

**Romeo and Juliet in Sarajevo**

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Think of the world's greatest lovers and who comes to mind?

In all probability, Romeo and Juliet.

What is it about this couple that makes the world remember their story - even if we don't always know the details that well?

Could it be because their love was so innocent - they could not bear to be apart? Perhaps it is because of the opposition to their being in love?

Or is it because the story ends in the tragic death of the couple?

Whatever the reason, William Shakespeare's play has captured the interest of millions since its first performance in 1594.

**The Sarajevo Romeo and Juliet**

Bosko Brkic and Admira Ismic have been called the 'Romeo and Juliet of Sarajevo.' Theirs is a true story and demonstrates that the power of love knows no political, religious, or nationality boundaries. It is told in the words of people who knew Bosko and Admira (from the transcript of 'Romeo and Juliet in Sarajevo' with kind permission from FRONTLINE/WGBH).

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**NARRATOR:** When they were 16, Bosko Brkic and Admira Ismic kissed at a New Year's Eve party. It was the beginning of 1984. That year, a Muslim girl and a Serbian Christian boy fell in love for the first time in their lives. Admira's best friend in high school, Tanja Bogdanovic, knew them both well.

**TANJA BOGDANOVIC:** [*Admira's best friend at school*] The two of them were very, very different. I loved Admira because she was so different from me. She was very unusual. She was interested in things that were a little bit strange for a girl. She loved to drive motorcycles and she knew how to fix cars very well. She was a little bit of a wild character. Usually, girls are afraid of something, but nothing could scare Admira. Bosko was different. He was quieter and cooler. He had a smile all the time. He liked to play jokes on people, but in a nice way. He had a real charm that you don't see in people very often.

**NARRATOR:** 1984 was a magical time to be in Sarajevo. The city was hosting the winter Olympic games and Bosko and Admira saw the world come to their home. Historically, Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, had always been a crossroads of nations, a city that had tried to set aside the old hatreds, the embodiment of an international dream. It was a cosmopolitan place where Muslims, Serbs, Croats, Jews and other nationalities had lived together for more than 500 years.

**RADA BRKIC:** [*Bosko's mother*] I raised them without thinking about religion or nationality. I never said, "You are Serbs, they are Muslims or Croats." I saw her only as the girlfriend of my son, who loved her, and who I loved, too. I didn't regard her as a Muslim, as different.

**NARRATOR:** Admira's Muslim parents were just as welcoming and approved of their eldest daughter's first serious boyfriend.

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**ZIJO ISMIC:** *[Admira's father]* Well, I knew from the first day about that relationship and I didn't have anything against it. I thought it was good because her guy was so likeable. And after a time, I started to love him and didn't regard him any differently than Admira.

**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* In my family, there are many mixed marriages. Two aunts of mine are married to Serbs. They have kids who are my relatives, so that means I can't see a difference. And we lived like that the entire time before the war. All of us-- or should I say most of us only judge people as people, not which religion or nationality they are. But people who think differently made this war.

**ZIJO ISMIC:** *[Admira's father]* My best friend, Otto, is a Croat. I spent more time in his Catholic church than in all the mosques of the world. I've never been in a mosque, but I went to church with him because his parents were religious and they were going to church. I was Otto's friend, and wherever he went, I went. I even sang in the church choir and I didn't care. And that's something the world can't understand - how a Muslim would sing in a church choir.

**NARRATOR:** For Admira's younger sister, Amela, that Bosko was a Serb and a Christian was not important. He was just the brother she'd never had.

**AMELA ISMIC:** *[Admira's younger sister]* Bosko treated me like a younger sister. He always protected me and told me that if I ever had any problems, I could talk to him. "If somebody bothers you," he said, "tell me." He was like my brother.

**NARRATOR:** But Amela couldn't understand that, for her 80-year old grandmother, accepting a mixed relationship wasn't so easy.

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**SADIKA ISMIC:** *[Admira's grandmother]* Yes. Yes, I did have something against it. I thought he is a Serb and she is a Muslim and how will it work?

**NARRATOR:** What she was thinking about was her family's history, how her husband and brothers had fought the Serbs in the Second World War. They were fighting not just the Germans, but also Serbian nationalists. The war had inflamed all the old nationalism.

