

A. SCAVUZZO - S. MARAONE

SARAJEVO

Yugoslavia 1991. A bloody war is waged in Europe, a short walk from our homes. We experience the conflict - ever so close to us since the Second World War – live, via television, radio, and newspapers.

We were two teenagers then, and we started looking at those places with attention and concern, and later with a desire to participate in a collective process of support and closeness.

Over time we fall in love with these lands, full of history and stories, and the people who over the years have become friends to us, no longer only people that require our help.

For years we go back to the streets we passed through before, during and after the war; we passed them alongside different people with which we have shared experiences and meetings, with many volunteers, or with friends to whom we have tried to explain our passion for a country, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has one of its jewels in Sarajevo, although not the only one.

And here we want to remember. The journey helps in shaping thoughts into words, pictures, sounds; we invite you to do so lightly, that lightness Calvin taught us to be far from shallowness, and which we use to oppose a weight that the stories and history can sometimes make unbearable.

We feel the need to not be alone in this route: we have chosen to be accompanied by the words of writers,

photographers, poets, actresses and singers, as well as journalists and volunteers.

We recount, and let others tell us what they saw and understood of these places, keeping in mind those who approach the city of Sarajevo for the first time, and through it, the recent history of the Balkans. This is also our history as European citizens.

THE AUTHORS

Silvia Maraone was born in Milan in 1975, along with her twin. She encounters Bosnia in 1993, after her family accommodates a boy and a girl from Mostar for several months. Having just turned eighteen she begins to do volunteer work in the refugee camps in Slovenia. Today she is a cooperating project leader in Bihac, with the NGO ICEI. She has taught Serbian-Croatian-Bosnian and holds classes on uricide and divided cities for students taking urban sociology courses at the Cattolica and the Politecnico.

Anna Scavuzzo, born in 1976 in Milan, is part of a family that betrays an Italic hybridization, from Liguria to Sicily, with some stops in Calabria. She approaches Bosnia in 1992. For years she watches what happens beyond the borders, participating in fundraisers for materials, scholarships, and work groups. Meanwhile she grows and lives in the world scout of AGESCI and has different educational expe-

riences and volunteer service. In 2002 she sets foot in Sarajevo for the first time as a scout with Project Sarajevo, and since then she continuously returns. With her scout uniform, but not only.

With a degree in physics, she has taught for young and older students with great satisfaction and enjoyment, at least on her part. She is currently holding, in a confident manner, the position of city councilor in Milan. As one of the women of the orange revolution she is committed to preventing it from fading away.

