Friends from Ptuj

Foto Alenka Slavinec

Tea GAJŠEK - The Power of Life

The book is written following a real life event. It speaks of a mother and her daughter who was born with CYSTIC FIBROSIS. This illness is not talked about enough and the majority of people know too little about the disease. We are just people living in a cruel world. What did this girl experience in just 15 years of life in her battle with this disease? Along with the whole family the mother had to learn how to help the child breathe, she dedicated her life to ease the child's pain and further tried to take the pain onto herself. How can parents possibly come to terms with such a heavy burden and responsibility? There are no answers to be found for these questions, they come from life, from experiencing them; our feelings are a ticking bomb.

How this disease advanced and what a toll it took. It's a really sad moment when you realise that the time has come and the disease is clear to see. The first signs are when you see your child cannot do things that other children do. Why was the first lung transplant necessary? All of this was very stressful for the entire family; out motto became TOGETHER WE CAN DO ANYTHING. And we really managed. After all of this we lived normally, for a year and a half life was like a dream. Then like a bolt of lightening we were hit by bad luck. A sudden worsening of the health of our beloved daughter changed our dreams. In this moment I realised how thin is the line between life and death. This sort of thing is only to be seen in the movies, but we lived liked this. Even then we still did not forget our motto. Five months of a real battle for our daughters life, followed by being back on the urgent list for a second lung transplant. This all took a long time but now it seems it was just a moment, we found a donor and yet again my husband and I were standing outside the operating theatre door. Why? How could this happen? It is not important me anymore because we live our dreams again. We live all together!!!! WE LIVE.....

THANK YOU FOR BEING A DONOR

VZAJEMNA
Jaz zate, ti zame.

Foto Raed Qutena

Alenka SLAVINEC, born in Ptuj in 1977 is an internationally renowned photographer and film producer. Tea's childhood friend has illustrated this book with a new opus of 25 photos on the theme of H_2O. The titles and content of each chapter is symbolically tied to a picture and thus help the reader with the text and connect their own experiences with the content of the book.

SLOVENIA IN US Lipizzaner horses the world known photo exhibition and PLECNIK SYMPHONY OF KRIZANKE photo outdoors expo for 60 years of the Festival Ljubljana.

www.i-am-donor.com

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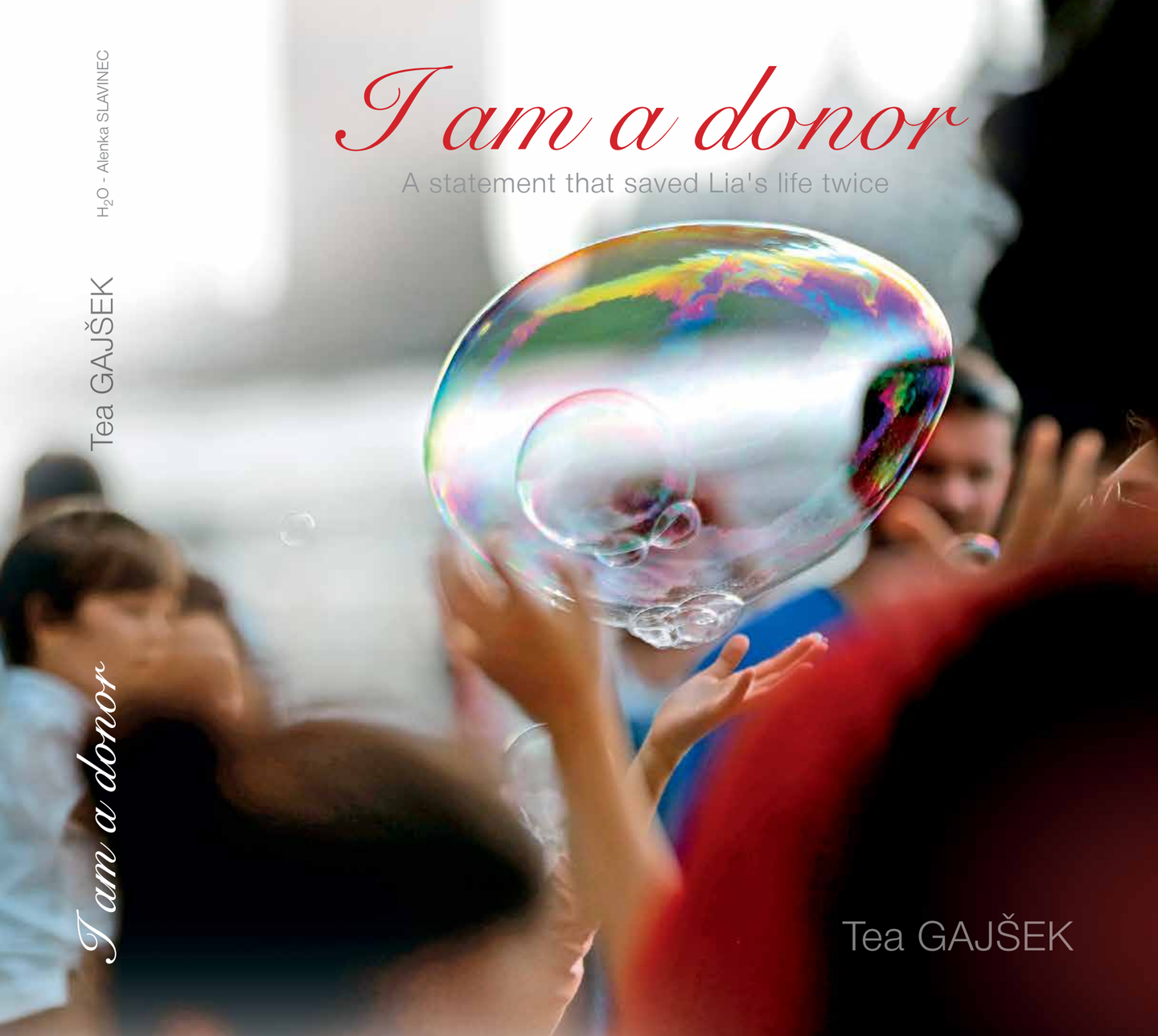
H_2O - Alenka SLAVINEC

