Olja Budimir
[Rade Budimir]

Olja and Rade met on holiday. He was a beautiful dancer but, halfway through their first dance, he was called away. ‘That half-dance was like our life to come, never to be completed,’ Olja said.

When war came to Kosovo, Olja and Rade stayed at home in Pristina, sheltering Albanian neighbours, waiting for the conflict to end. After Serbian forces withdrew from the disputed territory, Rade sent his wife to safety. He stayed behind, believing that the troubles would last only a few days.

His headless body was interred in Pristina’s Dragashan cemetery as Unknown JA 080/1998 for over a year. Later his remains were exhumed, identified and reburied in Belgrade.

‘The only place I feel good is at the grave of my Rade,’ confessed Olja. ‘It is all I really have now.’