In neighboring Croatia, pro-Hitler fascists were rounding up Serbs in Nazi-like extermination programs. Bosko's grandmother remembers those times. One day, her husband was summoned to a police station.

**NAKA GRUBER:** *[Bosko's grandmother]* I never saw him again. I don't know where they took him. I just know he was killed.

**NARRATOR:** Bosko's grandfather was one of an estimated 500,000 Serbs killed by the Croatian fascists. For the generation that followed, Yugoslavia became the most open society in Eastern Europe, with the freedom to travel and a standard of living closest to the West. When they graduated from high school in June 1986, Bosko and **Admira** were typical Yugoslav teenagers. His mother says they were interested in cars, movies and music. But that summer, Bosko's father suddenly died from a heart attack. He was just 45. It was hard on Bosko. Three weeks later, he had to report for compulsory military service in what was then the Yugoslav Federal Army. He was sent to an officer training school in Serbia.

**ZIJO ISMIC:** *[Admira's father]* Admira was very upset at the time he was in the army. You could see in her face that she loved Bosko. One day, I tried to help her, to say to her, "Go out. Go out with your friends. There are more guys than Bosko." That was my personal opinion. I thought the kid should go out and have a good time. But I could never convince her.

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**NERA BRKIC:** *[Bosko's mother]* Admira was really his first love. I can honestly say it was true love between them.

**NARRATOR:** They had never been apart before. He was now 300 miles away at the officer training camp. They wrote to each other almost every day.

"My dearest Admira: Every night when I go to bed, I cannot sleep because I'm thinking of you. My love, you are the only happiness I have."

"My dear love: Sarajevo at night is the most beautiful thing in the world. I guess I could live somewhere else, but only if I must or if I'm forced. Just a little beat of time is left until we are together. After that, absolutely nothing can separate us."

"My dearest Admira: Truly, I miss you so much that I cannot say or explain in words. Now all my life points to the day when I'll finish my military service and see you again."

After 11 months they were back together again. While Admira continued studying economics at university, Bosko set up a small kitchen-ware store stocked with products they'd buy on trips to Italy.

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On April 5th, 1992, the streets of Sarajevo were filled with Bosnian Muslims, Serbs and Croats demonstrating their support for a new, independent, multi-ethnic state. Sarajevans marched in the hope that they could hold on to their tradition of tolerance and avoid the bloodshed that followed Croatian independence. Suddenly, shots rang out. Bosnian Serbs loyal to a political party opposed to independence had fired into the crowd. A sniper's bullet claimed the first casualty of the Bosnian war. The siege of Sarajevo was about to begin.

There were, of course, many Serbs who immediately left the city to join the Serbian army, people who had known Admira's father. Some Serbs stayed and joined the hastily assembled Bosnian defense forces, now dominated by Muslims. Bosko faced a hard decision.

**RADA BRKIC:** [*Bosko's mother*] Bosko said, "I cannot go and shoot Serbs. I can't go into the Muslim army. If they call me up, I simply cannot go." He was simply a kid who was not for the war.

**ZIJO ISMIC:** [*Admira's father*] Bosko stayed in Sarajevo because of his opinions of the war. He thought the same as I think. If he left Sarajevo, he'd never come back to his friends. He would be ashamed to face his buddies because if he left them, he would be a traitor.

So many friends have gone over to the other side. That emptiness I'll never fill for the rest of my life. Those are friends I've spent a long time with, a good part of my life. Until yesterday, we were together, sitting together and drinking and celebrating together-- Ramadans, Christmases, Orthodox Easters, Catholic Easters, birthdays, Liberation Days and all of that. We celebrated together. What changed overnight? I could never understand that.

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**RADA BRKIC:** *[Bosko's mother]* They fought sometimes, like everybody else, but there wasn't a day when they didn't hear from each other. They always knew, for every moment, where each other was. I was sitting once with her alone and I asked her, "Can this war separate you from Bosko?" And she said, "Only bullets can."

**NARRATOR:** On August 23rd, 1992, during the heaviest shelling of the war, Bosko's mother and two other Serbs were smuggled out of Sarajevo in exchange for three Muslim prisoners of war.

By the summer of 1992, the Serb "ethnic cleansing" strategy was under way all over Bosnia. Muslims were rounded up in Nazi-like concentration camps or they were simply executed. The campaign claimed the lives of 200,000 Muslims, including six of Admira's relatives.

