NEWS

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FONDACIJA HASTOR



A meeting was held with new student scholarship recipients of the Hastor

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January is the month of the beginning of many great things that await us in the year ahead! Like every time before, The Hastor Foundation is entering the new year with new ambitions, plans, and goals, as well as new scholarship recipients who will expand our great family and who will bring a breath of fresh air. Many new friendships will be made. Consequently, on Saturday, January 20th of the current vear, a now-traditional meeting was held with the new student scholarship recipients of The Hastor Foundation. The goal of the meeting was to give them a chance to get to know each other, but also to learn about the concept of voulenteering and voulonteering engagements within The Hastor Foundation.

The director of the Hastor Foundation. Lejla Đonlagić, and the coordinator of the Department of Education and Development, Emra Kulo-Begić, welcomed all the students. At the very beginning of the meeting, the students got to know each other because The Hastor Foundation was always a place where you could meet new people and make new friends. After that, the director presented the mission, vision, and importance of The Hastor Foundation to the students. They learned about the longterm financial and mentoring support that The Hastor Foundation provides for children and young people, which thus contributes to building a more prosperous BiH society.

The director presented the importance of the volunteering process as the pillar of The Hastor Foundation, which was elevated to a high level in the last couple of years. She drew attention to the fact that the goal of the volunteering hours which are held every month is to awaken the most beautiful human qualities in the scholarship recipients: empathy, a sense of belonging in a community, hard work, humanity, and a space to grow, perfect their skills, learn, and acquire new skills that make them more valuable in the labor market.

The new scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation were also given training led by Irma Lipovac, a long-time scholarship recipient who, as a mentor and coordinator, helps the scholarship recipients carry out their volunteer activities to the best of their abilities. In order to better prepare the scholarship recipients for future volunteering work, Irma presented the viewpoint of a student performing the volunteering to gain insight into how everything works. Irma, as someone who has been volunteering under the wing of The Hastor Foundation for a number of years, has passed her knowledge on to the new scholarship recipients and told them about ways to volunteer as best and as creatively as possible. She shared skills and advice with them and talked about pedagogical approaches during volunteer meetings as well as instructional classes. In this way, new scholarship recipients got a sense of The Hastor Foundation; they learned about the concept of work and the importance of volunteering to perform their work in the best and most effective way possible.





Our scholarship recipients did not hide their excitement about finally getting the chance to be a part of The Hastor Foundation and to leave their marks. Scholarship recipient Nermin Osmanović said:

I am excited about the activities that are ahead of me. I am also excited about everything else that is going to pose new challenges and give me an opportunity to learn. Also, I think that it is a great honor to be a part of everything that is connected to The Hastor Foundation. It is a great responsibility that I am accepting seriously and decisively.

We are extremely happy and proud that we have become richer for another group of hardworking young people who will surely leave their mark on the Foundation with their work and effort, as well as on society and the environment in which they operate. The Hastor Foundation grows every day and fulfills its vision and continuosly writes positive stories in Bosnian society.

> Prepared by: Begić Adelisa Translated by: Ivan Rajić





Presenting New Scholarship Recipients

As we have stated before, we are using this month's newsletter as an opportunity to present some of our new scholarship recipients and show once again how the Hastor Foundation is spreading its support to the youth even more. We have faith in these ambitious students that they will contribute greatly to the achievement of philanthropic goals of our society. The Hastor Foundation keeps encouraging young individuals, convinced that our scholarship recipients will become not only leaders in their respective fields of study, but also the bearers of change that will shape the future of our society. We are using this opportunity, too, to wish them a welcome into our big family!



Coming from Sarajevo, Anesa Resić is a fourth year student at the Department of Radiologic Technology at the Faculty of Health Studies, University of Sarajevo. Anela told us that her love for natural sciences began during her high school years when she had taken a greater interest in them. She learned about the Hastor Foundation through her friends that have been long-time scholarship recipients. Anesa deems the volunteering model in the Hastor Foundation as an innovative approach to the development of various skills and ability to adapt to different roles and situations. This approach can be an important contribution to the future generation of young people.