Tea GAJŠEK

I am a donor

I am a donor

A statement that saved Lia's life twice



Tea GAJŠEK

Tea Gajšek

I AM A DONOR

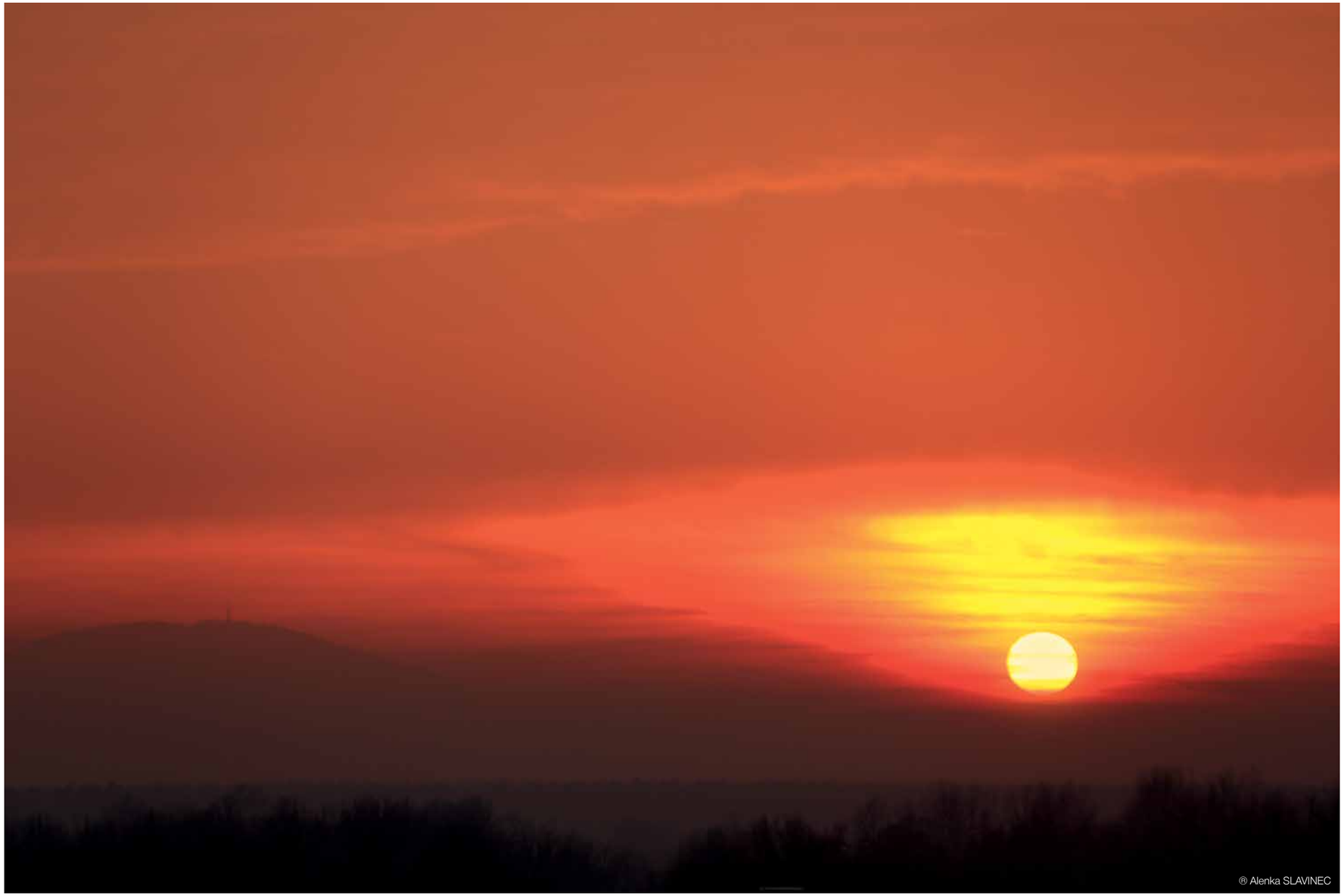
Statement that saved Lia's life twice

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT REAL LIFE. WHILE MOST OF US CAN LIVE THEIR LIVES IN A COMFORTABLE WAY, OTHERS HAVE TO STRUGGLE FOR IT EVERYDAY. LIA AND HER FAMILY ARE AMONG THEM WHEN FIGHTING THE REALITIES OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS.

