HI ADI!
WHAT'S UP, KARIM?

GOOD EVENING, FELLOW CITIZENS OF SARAJEVO.
I HAVE A STORY TO TELL YOU.
I was puzzled by the general lack of interest for the mysterious demise of the London-based Scotsman.

Maybe no one cared because so little was known about his death...

...or because death was a part of everyday reality here.

For lack of better leads, I turned my attention to the strange death of Reginald Lewis, an reporter.

I was almost ready to give up on the story, figuring that there was nothing else to it...

But a few days later I met with a group of foreign reporters. The information they shared shone a new and unexpected light on Lewis's death.

My professional curiosity prodded. The next step was to get in touch with my contacts in UNPROFOR* and the local police.

*UNPROFOR = THE UN PROTECTION FORCE
I also used the opportunity to get in touch with Zagreb and London via a satellite phone.

Reginald Lewis's real name was Raymond Manlow. He was an experienced operative who plied his trade in Hong Kong and the Middle East.

'The British Diplomatic Corps referred to his assignment in Sarajevo...'

...as a mission of utmost importance.

But there was not much else, and I probably would've reached a dead end...

A few days later, I received a call from London. It was Simon Novak, the famous reporter for Sunday Express...

...and a longtime friend of mine. The two of us had worked together on a series of reports before the war.

Sorry for not being in touch lately. I had a few things to ask you...

Anything I can do to help, Ed.

...if an unusual coincidence hadn't provided me with a fresh perspective.
Some called back four days later to compare notes. This is what we knew at that point.

Our sources confirmed that currently there were at least 18 operatives and foreign intelligence field agents in Sarajevo...

...as well as a few others whose affiliation we could not determine.

We found out that their goal was to locate a document dating back to the early 20th century.

Those who managed to get their hands on it...

...would own an item of great importance, something that would give them...

...an incredible political and military advantage.
THE MASSACHUSETTS REVIEW

THIS DOCUMENT WAS ALLEGEDLY HIDDEN IN SARAJEVO...

...BUT AT THAT TIME IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO LEARN ANY OTHER DETAILS ABOUT ITS CONTENTS OR PURPOSE.

...WAS KILLED ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 10, 1994, WITH TWO PRECISE SHOTS TO THE STOMACH.

I DID FIND OUT THAT RAYMOND MANLOV, A.K.A. RONALD LEWIS...

HIS DEATH WAS FILED AS A ROBBERY-TURNED-MURDER, NOT UNCOMMON FOR WARTIME SARAJEVO.

BUT A DETECTIVE REVEALED IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN ASSASSINATION.

THAT'S IT BOYS. LET'S WRAP IT UP.

THE KILLER HAD USED CYANIDE-TIPPED BULLETS.

I COULDN'T MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL. BUT I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING THERE.
NICIC called back. His source at the foreign office had told him that the "Sarajevo pogrom" case...

...could be traced back to South America.

That made it very serious. The neo-Nazi angle grew... further...

...because his entire family had perished in concentration camps.

NICIC finally gave me a name to kickstart my investigation.

In order to protect his descendants from potential backlash...

His surname immediately rang a bell.

...that used to own a well-known building in downtown Sarajevo.

He was from a prominent family...

...today, that building was nothing more than another ruin in this city.
THE NEXT DAY, I WENT TO SEE MR. TURKOVIC, WHO LET ME USE HIS HISTORICAL ARCHIVE...

GOOD EVENING, MR. TURKOVIC!

NENAD D.'S FAMILY HAD BEEN VERY WELL RESPECTED, AND NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR WEALTH.

...THE LARGEST ARCHIVE LEFT IN THE CITY AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY.

THE COMMUNISTS CAME TO POWER AFTER WORLD WAR II, AND THE FAMILY SOON EMIGRATED TO SOUTH AMERICA.

NENAD D. CAME BACK TO SARAJEVO IN HIS LATE 30S. HE WAS A FOREIGNER, A CITIZEN OF A SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY.

THOSE WHO MET HIM DURING HIS TIME IN SARAJEVO SAID THAT HE SEEMED LIKE A MAN ON A MISSION.

INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, I MANAGED TO SPOT HIM IN A PHOTO FROM ISHET-MILADIĆOVIC’S 1969 EXHIBITION AT THE JNA MALL.
Very soon after his arrival, he started hanging out in well-known circles.

