



1. PRE-READING

The woman in the picture is running in the city of Sarajevo. What do you know about Sarajevo? Tell the class.

Love Under Siege

On a Sunday afternoon in 1992, Eric Adam sat folding laundry in the living room of his small apartment. He was half-listening to the news on TV and trying not to think back.

Two years ago, Eric had been happy; he was engaged to marry a wonderful woman named Suzi. But Eric's happiness ended suddenly. Suzi, who had a weak heart, died of a heart attack. She was thirty-three years old. Now, two years after Suzi's death, Eric was still struggling with his grief. As he sat on his sofa, folding laundry, his thoughts kept returning to Suzi.

The news on TV was about the summer Olympics. A reporter was talking about a young woman from Bosnia. She was a runner who was training for the Olympics. Twice a day, she ran through the streets of Sarajevo. "Sarajevo?" Eric wondered. There was a war going on in the city of Sarajevo. How could anyone train for the Olympics in Sarajevo? Eric stopped folding laundry and looked at the TV. On the screen, a young woman in a track suit was running through Sarajevo's streets. She was running with her head held high, even though snipers occasionally tried to shoot her. She ran straight toward the camera and then she was gone. The news report was over.

Eric stared at the TV. He was stunned. What courage the woman had! Eric wanted to meet this woman. That wouldn't be easy. She lived halfway around the world, and Eric didn't even know her name.

Eric went to the library and began looking through newspapers. Finally, he found what he was looking for—a photo of the young woman running through the streets of Sarajevo. Under the photo was the woman's name: Mirsada Buric. From the newspapers, Eric learned that Mirsada was no longer in Sarajevo. She was at the summer Olympic games in Barcelona, Spain.

Eric wrote Mirsada a letter. He wrote that he had seen her on TV and wanted her to know that "there is someone in America who admires you. If I can help you in any way, please let me know."

Mirsada's Olympic race was the 3,000 meters. Mirsada didn't win, but when she crossed the finish line, the people in the stadium stood and cheered. They had seen Mirsada on TV, running through the streets of Sarajevo. In the eyes of the crowd, Mirsada was a winner.

After the Olympics, Mirsada couldn't return to Sarajevo because it was too dangerous. She went to Slovenia, a country north of Bosnia, as a refugee. Without her family, Mirsada was lonely.

She thought about Eric's letter and decided to answer it, with the help of her Bosnian-English dictionary. Eric answered her letter and sent a picture of himself. For the next few months, letters flew back and forth between Eric and Mirsada. Finally, Eric wrote that he was flying to Slovenia.

At nine o'clock in the evening, Mirsada stood on a street corner in Slovenia, waiting for Eric. A small car pulled up, and a young man with brown hair and blue eyes stepped out of the car. It was Eric. He ran to Mirsada, smiling. "How are you?" Eric asked. "Fine," Mirsada answered. Then they looked at each other and laughed. Eric couldn't speak Bosnian, and Mirsada couldn't speak English. Eric went to the car and got the woman who was translating for him.

Mirsada, Eric, and the translator went to Mirsada's apartment, where Eric and Mirsada talked until sunrise. Then Eric had to go, or he would miss his flight back to the United States. As he walked toward the car, Eric saw the sadness in Mirsada's eyes. Suddenly he said, "Do you want to come to the United States? There'd be no strings attached—I'll buy a round-trip ticket, so you can go home anytime." Mirsada began to cry. "No," she answered. "Thank you. But no." Eric kissed Mirsada on the cheek and said, "Well, if you ever change your mind, the offer stands." Then he was gone.

Mirsada thought about Eric's offer for weeks. Finally, she decided to go to the United States.

In March 1993, nine months after Eric first saw her on TV, Mirsada arrived in Phoenix, Arizona. She moved into Eric's apartment, where she and Eric lived together like a brother and a sister.

Mirsada studied English. She started college. She ran in dozens of races and won most of them. And, she fell in love with Eric, who was already in love with her. In December, they were married.

In the summer of 1996, the Olympic torch passed through Phoenix, Arizona on its way to the games in Atlanta, Georgia. Mirsada was chosen to carry the torch through Phoenix. As Mirsada ran through the cheering crowd, she thought about everything she had done since the last Olympics. She had come to the United States, learned English, and graduated from college. She had won races. She had fallen in love and gotten married. And now she was carrying the Olympic torch through the streets of Phoenix. She ran as she had run through the streets of Sarajevo—with her head held high.