THIS FIGHT NEEDS PERSISTENCE AND CONTINUATION, HOWEVER AT SOME TIME IT REACHES A POINT WHERE IT BECOMES COMPLETELY DEPENDENT FROM THE HELP OF OTHERS. TRANSPLANTATION OF THE DISEASED LUNGS CAN OFFER AN UNKNOWN NEW QUALITY OF LIFE, BUT IT CAN ONLY HAPPEN WHEN THERE IS THE WILL OF OTHERS FOR DONATION.

THE STORY ABOUT LIA REMINDS US HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO SUPPORT ORGAN DONATION THUS MAKING A NEW LIFE BECOME REALITY.

WALTER KLEPETKO, MD



THE BOOK OF MRS GAJŠEK IS A CHRONOLOGICAL DEPOSITION OF A PERSONAL, SHOCKING AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF A FAMILY, THAT ARE, FROM THE BIRTH OF THEIR GIRL, FACING THE DECEASE - CYSTIC FIBROSIS. THIS RARE BUT SERIOUS ILLNESS IS ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE WHOLE FAMILY, THE DEMANDS NEXT TO THE WILL, ALSO THE STRENGTH AND PATIENCE OF THE PATIENT AS WELL AS THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE NEAR AND REMOTE FAMILY. TEA GAJŠEK LEADS US THOROUGHLY THROUGH THE VIEW OF HER EXTRAORDINARILY DEDICATED MOTHER. SHE DESCRIBES SIMPLY, DIRECTLY AND SINCERELY, HER MOST DEEP PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL DISTRESSES, THE DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING LIFE EVERYDAY, BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES, HER FEARS AND CONFRONTING OF LUNG TRANSPLANTATION, THE DIVISION OF PARENTS BETWEEN THEIR THREE CHILDREN, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS FEARING FOR LIFE OF THEIR DAUGHTER AND THEIR STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVAL.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS IS ACCOMPANIED BY NUMEROUS MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS. IN LIA'S CASE THIS WAS DUE TO FAILURE OF HER LUNGS AND THE LIFE-ENDANGERING LAST POSSIBILITY OF TREATMENT BY TRANSPLANTATION. AND LIA HAS ALREADY BEEN THROUGH TWO DEMANDING LUNG TRANSPLANTATIONS.

THE BOOK PASSES THE MESSAGE THAT TREATMENT THROUGH TRANSPLANTATION WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IF IT WAS NOT FOR THE DONORS. THE BOOK ALSO INDICATES THE COMPLEXITY AND MEANING OF TREATMENT VIA TRANSPLANTATION, AND THIS VIEW ALONE COULD BE THE STIMULATION FOR SERIOUS PERSONAL THOUGHT ABOUT THE ONE'S VIEW OF ORGAN DONATION AFTER DEATH. BUT AS IN SLOVENIA IN SPITE OF THE WRITTEN EXPRESS WILL OF THE DONOR WE ALSO ASK THE RELATIVES FOR CONSENT, I INVITE READERS TO OPENLY TALK TO YOUR NEAREST AND DEAREST ABOUT YOUR STATEMENT AND WISHES CONCERNING THE DONATION OF ORGANS AFTER DEATH. FOR ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION YOU CAN TURN TO THE INSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA FOR ORGAN AND TISSUE TRANSPLANTS, »SLOVENIJA-TRANSPLANT«, WHERE WE ARE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS AND DILEMMAS.

PRIM. DANICA AVSEC, DR. MED.,
DIRECTOR OF SLOVENIJA-TRANSPLANT

THE TRANSPLANTATION OF AN ORGAN IS THE STRONGEST CONNECTION BETWEEN INEVITABLE DEATH AND LIFE. BECAUSE OF THE INFINITE HUMAN TRUST IN ALL POSSIBILITIES TODAY DEATH CAN BE THE REASON FOR A NEW LIFE. WITH DONATION AFTER DEATH ONE CAN MAKE THIS FINAL DONATION OF ONESELF FOR ANOTHER. AND LIA'S STORY IS PRECISELY ABOUT THIS.

THE STORY THAT IS IN FRONT OF US IS ONE OF LIFE. THIS LIFE, THAT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCE IN SLOVENIA AND ALL AROUND THE WORLD. IS LIA'S STORY SO SPECIAL? EVERY LIFE STORY IS UNIQUE. DOES LIA'S LIFE RELATE TO ME? JUST AS STRONG AS THE LIFE OF EACH PATIENT AND THEIR FAMILY, THAT IN ONE MOMENT APPEARS IN FRONT OF ME AND I TALK TO THEM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT. PERSONALLY I HAVE BEEN CONFRONTING SUCH STORIES IN MY PROFESSION FOR A LONG TIME. THE SPECIALTY OF THE GAJŠEK FAMILY IS THAT, THAT THEY OPENLY TALK ABOUT THEIR BAD ORDEALS, ABOUT THEIR FEARS, THE WISHES THAT DID NOT COME TRUE, INFINITE WAITING, BUT MOSTLY ABOUT JOY, GRATITUDE, TRUST AND CONNECTION.

I AM GLAD THAT IN SLOVENIA THERE IS SUCH A STRONG TESTIMONY. I AM GLAD BECAUSE THIS TESTIMONY IS PROOF THAT ONLY BY THE STRONGEST CONNECTED AND UNSELFISH GIVING FOR OTHERS CAN WE ACHIEVE THAT WHICH SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE AT FIRST SIGHT.