It makes me happy that I've become a Hastor Foundation scholarship recipient, and that they had seen me fit into this inspiring story which goal is to support and encourage young people to stay on the right track by using their full potential; I'm happy to have been given the opportunity to be part of it.



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Coming from Kakanj, Selma Krivokapa is a second year student at the Department of Management, International University of Sarajevo. Selma's journey is marked by perseverance and dedication, shaping а promising future in management. Her decision to enroll in management is defined by her communication skills and her interest in sustainable development projects. Selma's passion for ecology and involvement in projects improvement dedicated to life on our planet have been present ever since young age. Selma learned about the Hastor family from her friend who is also a part of the Hastor family.

I felt immensely proud and honored when I got the news that I became a Hastor Foundation scholarship recipient. Meeting others and exchanging ideas immediately followed. I can't wait to volunteer in the field of elementary and high school education. I've been gaining knowledge so that I can share it with younger scholarship recipients. Even though my current schedule is tight, it's worthwhile. Learning, putting in the effort, volunteering—it's all truly worthwhile.







Amina Pivić comes from Zenica. She is a secondyear student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zenica at the Department of German Language and Literature. She is intrigued by the process of learning and teaching, especially foreign languages, as she sees it as a connection to other cultures. Amina's engagement aligns with the vision of the Hastor Foundation, which is dedicated providing support and fostering the to comprehensive development of young individuals.

Becoming a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation means not only support in education but also an opportunity to contribute to the community and build connections with people who share similar goals. The Hastor Foundation represents crucial support for me, enabling me to pursue my passions and achieve my educational goals. Being part of the Hastor Foundation not only brings me material assistance but also a sense of unity and support on the journey towards achieving my professional goals.



Nermin Osmanović was born in Columbia, Missouri. After living in the USA shortly, he moved to Vogošća. When he graduated from high school, Nermin decided to stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina where he continued his education at International Burch University. He is a student in electrical engineering, which he decided to pursue motivated by his passion and knowledge of math, physics and other related fields.

My knowledge of the Hastor Foundation was aquired through social media where I read about its goals and ideas. Becoming a scholarship recipient made me feel very responsible, but also proud. In my opinion, it is crucially important to provide the youth with support as well as be a guiding hand for them in the development of their identity, work ethic and social awareness. All of it will be, for sure, beneficial to me in daily work with people, better understanding of social responsibility of each individual as well as career building.



Merjema Hodžić comes from Tešanj. She is a student at the Department of Journalism at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo. She chose this major due to her conviction that journalists were gatekeepers of democratic values.

I heard of the Hastor Foundation at my faculty. A TA told us about an excellent opportunity in scholarship and volunteer work. I decided to apply because I had wanted to gain new knowledge, make new friendships and volunteer. Being a Hastor Foundation scholarship

recipient for me means a great help in my education, but also an opportunity to make this world a slightly better place as a young person. You know the saying: "Think globally, act locally."













Lorens Stranjak comes from Mostar and is a second-year student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo – Department of History. He graduated from Grammar School in Mostar. His decision to study history stemmed from a desire to follow his heart, feeling a deep connection to this branch of science. He learned about the Hastor Foundation through a friend who enthusiastically shared her volunteering experiences with him.

I am thrilled to be part of the positive story of the Hastor Foundation and hope to contribute to the public good through my activities while honing my skills. I believe this is an exceptional opportunity for high school and university students to work on themselves and bring happiness to others.



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Asmir Omerdić is a scholarship recipient that comes from Bihać. He is a student at the Department of Banking and Finance at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, International Burch University. Asmir decided on this profession due to his personal interest in the field of business and entrepreneurship. He greatly favors the critical thinking, pointing out his analytical abilities while at the same time showing dedication in solving difficult tasks.

Being a Hastor Foundation scholarship recipient for me means being a beacon of hope for all of us around. We can contribute to changes that we talk about on the daily basis through our volunteer activities.





Anela Porča, a student at the International Burch University – Department of Digital Communications and Public Relations, resides in Visoko. Growing up and completing the Franciscan Classical Gymnasium in Visoko, she was always intrigued by the field of digital communications and public relations. Her passion for this sector led her to her current academic path.