His friends described him as very stingy despite his wealth.

Every town has its ruinare: a story regarding the true reasons for his visit surfaced a few years later.

Allegedly, before they left, his family had hidden a portion of their riches in the basement of their building.

It took him years to get the courts to grant him access to the basement.

He finally opened the sealed space in front of police officials.

No one knows what they found there, and all records were lost either before or during the war.

Sealed behind a false wall, there was supposedly silverware of significant value.

I wonder if Nenad D. took all of those objects with him. Maybe he was given an equivalent in cash?

Anyway, he disappeared from Sarajevo as quickly as he had appeared.

He never came back to this city.
THE STORY OF NEVAD D.
DON'T ADD UP. IT WAS STRANGE
THAT SOMEONE WHO WAS RICH...

...WOULD SPEND A FEW YEARS OF
HIS LIFE TRYING TO GET HIS HANDS
ON SOME SILVERWARE...

...THAT PROBABLY
WOULDN'T ADD MUCH TO
HIS OVERALL WEALTH.

NEVAD D. MUST HAVE BEEN
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE,
SOMETHING MORE VALUABLE
THAN SILVERWARE.

MAYBE THE OTHER RUMORS
WERE TRUE. HE COULDN'T
BEEN A FOREIGN SPY.

NO, THAT SEEMS UNLIKELY.
THE AUTHORITIES WOULDN'T
TOLERATE HIM BEING
AROUND FOR THAT LONG.
I told Mesić about my discoveries immediately. He sounded very excited and less than two days later, my phone rang.

LISTEN UP, THIS STORY IS BIGGER THAN WE THOUGHT!

IT MIGHT EVEN GET US A PULITZER!

NENAD D. WAS A SPY. AFTER ALL, HE HAD WORKED FOR A U.S. AND ISRAEL-OWNED SOUTH AMERICAN CORPORATION.

AFTER HE WENT BACK TO SOUTH AMERICA, HE BECAME EXTREMELY WEALTHY.

IT SEEMS THIS HAPPENED ALMOST OVERNIGHT.

HE DISAPPEARED IN THE LATE 1960S. NOBODY, AND I MEAN NOBODY, KNEW WHERE HE WAS.

HE WAS LARGELY FORGOTTEN.
...AND A MAJOR CAR ACCIDENT IN MONTEVIDEO, INVOLVING ONE ALVASHRO BORRELLES, AN URUGUAYAN DOCTOR.

ALVASHRO BORRELLES WAS IN FACT NENAD D.

ALTHOUGH BADLY HURT, NENAD D. SURVIVED THE ACCIDENT. I SPOKE TO OUR MAN IN MONTEVIDEO AND HE SAID THAT...

I TOLD HIM TO GET ON THE STORY IMMEDIATELY AND FIND OUT AS MUCH AS HE COULD.

...A NUMBER OF INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN VISITING NENAD AT THE HOSPITAL.

...HE FOUND A NURSE WHO WAS WILLING TO TALK FOR MONEY.

SHE SAID THAT ON HIS DEATHBED NENAD D. WENT ON ABOUT A "SOMALIAN SECRECY" THAT ONLY HE KNEW THE DETAILS OF.
HE DIED RIGHT AFTER, AND TOOK HIS SECRET WITH HIM TO HIS MONTEVIDEO GRAVE.

I WOKE UP THE NEXT DAY TO TERRIBLE NEWS. NEMO'S CORRESPONDENT AND THE NURSE HAD ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED SUICIDE ON THE SAME DAY.

SHE SPOKE THAT WITH HIS DYING BREATH, NEMO MENTIONED NIKOLA TESLA AND SOME SECRET DISCOVERY OF HIS.

WE SOON DISCOVERED THAT NEMO'S FINAL WORDS ACTUALLY REFERRED TO A POWERFUL WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION THAT TESLA HAD SUPPOSEDLY INVENTED!

WE AGREED ON THE NEXT STEP: FIND ANY POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN TESLA AND SARAJEVO OR NEMO P.

THESE MURDERS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A WARNING SIGN. UNFORTUNATELY, WE WERE ALREADY IN TOO DEEP.
IN 1911, TESLA ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD CREATED A WEAPON "TO END ALL WARS."

HE CALLED IT "THE DEATH RAY GUN."