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2. VOCABULARY

LOOKING AT THE STORY

Write the correct word or words on the line.

track suit
occasionally
stunned

no strings attached
grief
trained

refugee
laundry
thoughts kept returning

cheered
engaged
admires

1. Eric washed his clothes. Then he sat on the sofa and folded his _____.
2. Eric was going to get married. He was _____ to a woman named Suzi.
3. Eric was fighting his feelings of sadness about Suzi's death. He was still struggling with his _____.
4. Eric couldn't stop thinking about Suzi. His _____ to her.
5. The runner on TV was preparing for the Olympics. She _____ by running through the streets of Sarajevo twice a day.
6. In the picture on page 114, Mirsada is wearing a _____.
7. Sometimes men with guns tried to kill people in Sarajevo. Mirsada ran even though snipers _____ tried to shoot her.
8. Eric was very surprised to see a woman running through the streets of Sarajevo; he couldn't believe it. When the news report was over, he stared at the TV and didn't move. He was _____.
9. After seeing her on TV, Eric had a high opinion of Mirsada. He wrote her, "Someone in the United States _____ you."
10. When Mirsada crossed the finish line, the people in the stadium shouted with happiness. They _____ because they knew how difficult the race was for Mirsada.
11. Mirsada couldn't return to her country because it was too dangerous. So, she went to Slovenia as a _____.
12. Eric told Mirsada he would buy her a round-trip ticket to the United States. He didn't want anything from her in return. He told her that there would be _____.

LOOKING AT A NEW CONTEXT

Complete the sentences to show that you understand the meaning of the new words. In small groups, take turns reading your sentences aloud. Ask your classmates questions about their sentences.

1. Something I do only occasionally is _____.
2. Someone whose courage I admire is _____.
3. A sports team I cheer for is _____.
4. An Olympic sport I would love to train for is _____.
5. A person my thoughts keep returning to is _____.
6. A place my thoughts keep returning to is _____.

COMPREHENSION/READING SKILLS

UNDERSTANDING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Find the best way to complete each sentence. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Eric was struggling with grief _____ | a. because he wanted to know the name of the Bosnian runner he had seen on TV. |
| 2. Eric couldn't believe a runner was training in Sarajevo _____ | b. because there was a war there. |
| 3. Eric wanted to meet Mirsada _____ | c. because she was proud of everything she had done. |
| 4. For a week, Eric looked through newspapers _____ | d. because Suzi had died. |
| 5. As she ran through the streets of Phoenix, Mirsada held her head high _____ | e. because he admired her courage. |

UNDERSTANDING SUPPORTING DETAILS

Read each sentence on the left. Which sentences on the right give you more information? Match the sentences. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Eric was happy. _____ | a. She was a runner who was training for the Olympics by running through the streets of Sarajevo twice a day. |
| 2. The reporter on TV was talking about a young woman from Bosnia. _____ | b. He was engaged to marry a wonderful woman named Suzi. |
| 3. Eric sent Mirsada a letter. _____ | c. He wrote that he had seen Mirsada on TV and that he admired her. |
| 4. Mirsada's race was the 3,000 meters. _____ | d. She had come to the United States, learned English, graduated from college, won races, fallen in love, and gotten married. |
| 5. Mirsada thought about everything she had done. _____ | e. She didn't win, but people cheered when she crossed the finish line. |

4. DISCUSSION

Eric and Mirsada's first child was born in 1998. When their daughter is older, they can tell her the amazing story of how they met.

What about your parents? Your grandparents? Your married classmates? How did they meet? Interview someone who is married. First, with the help of your classmates and your teacher, make a list of questions you could ask, such as:

- How old were you when you met?
- Where did you meet?
- What did you think when you saw her/him for the first time?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Ask someone who is married the questions. Listen carefully and write down the answers. Then tell the class what you learned.

5. WRITING

Write the love story of how you or someone you know met his/her spouse. Here is what one student wrote.

When I was 24 years old, I came to the United States from Mexico to live with my aunt. I was her housekeeper. My aunt and her sons treated me very badly. My day started at 5:00 A.M. I had to cook all their meals, clean their shoes, and pick up their clothes. I had to clean the house very well because when my aunt came home, she wiped her hand over the furniture looking for dust. When everybody went to sleep, I began to iron.

In the spring, I ironed in an enclosed porch with lots of windows. Every night a young man stood on the porch next door and watched me iron, but he never spoke to me.

One summer day I went to the store, and he started walking by my side. For the first time he spoke to me. He wondered why they treated me so badly. His house was so close he could hear when they screamed at me. He told me if I wanted to go back to Mexico, he would buy me an airplane ticket, but I did not go. I needed the \$10 a week that my aunt paid me and that I sent to my family in Mexico.

That was 29 years ago. I am married to the man who was looking at me on the porch. We celebrated our 28th anniversary. I love him very much. He is a caring man with a big heart and he is a wonderful father and husband. I thank God for him.