An integral part of my academic journey now is the fact that I have become a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation. Inspired by the success of my older sister,

who was also a Foundation scholar, I decided to follow in her footsteps. I believe this scholarship will help me continue my education with full enthusiasm and dedication. My goal is to build a career in digital communications, contributing to society with my skills and knowledge. With a firm belief in the importance of online communication, enthusiasm, and a passion for learning, I look forward to every step of my academic and professional adventure, knowing that the Hastor Foundation will undoubtedly play a crucial role in achieving my goals.





Prepared by Semina Sadiković Translated by : Elmina Huseljić and Sara Kuduzović



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT OF THE MONTH





The role of the Hastor Foundation in lives of its scholarship recipients is immeasurable—a quality that scholarship recipients always highlight, stating how they were inspired to actively work on self-improvement. It is in the Hastor Foundation that many of them learn what volunteer work and its benefits are, and over time start promoting them through activism in their local communities. Many of them recognize the Hastor Foundation as an opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired at universities, but also as an opportunity to learn new things and broaden their horizons. One of them is **Amar Velagić**, who has recognized the Hastor Foundation as a space for personal growth, and he has been working hard to show that in his daily work and contribution to the Foundation.

Amar comes from Bugojno and he has been a Hastor Foundation scholarship recipient for more than ten years. He majored in the Latin Language, Roman Literature and Pedagogy at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo, and he is currently enrolled in the master studies of Pedagogy at the same faculty. For his effort, hard work and success at the end of the first cycle of studies Amar was granted the university acknowledgement The Silver Badge. **Besides** standing out with his academic achievements, Amaris also a manager of two collections of poems for young poets in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and he volunteered on various positions in nongovernmental organizations and actively participated in numerous national and international projects.

Regarding his activism at the Hastor Foundation, Amar has had an opportunity to volunteer in countless ways. In the very beginning of his volunteer journey Amar was a mentor to a group of younger scholarship holders; for the last year he has been volunteering in the monitoring team of the Hastor Foundation, the type of volunteer work that includes online or in-person visits to mentor meetings so that we can get a clearer image of the ways our scholarship holders spend their volunteer hours. Another task of the monitoring team members is to evaluate the quality of activities that mentors do with their younger fellow scholarship recipients and to evaluate the significance that those activities hold for both mentors and mentees. After the visit to mentor meetings, the monitoring team have to write reports so that mentor meetings can be improved.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT OF THE MONTH



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The Hastor Foundation recognized Amar's potential and hence, during the period of making a new volunteer model, included him in the volunteer activities of giving pedagogical and psychological as well as didactic-methodical guidelines to scholarship recipients volunteering as mentors. As Amar had the opportunity to share these competencies with his fellow scholarship recipients, he points out how it was his pleasure to see the Hastor Foundation guiding his scholarship recipients to their primary occupations and interests by enabling their life-long self-growth and development and by providing opportunities to practically apply the knowledge acquired at universities. Amar also shares with us how deeply thankful he is to the Foundation for restoring human dignity in countless ways.

In my opinion, each and every one of scholarship recipients can continue promoting the principal aims that the Hastor Foundation sets, and we're always there for one another. Building the healthy collective spirit that was formed on the successful shoulders of anindividual is the main factor in preserving our planet.

Amar points out the positive influence the Hastor Foundation has had on his journey of success and education. For Amar personally the volunteer work in the Foundation has made him more responsible and aware that every job is based on continuity and specific habits and routines, but what is the most important in the Foundation is that it encourages humanity that isn't based on egoism, but rather on synergy, cohesiveness and empathy. Volunteerism for Amar means to personally grow and develop and to not forget the basic human virtue—to help others in every situation; not only when they are in a



need. To end, Amar tells us that our generations are lacking in exactly those qualities that the Hastor Foundation has been promoting ever since its inception: self-improvement, resilience, perseverance, safety and emotional competence.