IT WAS CAPABLE OF SHOOTING DOWN 10,000 ENEMY AIRPLANES AT ONCE...

...HARNESSING NOTHING MORE THAN THE ELECTRICITY IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.

OUR SOURCES CLAIMED THAT TESLA HAD ALREADY INVENTED IT BY THE EARLY 1900S, AND THAT THE WARDENCLIFFE TOWER IN NEW JERSEY WAS A FULLY OPERATIONAL PROTOTYPE.

IT WAS FIRED ONLY ONCE.

THIS RESULTED IN WHAT WOULD LATER BECOME KNOWN AS THE TUNGUSKA EVENT.

THE EXPLOSION HAD OBLITERATED EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH IN A 200-MILE RADIUS.
Putting the pieces of this spectacular story together was almost impossible.

In little over a month, the investigation had taken us from Tesla...

...across four continents and over the span of an entire century.

Tesla had discovered the death ray gun...

Despite all the secrets, inconsistencies, and contradictions, we were finally sure.

...using the most basic laws of physics. Here's how it ended up in Sarajevo.
PARANOID, TESLA DECIDED TO IMPRINT HIS ASSISTANT HOWARD BERKER WITH THE FORMULA THROUGH HYPNOSIS.

TESLA SOON REALIZED THE HORRORS THAT HIS DISCOVERY MIGHT CAUSE AND DECIDED TO DESTROY ALL WRITTEN TRACES OF THE FORMULA.

HE REFUSED TO HAND IT OVER TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DESPITE GROWING PRESSURE.

HE WANTED TO ERASE IT FROM BERKER'S SUBCONSCIOUS AS WELL, BUT HIS ASSISTANT, ORIGINALLY FROM THE BALKANS...

...WAS IN SARAJEVO AT THE TIME.

HOWEVER, TESLA DECIDED THAT BERKER WOULD GET RUN OVER BY A HORSE CARROUSEL IN DOWNTOWN SARAJEVO.

PASSENGER CARRIED A BADLY INJURED BERKER TO THE BUILDING OWNED BY NENAD D.'S FAMILY.

AT NENAD'S FATHER'S OFFICE, BERKER DIED WITHIN MINUTES BUT NOT BEFORE PASSING ON THE FORMULA WHILE IN DEEP SLEET.

NENAD'S FATHER, AN AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER, KNEW THAT THERE WERE NOT JUST THE RAMBLINGS OF A DYING MAN...

...SO HE WROTE THE FORMULA DOWN ON THE BACK OF AN ACCOUNTING BOOK.

BERKER WAS DEAD. TESLA COULD RELAX. CONVINCED THAT THE SECRET WAS GONE FOREVER.

HE DIED PEACEFULLY IN 1949.
BUSY WITH EVERYDAY LIFE, NENAD’S FATHER COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THE FORMULA FOR YEARS.

UNTIL 1941, WHEN AN SS OFFICER LIVING IN HIS BUILDING TOLD HIM ABOUT THE LEGEND OF TESLA’S DEATH RAY GUN...

...WHICH COULD DECIDE THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR.

TERRORIZED, HE REALIZED THAT HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON ON THE PLANET WHO HAD THE FORMULA.

...SO HE HID IT IN THE BASEMENT TOGETHER WITH THE SILVERWARE.

AS A YUGOSLAV PATRIOT, HE REFUSED TO HAND IT OVER TO THE GERMANS.

UNFORTUNATELY, ON APRIL 8, 1945, THIS BRAVE MAN WAS KILLED BY SHRAPNEL FROM THE SAME SHELL THAT TOOK THE LIFE OF VJEMER PERIC VELIJE.

IN THE LATE 60S, WHILE GOING THROUGH HIS FATHER’S DASHES AND NOTES, NENAD DISCOVERED THE TERRIBLE SECRET BEHIND THE FALSE BASEMENT WALL.
THE NEXT FEW DAYS WERE TOUGH FOR BOTH ARIC AND ME. FIRST HE STARTED GETTING THREATENING PHONE CALLS...

AND A FEW ROCKS FLEW IN THROUGH HIS WINDOWS LATER THAT NIGHT.

FINALLY, AFTER HIS CAR EXPLODED THE NEXT MORNING, HE GAVE ME A CALL.

I'M OUT OF THE INVESTIGATION. I HAVE TO THINK OF MY WIFE AND CHILDREN.