DR. VALENTIN SOJAR

WATER

When has one drop the power to destroy?
What tears soothe wounds and which are tears of happiness….?
Which sea is full of life, calm, rough, troubled, dark deeps….?
Is fog a fear from an unknown or erased past…. untidiness…. untruths.
Rain is as necessary as drought but as unwelcome as floods….
The sun dries the dew, strokes clouds in the clear sky, draws rainbows when it plays with drops of rain….
Light delineates fear from clouds, draws their curves….
When it is in equilibrium water is life.
When it steps over the brim of thought, soul, body, river bank, water can destroy everything
Even pains …
I wish for tears of luck.
Cry sky, when the earth is dry.
Run dark clouds, shine sunshine.
Create rainbows, bring us warmth and eternal hope ……..
It is time is for tears of happiness

Alenka SLAVINEC
(H_2O)

Life itself is a gift and simply receiving the opportunity to live is a miracle.

No matter what kind of destiny is intended for us, we must accept it and live with it. However, living with CYSTIC FIBROSIS is truly hard and it exhausts you to your last drop of strength. Yes, it is really hard, but from these moments we can learn a lot and become stronger. It is very tiring in a physical way, it destroys and strengthens you in a psychical way and eventually financially it takes much away. Nobody has ever explained how to cope with such a situation or how to make it simpler. There are still many unclear things regarding this illness, which need to be explained. We learn together along with the doctors, after all we, the parents, are the ones who live with these children. We are the ones who know our children best and yet are still on the journey of getting to know them. You stop thinking about yourself and you fight. You become a soldier and you want to win in this war. What does not kill you, makes you stronger.

Tea GAJŠEK

B I R T H

Here is a description of the most beautiful event that can occur in life. Becoming a mother for the first time, grasping the child in her arms. Gazing at this small creature, because you know that it is completely due to you.

DIAGNOSIS

When something happens so terrible that your child becomes terminally ill, it ruins the world. There are many things we do not know, but we must begin to fight. It is necessary to fully embrace the child and to learn about the disease.

P A I N

Losing a child is every parent's worst pain. You land in a strange situation, yet you have to accept it. It's up to your and your family, it is necessary to go further. We all have the same question. Why did this happen?

L I F E

After all these terrible and sad moments, finally something beautiful. Another new life. Our little family has increased. We received one small creature.

KILOGRAMS

In all this drama, we fight for the most weight. How difficult it was to achieve a few grams. The conversion of calories and mixing all kinds of food. In the end however, kilograms from anywhere.

FRUSTRATION

With someone you really trust and ultimately your children suffer. When you're looking for help, and the someone did not. And all this disappointment is mixed with happiness. We received a son.

TRANSPLANT

You know how close you are to death. How quickly we can all be given this test. If you do not donate organs, but we need to save a life. The worst thing is to wait at the door of the operating room .....

SURPRISE

A little joy and happiness when they arrive home. Finally, we have lived to see this moment.

A NEW FIGHT

When they get struck by lightning, and you know that the situation is getting worse again. Realize the repeat of struggle. From the fear of distress at heart, but you've got to keep to yourself. Again, it all repeats.

CURSE

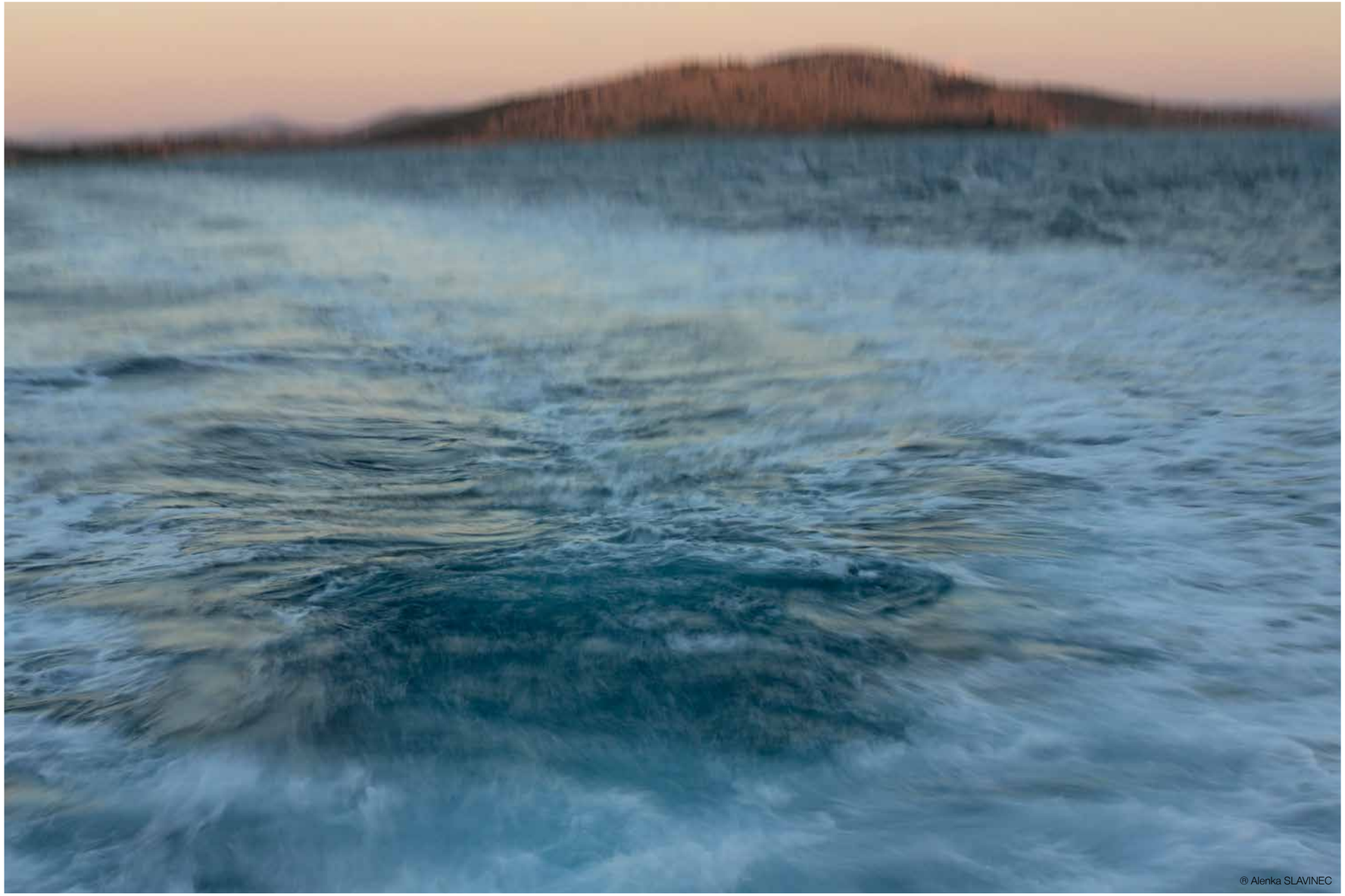
Really weird stuff happening. A little search of the memory and you realize that it takes a long time. At the end the confirmation of total unknowns, What's going on? Who we wished us so bad?