**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* Bosko was appalled, like everybody else. We didn't expect that from Serbs who lived with us. He couldn't understand how it could happen. He couldn't understand how people could do that to each other - Serbs killing Muslims. He couldn't understand where such hatred came from.

**NARRATOR:** As the Serbs tightened their grip on Sarajevo, Bosko and Admira began to worry that a sudden shift in the front line could suddenly cut them off from each other. In September they decided to move in together.

**MISA CUK:** *[male Serbian friend of Bosko]* They had decided that they would never be separated again. Bosko said, "She's there with her parents and if they decided to divide the town in two, then I can't help her, and so it's better for us to be together. It doesn't matter what will happen."

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**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* It bothered Bosko that they were not married. He tried to get me to persuade Admira to marry him, but she refused, saying, "Those mixed marriages in the war are always covered by the media."

**NARRATOR:** Mixed marriage ceremonies at Sarajevo's city hall had become international media events and propaganda tools for the Bosnian government, determined to show the world that Muslims and Serbs could still live together.

**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* Admira didn't like hat. "I don't want to make such a big deal out of it," she said. And when I said, "Do it privately, just with the two of you and the best man" so nobody would know, she told me, "I would feel so sorry to get married without anybody from Bosko's side of the family."

**NARRATOR:** The first winter of the war hit Sarajevo hard. The city had been without power or running water for months. Its citizens were forced to make long, dangerous treks to the few public water supplies scattered throughout the city. Muslims, Croats and Serbs were drawn together by the daily struggle for survival.

In the spring of 1993, as the war entered its second year, Bosko's Serbian friend, Misa Cuk was a desperate man. He disappeared, fleeing out of Sarajevo, carrying with him a gun, a two-way radio and secret military codes from his unit in the Bosnian army. He had told Bosko nothing.

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**ZIJO ISMIC:** *[Admira's father]* He put Bosko in a very grave situation. I would never do that to a friend. I don't know if he thought about that or how deep or strong that friendship was, but I could never do that to a friend. It's very unpleasant if you and I are friends and then you leave me here and go to the other side. This is war-- people shooting, people dying. Misa should have thought about what would happen, but Misa didn't think anymore. It's terrible, Misa's mistake.

**NARRATOR:** Misa's mistake would cost Bosko and Admira dearly. Bosko was harassed daily by angry Muslim neighbors weary of the war and its hardships. One day in a bread line, when Bosko ended up with the last loaf, tempers flared.

**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* The people in the line didn't get any because there wasn't enough. And then one neighbor came out of the line and cursed the government and said, "How is it possible that a Serb can get bread and I cannot?" Bosko turned back and gave her their piece of bread and came back home. Admira was crying and he was in a bad mood.

**CELO:** *[Muslim militia leader]* But he had to get out, one of those days, no matter how. He was in real danger because I couldn't protect him all the time. And you know how bad it is when your friend sells you out. Because Misa sold him out. It was classic.

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**NARRATOR:** In early May 1993, when Bosko received a summons ordering him to appear for questioning at a Muslim police station, he feared the worst. Serb traders were often tortured and killed in police custody.

And 50 years earlier, during World War II, Bosko's grandfather had disappeared when he obeyed an order to report to the police.

Bosko had 72 hours to report or he would be arrested, and so he decided he must leave Sarajevo.

**SADIKA ISMIC:** [*Admira's grandmother*] I was begging Bosko not to take Admira with him. "You go alone." I was begging both of them not to go. "How you lived until now you can live. If you want, you can live here in my place. Live in my place. Don't go there." And I'd ask him, "How can you take her there? You see what they are doing to the Muslim girls. You are helpless and they can do in front of your eyes what they want." They can kill her. They can slit her throat and everything else. "No, Grandma. The same way I spent so long here during the war and nobody has ever touched me, so nobody will touch her."

**NARRATOR:** But Bosko and Admira had already decided they would leave Sarajevo together and escape to the Serbian side.

**NADA ISMIC:** [*Admira's mother*] I was so afraid. I knew terrible things were going on. Can you imagine how big that love is and the courage that she, as a Muslim, needed to go to the Serbian side, where all the Muslims were thrown out, where they take people to concentration camps, where they are raping, killing, where babies in buggies are killed? I couldn't understand how she had the courage to go.