I learned in the Hastor Foundation that we should build the pillars of society based on self- improvement, expertise, qualifications and our competencies. This big family, whose member I've been for more than ten years, has also woven a thread of perseverance in me; the perseverance in the idea of peace building, abundance, collectivism, intercultural dialogue, healthy relations, recognizing other's emotions and understanding others. I've realized that if we follow the path paved with the virtues of humanity, the soul won't lose its shine—love.

> Prepared by: Aldina Šaljić Translated by: Sara Kuduzović











Volunteer engagement holds a special place in the activities of the Hastor Foundation. Through volunteering, we create changes in society, but also within ourselves. All scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation emphasize the importance of the experience gained through volunteer activities for their future success. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a place where young people strive to stand out with their achievements and contributions to the community, thus creating a better society for all of us. One such young person who has been fulfilling all of the above since childhood is scholarship recipient **Lejla Bolukbaši**.

Lejla has been a part of the Hastor Foundation's large family for two years now. She is a ninthgrade student at the First elementary school in Ilidža. With her strong dedication to learning, researching, and volunteering, Lejla, even as a pupil, serves as a source of inspiration for all of us.

She demonstrates an exceptional desire to achieve outstanding results. Her passion for knowledge knows no bounds, and those who know her praise her for the effort she puts into everything she does. Lejla is characterized by qualities such as responsibility, self-confidence, friendliness, and has always aimed high. In addition to exceptional success in school subjects, Lejla excels in competitions beyond the school level. She has participated in cantonal competitions in the Turkish language, and is currently focused on preparing for future cantonal competitions that await her.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, Lejla has been an active member of her school's choir for five years. She participates in various events, marking municipal and state holidays. It is worth mentioning that she is no stranger to media attention, as she has participated several times in television and radio shows, particularly on Face TV and Radio Bir. She fondly recalls these experiences and says that they are particularly dear to her.

Lejla's volunteer engagement within various organizations demonstrates her deep commitment to the well-being of the community. Whether it's organizing humanitarian events or encouraging peers to take action, Lejla has become an icon of volunteerism in her community. Here, we should again remember that Lejla is a ninth-grade student!







If you thought that was all and that a ninth-grade girl already has too many activities, you are mistaken because volunteers like Lejla don't need to have time – they just have a heart. Lejla also stands out through humanitarian work. As a volunteer at school, she participated in fundraising for children in Palestine. She says that volunteering for her represents a selfless contribution to the community:

Through volunteering, individuals gain new skills, build community, and have the opportunity to positively impact society, and empathy is a crucial element that motivates volunteers to actively contribute to the well-being of others, making their volunteer experience extremely significant.

Our scholarship recipient especially expresses gratitude to the Hastor Foundation. The scholarship eases her school expenses and provides support on the path to realizing her dreams of completing high school and pursuing further studies. She also reflects on what volunteering in various projects, including activities of the Hastor Foundation, means to her:

For me, this not only represents an opportunity for pleasant socializing but also a source of invaluable experience that will help me in the future. The Hastor Foundation is not just a source of financial support to me, but also a key factor towards future success.

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Lejla Bolukbaši rightly deserves recognition and support from the community because, through her example, she shows that dedication, hard work, and commitment can impact the world around us. The active participation of young people in volunteer projects not only builds their skills and self-confidence but also empowers them to recognize the importance of social responsibility.

We particularly emphasize how Lejla wants to encourage all young people to find their passion and join volunteer activities. She tells us that there is no better way to feel useful and leave a positive mark on the world around us. She hopes that others will also find joy in volunteering as she has.

We wish for Lejla to continue doing things for the common good and with that to positively change the world. We also hope that inspired by her story, we will also start bringing positivechanges into our own lives.

Translated by: Edna Đuliman





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All our former scholarship recipients represent a wealth of success, and we always eagerly return to writing about them. Thanks to their paths after education, we aim to inspire our younger scholarship recipients to bravely follow in their footsteps and dream big dreams, striving to achieve them! In this month's bulletin, we bring you the life story of Sanel Kopić.

In the following article, find out how Sanel's paths intersected with the paths of the Hastor Foundation, what his volunteer tasks were and how he realized them, and how Sanel became an employee of one of the largest companies in Europe specializing in the production of cooling systems - "Daikin."