RACE AGAINST TIME

The situation is so bad that intubation is repeated. Racing ride to Vienna with a police escort. Waiting for new lungs.

THE WINNER

We managed to get another pair of lungs. Eight hours of waiting and Lia has undergone a second operation. All together it seems impossible, but how real it is.



LIA CAN DO ANYTHING

Our Lia has succeeded. I met some impossible force and energy that is all fear. At the time I was really scared, but I dealt with it. The soul has moved into the light.

OUR DREAMS

We are trying to live as normal. Simple everyday life. Just to live.

SOME GOOD THOUGHTS

HERE ARE SOME THOUGHTS AND WISHES FROM RELATIVES AND FRIENDS:

"Hold out Lia, we are praying for you…!"

"We keep our fingers crossed, our thoughts are with you and so are all the kind creatures of light. Let Lia be wrapped in pure white light, let Michael's wings look after her and let Rafael's hand cure her ill body. I believe in the Almighty and with a loving thought I plead everything to end well."

"She is an angel in this world of ours and she has so many things to teach us that she is not allowed to go. God knows who must be sent on the Earth."

"We keep our fingers crossed, we cross our legs and arms and ask the One above us … and we do not stop thinking about you."

"We keep our fingers crossed, we pray, but tears keep running … I do not dare even to imagine what you are experiencing. Good luck!"

"Let God be with you!"

"Dear family, with tears in our eyes we want to tell you that no family in the world should go through such a life experience. You are our heroes and idols, you encourage our lives each day by saying WE CAN DO IT. And you Lia, you are our angel, a girl without fear, you are simply undefeatable. You are a role model for everyone and we can only tell you: THANK YOU FOR BEING!"

"I am speechless, let the angels look after you, we are with you."

"Congratulations for the repeated victory!"

"She is really a miracle. I can hardly wait to see her, to hold her and tell her: THANK YOU FOR BEING. IN KNOWING YOU A PERSON REALLY STARTS APPRECIATING ONE'S LIFE."

"We are happy for you. The prayers have been granted. Keep the strength!"

"Lia is a true hero. We keep our fingers crossed for her and we wish her all the best. Give her our best wishes. Keep lots of positive energy."

"Tell Lia that Chuck Norris is a little mouse in comparison with her!"

“ There are moments of decision... I know how very difficult it is to make this decision, especially at the moment of the loss of a dearest. I need time, time to think about it.. Deep inside I feel, how the time of one life ending on earth, can mean another life could be continued... The life of a human being, that will have the organs of my dearest and will live, create, he will be in the circle of a family. How warm I feel, when I know, she still lives... The daughter with a donated organ. This is a gift that is infinitely valuable. We are aware of it only when we confront it.”

The members of the association that were fighting at the door of death for our dear ones, know how grateful we are to those, that were prepared to make such a big step as the donation of organs. We will make every effort and try to make all people aware of how you, as an individual, can make a continuation of life for numerous other people. They can, with help of donors, still live.

You cannot say thank you to the donor with a hug, nor with a hand-shake, but every day you are in the depths of your soul, grateful for it. Every new day - without exception...

Slavka Grmek Ugovšek

President of

Association for cystic fibrosis of Slovenia

Cystic fibrosis is a rare disease affecting many organs, most commonly the lungs and digestive organs. At the beginning of the last century, this disease meant inevitable death in infancy, but due to an increased knowledge of its treatment it became a chronic disease of adults. Accepting this disease demands exceptional courage and persistence from the patient as well as their loved ones.

Mrs Gajšek and her daughter have had to encounter incredibly tough decisions regarding the treatment of this severe disease, which has already resulted in two lung transplants during Lia's childhood.