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**NARRATOR:** On May 13th, Admira and her mother baked a cake to celebrate her 25th birthday.

**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* Bosko came back in the afternoon. He yelled from the door, "Do we have any cake?" "Yes, we have fruit cake," Admira said. Bosko sat at the table, took some cake and asked, "Where the fruit?" We were all laughing. "Fruit will be next year," Admira said.

**NARRATOR:** On May 19th, the day they were to leave, Admira arrived early at her parents' house.

**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* Leaving her cat was very hard. 'Yellow' was her darling. She asked me to take care of him, to pet him like she did. He slept with her in her room, so she said, "Mum, please sleep with him so he's not alone."

**NARRATOR:** That morning, Admira's mother made one final effort to persuade her daughter to stay.

**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* Admira said, "Mum, do you know what you are asking from me? I can't do anything else but go with him. Go back to the past, about 30 years ago. Would you have gone with Father?" I couldn't lie, even if it would have stopped her. I would have gone to the end of the world. But this is something different. This is a war. We couldn't convince her and she didn't want to talk about it.

**ZIJO ISMIC:** *[Admira's father]* I didn't say good-bye to either one. They planned their escape without me because I disagreed. They avoided saying good-bye to me.

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**NARRATOR:** Back at her grandmother's apartment, Admira and Bosko packed their clothing and some jewelry from Bosko's family in two small suitcases.

On the Serbian side, two soldiers and old friends of Bosko and Celo, had negotiated the couple's escape. Sasa Bogdanovic had done many deals with Celo during the war and Milkan Gaborovic had been trying to get his own relatives out of the besieged city.

**MILKAN GABOROVIC:** *[Serbian soldier and Bosko's friend]* I was waiting for Celo's call and he called me and said, "Look, I'll send you Bosko and Admira now and tomorrow at the same time, your aunt and cousin." I told him, "Give me my aunt and cousin first, and then Bosko and Admira." He said that Bosko had problems, that he'd gotten a call from the police and he must send them now.

**SASA BOGDANOVIC:** *[Serbian soldier and Bosko's friend]* Milkan had asked me to help him because I had worked on exchanges before. He had set up everything on all front lines so that no one would open fire. That was the only condition under which Celo would let them leave.

**NARRATOR:** Late in the afternoon, Admira and Bosko arrived at Celo's headquarters in Sarajevo.

**CELO:** *[Muslim militia leader]* Bosko was a little nervous. Admira wasn't. I got it set up with our men, but I told him, "Wait until dark." It's no-man's land, surrounded by four or five different forces and it's impossible to make a deal with all of them.

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**DINO KAPIN:** *[Commander of a Croatian unit allied with the Muslim army and with a roof top view of the no-man's land]* We didn't know at all that somebody was supposed to cross. That zone is prohibited from any kind of movement.

I was on the front line on May 19th. It was a nice day. About 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon, from the direction of our checkpoint, a man and a woman were walking with some bags towards their lines.

**Mr. BOGDANOVIC:** *[Serbian soldier and Bosko's friend]* I was calling to Bosko and whistled at him and he whistled back. That was the only way I could get him to notice me because I was down low and there was no way for me to show my face, nor could I wave at him, or I could be seen myself and get shot. Anyway they were about 15 or 20 yards away.

**NADA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* I found a letter she had left with cat food. She hadn't told me she had written me a letter.

"My dear Mum: It seems we are finally leaving tonight and whatever happens is God's will. I'll call you as soon as we are safely on the other side. I worry most about you and my little 'Yellow'. Bosko and I have been talking about when the war is over - we will come back to Sarajevo. Everything will be fine, like the war never happened. Do not worry about me. Think about yourself. It will be much easier for me. I love you so much. Admira."

**SASA BOGDANOVIC:** *[Serbian soldier and Bosko's friend]* They were walking and skipping. When they came to the intersection, we heard one bullet. It was a sniper's bullet that landed in front of their legs.

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**DINO KAPIN:** *[Commander of a Croatian unit allied with the Muslim army and with a roof top view of the no-man's land]* Just after they passed Vrbanja Bridge, someone opened fire at them. The man, as far as I could tell, was killed instantly and the woman was injured. She was screaming and started to crawl over to him. And then she hugged him. And then there was no sign of life.