Sanel Kopić was born in Olovo, in the village of Čuništa. He completed elementary school in his hometown, and attended the Economic School in Olovo for high school. After completing high school, he enrolled in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, which was not his first choice, but he still chose it, following in his brother's footsteps. However, looking back over the years, he says he wouldn't change anything. In this story, the profession found him, and he currently enjoys his professional engagement. Sanel confirmed to us that love fundamentally changes life and makes the world a more beautiful place to live! He became a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation thanks to his girlfriend. Although the period of studying and finding professional engagement was very challenging for both of them, it was just a small test that their love successfully passed, and today they fondly remember those times and the role of the Hastor Foundation in their lives as a married couple.

He always viewed the Foundation primarily as a family that is there to lend a hand in times of trouble, but also to provide an opportunity for him to support younger scholarship recipients through volunteer activities! Financial assistance, like for everyone, greatly eased the process of studying, but that is not the main reason Sanel remembers the Hastor Foundation.

In this month's newsletter, we bring you the story of the upward trajectory of Sanel's career. His path was by no means simple, and the journey of professional career growth and development was extremely dynamic and challenging. For several years now, he has been employed at the company "Tehnoelektronik," which deals with air conditioning, heating, and cooling. The job is tough and stressful, but Sanel feels fulfilled. His first work experience was in a printing house, and after completing his university education, he worked in Tuzla at the "Termoelektrane Tuzla" plant. Then, an offer came from "Tehnoelektronik," where Sanel continued to build his business career up to the present day.

Regarding work experience, I believe that it is crucial to demonstrate work abilities or competencies in the workplace. It is something entirely different from what you hoped for. It's hard to land your dream job, the one you're satisfied with, if you sit at home and wait for it. You have to start somewhere, and with a clear goal and vision, you can surely reach where you intend to go.

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH





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The impact of the Foundation was significant and helped Sanel become what he is today. Volunteer beginnings were undoubtedly very challenging, but everything is much easier when love weaves its threads. He fondly recalls all those challenges, improvisations, and volunteer hours spent with younger scholarship recipients of the Foundation, whom he mentored:

As part of volunteer activities, I went to a village near Zvornik – Tršić, to hold monthly meetings with younger scholarship recipients. The biggest problem was organizing transportation, followed by walking to the village and overnight stays. All of this had to be done with minimal spending, which taught me a lot. Volunteering with younger scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation remains in special memory. It was a bit easier when I volunteered in a village near Olovo. I met scholarship recipients at the Foundation with whom I am still in touch, and we fondly recall some events from those times.

Moments that Sanel will forever cherish and one of the most beautiful memories linking him to the Foundationisthetimespentwithotherscholarship recipients while answering letters from students in the Foundation's offices, organizing social games, outings, and gatherings after meetings. Through volunteer tasks at the Foundation, Sanel acquired new work habits that absolutely helped him stand out in the job market. As Sanel himself says: *the market is big enough for everyone. We need to strive to be leaders in our business*

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field. Anyone can be average, but still, we need to keep up with the times and be competitive in larger job markets. Sanel transferred the work habits from the Hastor Foundation to his business career, built on them, and thus secured a job at "Daikin'.

Sanel revealed to us that the basic recipe for a successful career is communication with others, something he learned a lot about in the Hastor Foundation!

However, in the end, we realize that the most important thing is to learn proper communication with colleagues and clients, and such experience can be gained during any business engagement. Experience in the field you are in naturally comes if you try hard enough.

The message at the end of our alumni of the month is:

From personal experience, I can advise scholarship recipients to takeadvantageoftheopportunity in the Hastor Foundation to gain new experiences and work competencies through the opportunitiesthattheFoundation generously provides, including volunteer engagement, as it will certainly enrich their resume and facilitate finding business engagement. The job market is big enough for everyone, but we must stand out in some way. The Hastor Foundation offers exceptional opportunities to perfect your abilities and easily build your personal and business path.

