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## In Sarajevo I Was Happy

Adrian Oktenerg

In Sarajevo I was happy there  
cafés theater nightlife twenty minutes to the mountains  
three hours to the sea  
a good job a cosmopolitan life  
but when the war started I felt unsafe  
so I came to Belgrade to live among my own  
I thought a better life no shelling here  
there is water electricity that works  
neighbors are not suspicious except in the usual ways  
but Belgrade is flat flat neither mountains nor sea  
life is flat cut off from friends  
you cannot even telephone Sarajevo from here  
the train no longer runs  
and the people brother and sister Serbs  
treat us like strangers  
as if we are riffraff scum

*From The Bosnia Elegies – © 1998 Adrian Oktenberg.*

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