TWO STRANGERS CAME INTO MY OFFICE THE NEXT DAY. THEIR MORALITY WAS ALMOST PERFECT, EXCEPT FOR A CERTAIN HARSINESS IN THEIR VOICES.

IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP ON THE WHOLE THING.

THE BARREL GLITTED FOR A SECOND AND A SPARK IN THEIR EYES TOLD ME THAT THEY WOULDN'T HESITATE TO USE IT.

GO BACK TO WRITING ABOUT FILM AND COMICS, OR ELSE...

I DON'T WANT TO TEST THEIR PATIENCE. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, I TOLD MYSELF.

THEY WERE RIGHT. IT WAS OVER.
UNEXPECTEDLY, THE EPILOGUE OF THE STORY CAME ON ITS OWN. AFTER I HAD FILED THE CASE AWAY... TOGETHER WITH THE REST OF THE UNSOLVED SARAJEVO MYSTERIES...

I COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER: WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE FORMULA? WAS IT EVER DISCOVERED? WHO GOT THEIR HANDS ON IT?

MOST OF THE FOREIGN OPERATIVES HAD LEFT THE CITY. IMAGINE ONE OF THEM HAD MANAGED TO FIND THE FORMULA?

MEČIĆ AND I SPOKE RARELY, AND MOSTLY OUT OF COURTESY. BOTH OF US KNEW THAT IT WAS BETTER NOT TO DISCUSS IT ANYMORE.

ONE NIGHT, THE PHONE STARTLED ME AS I WAS WATCHING TV.

IT WAS A MAN WITH A COURSE VOICE, OFTEN INTERRUPTED WITH BOUTS OF COUGH.

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT’S THIS ABOUT?

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT IT’S ABOUT TESLA.

LET’S MEET TOMORROW MORNING AT THE RUINS OF NENAD D’S BUILDING. COME ALONE.
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...Things became crystal clear, and the decades-old story finally came to a rather horrible end.

He was the only one of the five who was still alive. The rest had either died of natural causes...

...or were killed under unusual circumstances.

He managed to escape the same fate by emigrating to the USSR as a sworn communist.

The old man was a retired police inspector and one of the men present at the opening of the sealed room in the basement of this building in 1970.

He had gone back to Sarajevo in 1991.

Aware that the end was near, he just wanted to clear his conscience.

Now he had terminal cancer.

This is the story he told me.
Karim Zaimović

Nenad D. didn't find the formula here in the basement. He bought us off with the silverware.

But I wanted to make sure I had the upper hand, if you know what I mean.

I followed him and learned what the formula was about. I put the pieces together while in Russia.

Nenad D. took only one half of the formula with him. Once back in South America, he gave the first half to representatives of world powers.

After receiving the first half of the money, he fled. He wanted to wait it out for a while and then do an open auction for the other half of the formula.

You already know what happened to him. I have no idea who ordered his execution.

But where's the other half of the formula?
My new friend had an answer to that as well.

Ninad's plan was brilliant. The half of the formula he sold was useless. It was impossible to reconstruct the rest of the formula based on it.

The other half was the key to Tesla's death rays.

He hid it sewn into a book binding. He gave the book to his cousin, Amir, for safekeeping.

Amir was oblivious to its contents, of course.

He protected the book with due diligence, hiding it in his large family library.

What happened to the book?

I don't know. All I want now is to be in peace.

The story sounded crazy.

Why would anyone leave an object of such importance with a completely obedient person?

I managed to track Amir down...

...which leads us to the final act and the bewildering discovery.
In all of its absurdity, this might be the only fitting closure to the incredible story that I have uncovered.

That is why I have decided to go public with the whole thing.

I want to ask all of you to try your best to find the formula...

...and give it to those people...

...who will know how to use it.

Amir is one of the many victims of the war.

He was killed at the very beginning.
...AND THEY SOLD THE REST FOR FOOD.

I DOUBT THAT THE BOOK WAS BURNED.

NINGAD WOULDN’T HAVE HIDDEN THE FORMULA IN ANY OLD TIME.

THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION IS THAT THE BOOK CONTAINING THE TERRIBLE SECRET...

...THAT MIGHT DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF HUMAN KIND IS STILL OUT THERE.

UNTIL IT’S FOUND...

...ALL WE HAVE IS PAIN.

...AND HOPE.