> Prepared by: Hana Kolasević Translated by: Zerina Kosovac





Creating lasting memories and friendships through volunteerism



The Hastor Foundation is rich in ambitious, experienced, and daring young individuals who showcase their skills through the role of mentors. The monthly meetings they have is the opportunity to serve as an excellent platform for developing diverse skills, acquiring new knowledge and experience, and, perhaps most importantly, providing them with the chance to positively influence the scholarship recipients they mentor in their voluntary meetings. The goal of our column "Small Stories of Great Volunteers" is to bring creative, inspiring, and astonishing stories from volunteering in the field. This month, we give you the opportunity to read the story of Maja Bojanić and her volunteer group. We also hope that this text will motivate you to do something that will truly fulfill you this month.

Maja Bojanić comes from Derventa and is a firstyear student at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Banja Luka, majoring in Mathematics and Computer Science. Maja learned about the Hastor Foundation at the end of the ninth grade of elementary school, and at the beginning of her high school education, she became a scholarship recipient.

The Foundation has had a significant impact on my progress, and the most significant change I see is in my attitude towards community contribution and volunteering, emphasizes Maja as she recalls her beginnings.

What is specific about Maja's story is that she currently volunteers as a mentor to a third-year high school student in Derventa. In addition, she is a member of the Club for Technical Sciences, where she provides instructive lessons to students in need. Considering that this is her first year as a mentor, she notes that she has gained excellent experience and new acquaintances, but also learned to be more resourceful and creative. Both Maja and the scholarship recipient she volunteers with come from Derventa, a small town with not many









opportunities for community volunteering. However, the two of them always manage to carry out some nice and useful activities together. Maja mentions that it's guite unusual to work with only one scholarship recipient, but she certainly tries to prepare the meetings just as she would if she had more students. This month, Maja and her student spent their volunteering hours in the local community in a kindergarten in their town. Our mentor planned all of this with a special intention. Namely, the scholarship recipient she works with expressed an interest in enrolling in the Faculty of Preschool Education, so Maja decided to give her the opportunity to explore her desires and thoughts more deeply through this volunteering. Upon arrival at the kindergarten, they were assigned two older groups of children, aged 4 to 5 years.

Maja was in one group, and the scholarship holder, Erna, was in another. Together with the kindergarten children, they made New Year's decorations. Maja and Erna made sure to prepare everything needed for the decorations in advance and started crafting upon arrival. After that, they played with the children and tried to get to know what it's like to be a kindergarten teacher. At the end of their volunteering, they also helped prepare the children for nap time and left the kindergarten with wide smiles.

By volunteering in the community, we observe many benefits for both mentors and their students. Volunteering at the Hastor Foundation has a significant impact on each mentor because it teaches us to pass on our knowledge to others, to strive to be role models for them, and to be the best version of ourselves, says our mentor. Maja stated that thanks to volunteer activities, all scholarship recipient students have the opportunity to learn from their mentors, participate in volunteering by expressing their own opinions, and build themselves up day by day. Community volunteering encourages students to be a better version of themselves in the future, not to be afraid to help others, and to understand that good deeds always come back. The extent to which the Hastor Foundation and its mentors encourage the importance of volunteering can be seen through Maja's example, as she emphasizes that through mentoring at the Foundation, she strengthens her self-confidence and awakens a desire for more active volunteering in her.

Finally, Maja had a message she wanted to convey to all current and future scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation:

> You are in the right place, take advantage of all the opportunities the Foundation provides you, and use your volunteer hours to improve yourself, raise your level of self-confidence, and maybe, one day, pass all of this on to new scholarship recipients.

> > Prepared by: Aida Suljić Translated by: Elmina Huseljić





January

While the cold burns my cheeks I can feel her passing Old year And the new one is here Already smiling at me She rewards me with her beauty The beauty of a new day and a warm home I felt melancholy Patting me on the shoulder For what passed And maybe I didn't experience it In the moment, in that breath I tore myself away from the heavy thought And with a smile I decided That everything waiting for me Is just one nice, little Piece of my life.

> Written by: Nikolina Stanar Translated by: Maida Avdić





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Sara Keserović



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