**NARRATOR:** That night in Serbia, Misa Cuk heard the news.

**MISA CUK:** *[male Serbian friend of Bosko]* I said, "I will come right now to Sarajevo." I couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe he was killed. So I went to the Serbian side of Sarajevo and I saw them lying there.

**NARRATOR:** Two days later, the bodies of Admira and Bosko still lay where they had fallen and Admira's parents had not heard of the deaths.

**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* At about 11:00 o'clock, the phone rang. I picked it up and it was a ham radio operator from Serbia. He asked me to confirm information that he had received that Admira and Bosko were killed on a bridge in Sarajevo. I was thunderstruck. It was a terrible shock.

**NARRATOR:** Admira's mother, not believing the news, went to Celo's headquarters, where he told her what happened.

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**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* Bosko died instantly. Admira was alive for five or ten minutes. She was injured, but crawled over to him and hugged him and then didn't move anymore. So they died together like that. I was tortured with the worry-- "Oh, my God. Did she feel any pain? Did she feel any fear? Was she aware that she was going to die?" She probably saw Bosko was dead because as she crawled over, she was conscious. They died for each other. I mean, even now, I can see them hugging each other in my mind.

**ZIJO ISMIC:** *[Admira's father]* I still don't believe that they're dead because it's very hard to believe such young people like that can disappear with such a sudden and violent death. All their wishes, all plans are sunk after one bullet, after one burst, after one move, after one monstrous act. That's the proof that love cannot conquer all. Love cannot win over people who don't believe in love. But these people who are shooting at us don't believe in love. For them, love doesn't exist. All their love and hatred they show through cannons, machine guns, pistols and guns. And so that's their love. Their love is a bullet and nothing more.

**NARRATOR:** The Serbs and the Muslims argued over which side had claim to the bodies of the young couple who were shot dead and left lying in no-man's land. They were both 25 -- he a Serb and she a Muslim.

As the days passed, Serb and Muslim authorities continued to accuse each other of shooting Bosko and Admira.

**SASA GABOROVIC:** *[Serbian soldier and Bosko's friend]* After it happened, I talked to Celo and I asked him, "Celo, how could you do this to me?" And then he asked me, "How can you do this to me?" And I swore at him and he said he'd kill my cousin and aunt and I told him, "You can do that, but I'll do the same to your family."

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**NARRATOR:** But there was one thing the enemies could agree on: There was no motive, no logic, no reason.

**CELO:** *[Muslim militia leader]* There was no specific reason. It was just butchery, like somebody came into view in a neutral zone and then -- I don't know. They don't know. None of the soldiers know. Somebody said, "Let me open fire. F... them. I don't give a s... who they are." It's as simple as that.

**MILKAN BOGDANOVIC:** *[Serbian soldier and Bosko's friend]* This is a big front line of Muslims and Serbians and there are so many mentally sick people who carry a gun. They are everywhere. You never know which fool will start to shoot to kill when they see somebody.

**SASA GABOROVIC:** *[Serbian soldier and Bosko's friend]* Their bags disappeared two nights before we rescued their bodies. They snuck up close and grabbed their bags with hooks, probably because they thought there would be big money. They were saying around town that they had about 100,000 Deutschmark. Because I was there every night, I saw their bodies being hit with Molotov cocktails and they were shooting incendiary bullets to try to burn them, but they didn't succeed.

**NARRATOR:** Once again, the Serbs and Muslims blamed each other for trying to destroy the bodies, which would have eliminated any evidence of which side had fired the fatal bullets.

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**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* I thought we were going to go crazy. For days they lay on the street. That was May and it was very hot for Sarajevo. On the streets roved hungry dogs and cats, but they were in the middle of downtown. That's just 250 yards from the Holiday Inn. In the heat, on the street, and we're not able to do anything. We tried through our army, through the presidency, through UNPROFOR *[The United Nations Protection Force]*. We thought UNPROFOR was going to help us. Everybody told us UNPROFOR was there for humanitarian reasons. "They must do that because they are paid to do that." Foreign journalists, especially Reuters, told us that. But UNPROFOR didn't do anything, even when I came to talk to them. They wouldn't even let me in.