Her story is a bright example of the meaning of persistence and of embracing life despite circumstances that would drive many a person into despair and despondency.

The confessions in this book will give clearer insights into the journey that lays ahead of many a patient and help him or her to face life's difficult decisions.

Uroš Krivec

LIA

Today, the mother of my patient Lia approached me with an uncommon request. She wanted me to write a few lines about Lia and her family. It's strange, since I usually write only dull letters of dismissal and medical opinions. These lines are for a book, a book about Lia, her illness, her family ... one that her mother wishes to write.

I got to know Lia during my work at the paediatric department of Ptuj Polyclinic. Lia has cystic fibrosis, a chronic illness affecting several organs. Because of the illness, this girl has experienced poor weight gain, frequent respiratory infections, commonly pneumonia, and several hospitalisations. In the milder cases it was possible to treat her at our hospital, but more often she had to go to the Paediatric Clinic in Ljubljana.

Lia is a very special child. From the very beginning she caught my attention with the patience with which she bore the aggravation of her illness. Even when she had almost stopped speaking and breathing by herself and was dependent on oxygen, she didn't complain once. She simply observed what was happening around her. Even she was little, she knew exactly which medication she received, why she received it and its precise dosage. She wanted to know in detail how she would be treated. She absorbed and was interested in every information.

After the first lung transplant conducted in Vienna, Lia recuperated very quickly. She became the youngest patient in Slovenia to have had a lung transplant.

Now, Lia is a teenager who has already undergone two lung transplants. She is still a curious and brave, though a quiet person. She still follows her disease in great detail as well as all the changes, and she knows everything about it. She takes her medication regularly and accurately, looks after herself and attends all the check-up examinations.

I'm happy that she is still in my care, as I have also become her personal physician.

I truly admire her mother. Lia was so many times on the verge of death. Her disease is extremely severe and full of complications, not to mention the two lung transplants. All this time, Lia's mum has kept her optimism. She never lost her smile. Even in the event of problems with administration, test results, taking blood etc., her mother never complained and always adjusted to the given situation as far as possible. She was always there for her daughter, comforting her and keeping her in good mood. She has two more children who, despite her care for Lia, were never deprived of her love.

Besides Lia and the other children, the father is very caring and understanding as well and quite often accompanies her to the examinations.

Every time Lia's mum comes to the clinic, her immense optimism and smile makes me feel good.

When she told me about her idea for a book at first I was surprised, but I know that Lia's mum is the right person to write it, as she will know how to describe all the problems linked to cystic fibrosis as well as to portray all the beautiful sides of life resulting from it.

Irena Puntarec Djukanovic, MD, specialist paediatrician

THANKS

There are a lot of you who have helped and therefore I address all of you with the words, “THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART”.

It was not easy but together we are succeeding. Into my life entered a wonderful person who has stood by my side at every moment, he is my pillar of strength; this is my husband. I know that our family means everything in the world to him. Thank you dear husband for all your love and the strength we transformed into energy.

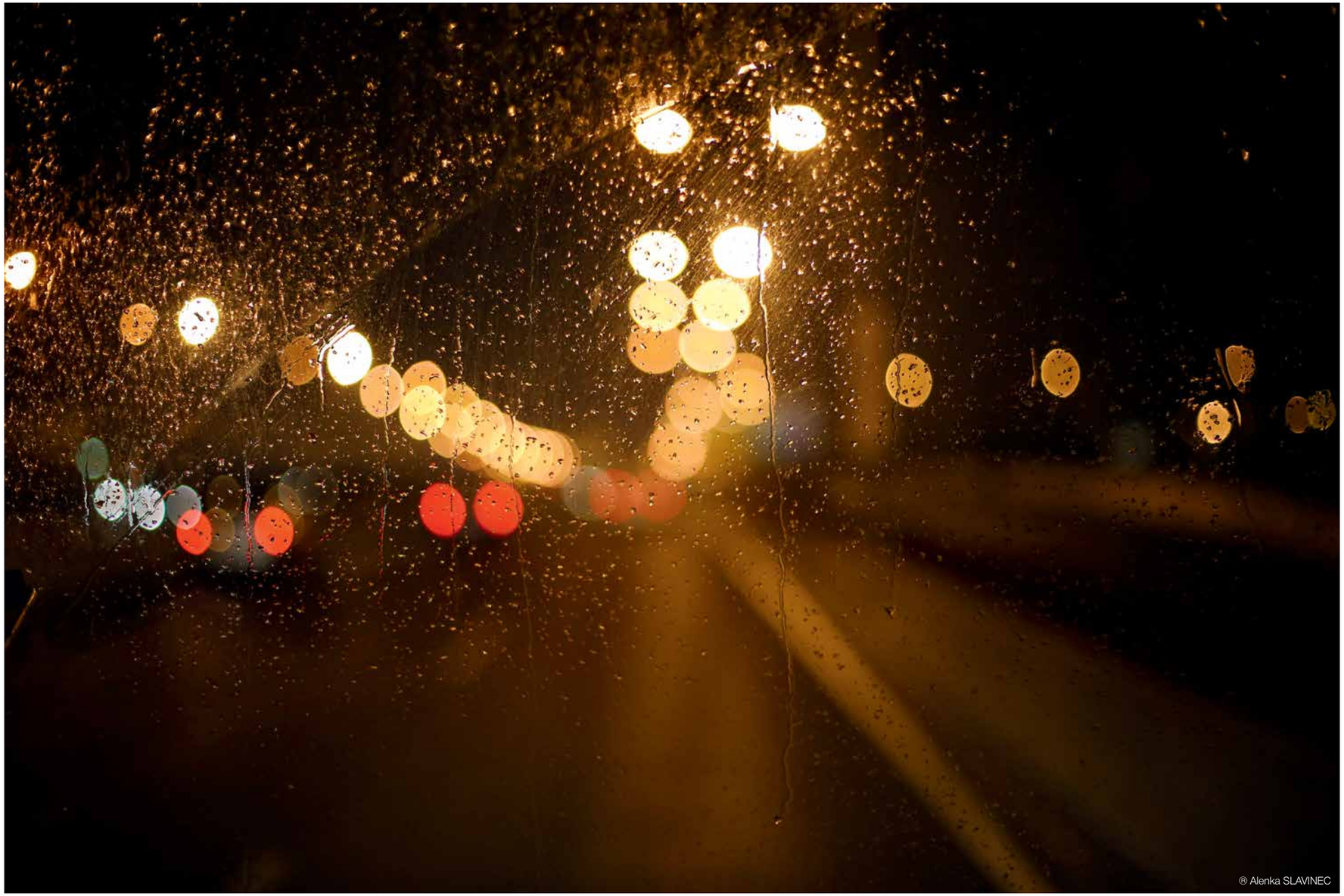
And then there are all my children:

