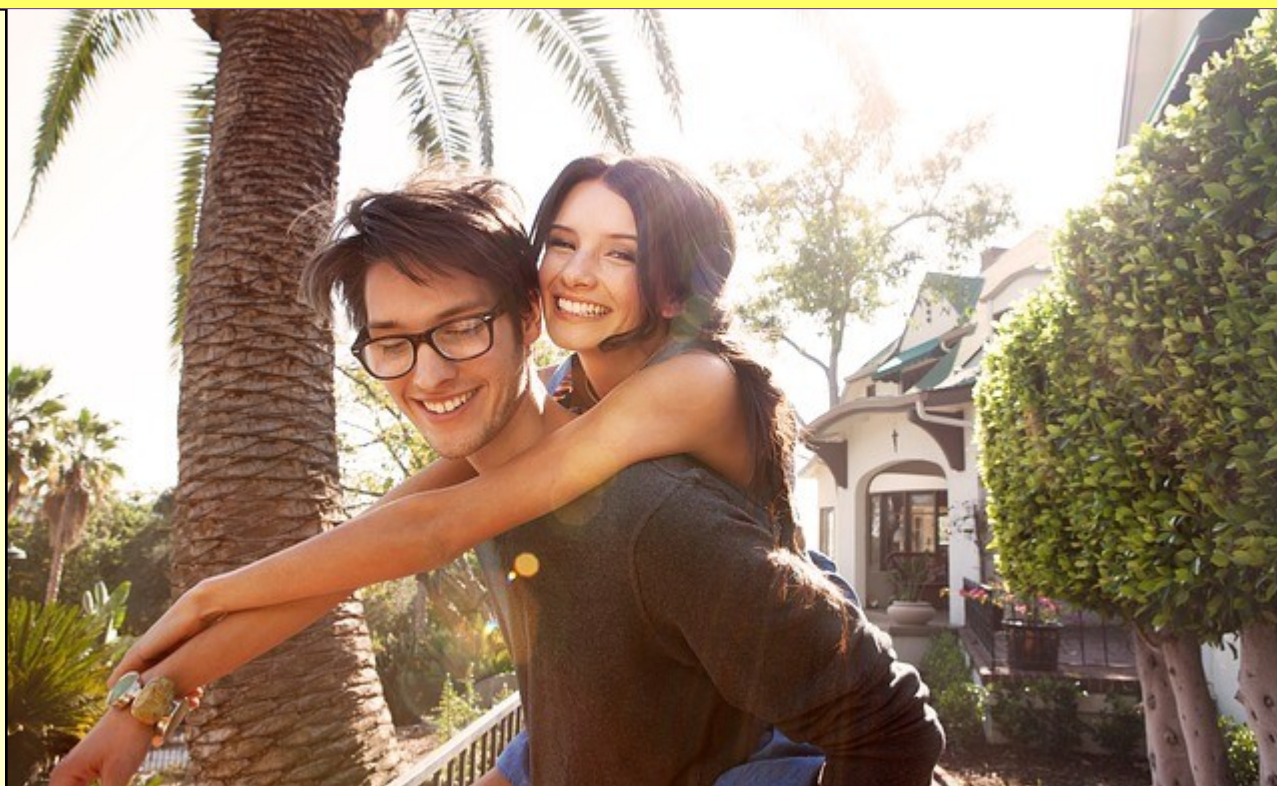
I think now would be a perfect moment for a “Futurama meme” saying I DON'T WANT TO LIVE ON THIS PLANET ANYMORE.

**Dino Hadžić**

Image courtesy of  
knowyourmeme.com



## *Happiness Only Real When Shared*



From the very beginnings of the Earth people have lived in communities. Ever since Adam and Eve came to Earth, co-existing is there. They were thrown on opposite sides of the planet and with their first breath begins the search for a partner. It was in their nature. Nobody told them that they should embark on this journey and go look for each other. They wouldn't rest still until they had found each other. And when they did they started reproducing, in order to grow in numbers. So begins the tale of human beings.

Ever since that time, we have lived together, some in mountains, some by the sea. Some hunters, some fishermen. But we all had one thing in common and that was our need to be with someone, our need to be listened to, our need to be taken care of and loved. There are different opinions of people that insist that they don't need anyone around. The people that claim that they were born alone and that they want to go from this world in the same manner. Many see them as lunatics, for others they are just too egoistic to admit their need for other people. I don't, and I never will, understand why people have to be so mean to each other so friggin' often! So little is needed for happiness but we refuse to see it. If you don't understand something in life – ask. If you don't like something, or if you are bothered with something – say it. If you miss someone – call them. If you love somebody – tell them! Life is not complicated, we are the ones that are making it so. Many

say that God created Earth and this world in order to show himself to humans, to show them the beauty of His creation. What and who for we people create, make, paint, build and do, if not for one another. Why else do painters have exhibitions but to show and share their work. "People are strange when you are a stranger, faces look ugly when you are alone," in the immortal words of Jim Morrison. That's why we need to get out there, talk to each other. Communicate, travel, discover, stay hungry and stay foolish. A bird stays in the air as long as she waves its wings. It's pretty much the same with us. We will be able to preserve our relationships only as long as we talk to each other, because the largest proportion of problems in world comes out of lack in communication.

In the end I'm going to quote Leo Tolstoy: *"I have lived through much, and now I think I have found what is needed for happiness. A quiet secluded life in the country, with the possibility of being useful to people to whom it is easy to do good, and who are not accustomed to have it done to them; then rest, work which one hopes may be of some use; then rest, nature, books, music, love for one's neighbor - such is my idea of happiness. And then, on top of all that, you for a mate, and children, perhaps - what more can the heart of a man desire?"*

**Almin Muharemović**

## EDITORS' NOTE

*"A Chest of Thoughts" is a wonderful collection of feelings, thoughts, ideas and wishes that our dear students shared with all of us. The magazine title took us into an imaginary world where everything is possible, while interesting topics of short stories and essays made us believe that all our wishes will come true.*

*This collection includes a wide range of interesting themes indicating that all these students possess a number of intelligences and qualities that they have masterly shown through their works. It was a pleasure to read such delightful ideas that are able to have an enormous impact on developing individual perception of everyday life.*

*With "A Chest of Thoughts" we have been given another pleasure - to present to you, dear reader, this rich treasure chest, in hopes you will find a gem to call your own. Gems written by our own stellar, hard-working students, who are already knocking on the door of the 4th and final year of studies.*



### IMPRESSUM

Magazine Editors: Ilhana Škrgić, MA;  
Alma Žerić, MA; Jasmina Tevšić, BA

Contributors: as listed on the cover

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