**NARRATOR:** Admira's father told the U.N. forces that he would retrieve the bodies himself if they gave him an armored personnel carrier.

**ZIJO ISMIC:** *[Admira's father]* I told them that none of their men needed to take the risk of getting the bodies. I would do that alone. "I will get the bodies into the APC." But they turned me down. They were so uninterested.

**NARRATOR:** It took a week before Serb militiamen claimed to have retrieved the bodies because the area was so dangerous. The Serbs claimed a team of their commandos rescued the bodies during the night.

**SERBIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN:** We rescued the bodies mainly for humanitarian reasons, and to show the other side that we are not the monsters they accuse us of being.

**NARRATOR:** Only later would the truth be revealed.

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**MILKAN BOGDANOVIC:** *[Serbian soldier and Bosko's friend]* The bodies were rescued by a Muslim crew. They tied ropes around them and pulled them out.

**NARRATOR:** In a cruel irony, the Serbs won their propaganda victory by sending Muslim prisoners to rescue the bodies and to risk being shot by their comrades over the river.

**MILKAN BOGDANOVIC:** *[Serbian soldier and Bosko's friend]* They couldn't know in the dark, that there were Muslims coming to get the bodies. When you are in the dark, you just hear a noise so you just open fire at the place where you hear the noise. And there was really a possibility that those Muslims who went out could get killed.

**NARRATOR:** The bodies were moved to a Serbian military morgue. No autopsies were performed and so there were no final answers as to who fired the shots.

**NERA BRKIC:** *[Admira's mother]* When I went to the morgue and asked the man in charge if he had any more information about them, he said, "No, I don't have anything about them. But for everybody that is brought in here, I have a paper with at least a name." They were just in the book under the numbers 250 and 251. And I signed for them in that book. Just those two numbers. Nothing else.

**NARRATOR:** Both families wanted their children returned over the river to Sarajevo, but the Serbs said no, and so they were buried in a bleak military cemetery as part of a service for a Serb soldier. Father Charkich, the Serb military chaplain who had known Admira's father in Sarajevo, officiated.

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**Father CHARKICH:** Since she is a Muslim and he is a Serb, there was a question about the funeral until an understanding was reached with certain people. We came to an agreement that they'd be buried next to each other. Since she's a Muslim, I did not conduct prayers for her, but she was beside Bosko at the same time prayers were said.

**NARRATOR:** At the end, Bosko's mother presented a final gift, a sweater she had knit for Admir. The Serbs had offered safe passage to Admir's parents to attend the funeral, but they refused to participate in what they saw as more Serb propaganda. Admir's father watched the burial on TV.

**ZIJO ISMIC:** [*Admir's father*] Even their henchmen buried them together. Even they couldn't show disrespect for their love. It doesn't matter if they were their executioners. They still couldn't separate them. Probably that is destiny.

**RADA BRKIC:** [*Bosko mother*] I will never go back to Sarajevo. I will never go because of the two of them, even if there was a castle waiting for me there. I couldn't go through the same streets which they had walked. I couldn't go into that apartment anymore. I could never go into that apartment again. Never.

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**NERA ISMIC:** *[Admira's mother]* All the time I thought if I could only go to the grave to give flowers, to see how it looked-- but there isn't any possibility for that. It was terrible for me, on August 11-- because that was Bosko's birthday. He would have been 25 years old. I cried all day. On that day, we wrote a letter to Rada. I wish so much I could go to his grave and place 25 roses for 25 years. For us, it is still impossible. We are hoping that something will change and that the madness will stop, that we will bring our kids to our town. There must be an end to all of this. I don't know how long it will take, but some day it has to stop.

I still cannot accept the reality that the two of them are gone. They promised that they would come back. When I saw Admira off, I said, "Mama will count the days until you return," and I am still counting the days, one by one, but I know there will be no end.

**ZIJO ISMIC:** *[Admira's father]* Love took them to their deaths. That's proof this is not a war between Serbs and Muslims. It's a war between crazy people, between monsters.

**NARRATOR:** After 22 months of bombardment and 10,000 deaths in Sarajevo, the West threatened air strikes and the Serb forces withdrew. An uneasy peace finally settled on the city.

In 1996 the bodies were exhumed and re-buried side by side in the Lion Cemetery, surrounded by thousands of other victims of the Sarajevo siege.