Lia, even though you have been unwell you are the strongest being in the world. With you we have learnt a lot. For you all doors open.

Isa, you have always waited patiently and never uttered a word. You knew that we all had to take care of Lia

Lin, our little sunshine who colours everything. Even though he was still small he somehow understood everything. Simply gaze into his dark little eyes and we can go on.

My big family, who without hesitation helped in every way possible: mother Albina, father August, great grandmother Albina, sister Sabina, brother-in-law Smiljan, mother-in-law Štefanija, father-in-law Edi, sister-in-law Nuška, brother-in-law Marko, brother-in-law Igor and sister-in-law Tadea.



The Ptui emergency service for their speedy transport, without trouble, anywhere and whenever.

With us right from the start was everybody at the Pulmonary Ward of Ljubljana Paediatric Hospital. From the first moment of the initial examination by Dr Silvester Kopriva, who made us familiar with the disease. All our golden nurses and sisters. Also Dr Jernej Brecelj from the Gastroenterology Ward. You made a many things easier for us.

The group of doctors that took care of Lea from preparation for transplants to aftercare, they were really super.

Prim. mag. Matjaž Turel dr.med.

Dr. med. Matevž Harlander

Dr. med. Uroš Krivec

Dr. med. Marina Praprotnik

All from AKH VIENNA:

The whole surgical team who performed the operations.

The intensive care unit and the 11th floor of the Children's Hospital.

To the team of doctors who took care of Lea in Vienna:

Prof. Walter Klepetko

Dr. Peter Jaksch

Dr. Edith Nachbaur

Prof. Zsolt Szepfalusi

Our personal doctor from Ptui Irena Puntarec Djukanovič

Tajda, for her really special help. You gave us a lot of strength and hope in order that we would go through everything successfully. Remain such a positive being for the future.

Family Bračič, for everything and also for driving all those kilometres when you were our chauffeurs.

Friend Dejan Zavec (champion boxer), who immediately donated his boxing gloves and the profits to be dedicated to Lea.

Friends relatives and neighbours, who with such good thoughts wished us well.

Husbands, co-workers from the POLICE for all their support.

Darko Jasbec, for everything that he did for us personally and with this book.

Ivan, our bio-energy healer who guided all our positive energy.

Slavka Ugovsek, for all his guidance regarding the transplantations and all his help.

Also for the translation and editing of this book, Harlamov for all his specialist work in editing this book.

Chris and Metka Wherry, translation and editing for the English version of this book.

Dino Ivanovič, for all his hours for the book design and layout

To Slovenia Transplant (Mrs Danica Avsec, Dr. Med.) for sponsorship.

To Alenka Slavenec who is a childhood friend. A lot of adventures we lived through together, and now we give eternal proof to our friendship. For some time our paths split I created a family you travelled the world. After so many years our paths crossed again when I mentioned that I was writing a book you immediaytely had an idea. I was writing it for my soul you saw much more in that. So you persuaded me to complete it. You stood by my side and helped me. Into the book you brought with happiness your fantastic photographs as this is yor greates passion. You put a lot of your time and energy into this project. My dear friend I thank you from the baotton of my heart that you lead this to its conclusion. You enabled my dreams that maybe thus book will someday be published. I love you.

Mr.MOHAMED OMAR and Mr.ABDALLUAH AL MTREK owners of the ALDANAT STUD.

Mr.ABDULLAH AL SEDIRAWI owner of the AL SEDIRAWI STUD.

KURENT (SLOVENE MASK FROM PTUI) – RADO ŠKERJANEC

DEVII – KAJA ČELAN

FOAL – ALDANAT STUD OF KUWAIT

HORSE – AL SEDERAWI STUD

KAJTAR – TALAL MEKKAOI

To all of you who kept their fingers crossed for Lia and prayed for her. Were with us… … … … … .

I apologise in advance for anyone who I might have forgotten and who stood by our side.

Alenka SLAVINEC was born in Ptuj in the year 1977, where she finished her Natural-Science Secondary School at Gimnazija Ptuj. In Ljubljana she graduated from the Faculty for Social Sciences, Department of Communication and completed her post-diploma study of film production at the New York Movie Academy in the year 2009.

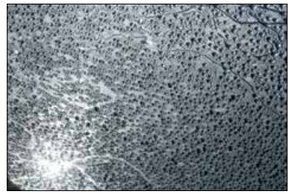
Alenka Slavinec is an artist, movie producer, internationally established photographer and cultural manager, that imprinted her art career with a photographic exhibition **SLOVENIA IN the US**, a story about Lipica horses and 20 years of independence of Slovenia. The Lipica stud farm released the art calendar in the year 2011. Prime Minister Borut Pahor opened the exhibition in 2011 in Washington D.C. on the Slovene National Cultural holiday. Since than the exhibition has circulated around the world, New York City, Chicago, Milan, Belgrade, Budapest, Szhaizberg, Godola, Maribor (European City of Culture), Ptuj, Piran, Slovene parliament, Lipica, Ljubljana Festival, Economic Faculty in Ljubjana, Ptuj Celler, Kuwait, Cairo, Shanghai, ...

2012 – PLEČNIK'S SYMPHONY OF KRIŽANKE at the 60th anniversary of Festival Ljubljana

Outdoor Photographic Exhibition of 120 posters in Tivoli Park in Ljubljana.

2014 – Kuwait City - 3 photographic exhibitions of Arabic horses **LOVE IN US, COLOURS OF MY SOUL**,

Alenka's photographs decorate book covers, CD covers, homes and walls of the world famous personalities like Queen Elizabeth II, Sh Salman AL Sabah, Al Fares, Sh Shara AL Sabah, Esnavi, Neil Young,



Michael Newman, Dejan Zavec, Djavolov Kolosek, Fashion Avenue, Kemofarmacija, Talum, PerutninePtuj, Gh Holding,

8th year as Photographer of VIP events for The Slovenia Times

2013- 2014 editor and photographer of **Fashion Avenue Kuwait**.

The world did not know that it landed and a song – a documentary movie about the photographer Stojan Kerblerj. Numerous short movies during the time of living and studying in NYC.

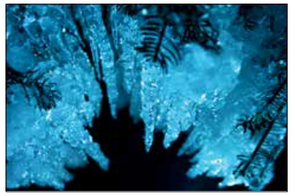
A full length feature film **All that Glitters 2010**.

With Ashley Colburn she co-produced the television series **Wonders of Slovenia 2012**. With RTV Slovenia film **Foundling**.

Alenka Slavinec has been an independent entrepreneur for 8 years, **ARSlavinec s.p.**

She has worked in advertising and marketing as a head of a project in Altiusu d.o.o., lyric-writer in the creative team in Saatchi and Saatchi, shooting centre Gaj in INterexpo marketing, Wenger company international marketing (London, Australia, New York,) , Film production Jasny Voiteck, ...

Alenka has lived in Australia, Brazil, New York, Kuwait and travelled the world. She cooperates in several international projects and at the moment she lives between Kuwait, Dubai and Slovenia. She cooperated with the Wayward Pen organisation, Mota, Povod, Lyionies Slovenia, International Shooting Confederation and holds a medal for an excellent organisation at the European Championship in Shooting.



H20

Water - is series of photographs of the aggregation state of water in various places in the world through the years of Alenka's life.

The photographs are connected thematically to the contents of each chapter. They consistently give hope but at the same time they point to water as life itself with all its ups and downs.

Atom, molecule, vapour, crystal, drop, tear, cloud, river, sea, ice, snow water... .

.

Thoughts of Alenka SLAVINEC

Water is source of life and visually meets all the feelings of an individual and embraces the whole spectrum of life's situations. I wanted to add an extra value to this book with my visualisations and I wanted to offer readers a channel into his own world of fantasy and thought transmission and into the experiences of the real life story of Tea and her family regarding their inner fears and sensations towards their own lives.

I have known Tea from her childhood therefore the birth of this book was spontaneous and merged into symbiosis just as is our family friendship. Despite a less connections in some years, at one particular moment I realised that she simply needed somebody that she could talk to without reservation. So from this distress came the promise that I would publish the book.

Tea had the duty to put her distress on paper, this became plasters for her wounds. But now I have the feeling that the book is some bright spot, that give Tea hope towards her social life, from which she was deprived over all those years. It is worth admiring this disclaimer, which was present throughout the whole family, the book is an homage to that and the eternal worship of love.

Water is common to all of us just as is love.

And what is life without water and love?

There is a lot of water in today's world, but some people are as if they were dead.

And the whole world lacks love, therefore in the future let water be a life written with the frequency of our love.

Dear Tea,

The book shall every day anew give the confirmation, that you are able to achieve all the goals you set to yourself and may it encourage you towards the realisation of those goals that you have written on a blank piece of paper.

Lia is healthy; therefore go bravely forward and with travel rations that will open doors, those that you did not even dream that you would knock on...

Now you are here in front of them, start to knock and enter into other spheres of life...

May a new chapter open in your and yours life,

As I mentioned, there is time for tears of happiness.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Alenka SLAVINEC

In our everyday lives we often hear and read that health is our greatest wealth. So often, that we actually do not think about the real meaning of the words. But they say a lot. While we live and rush in the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it does not touch us. That is until an illness occurs. A moment that sobers us and inspires us to think, what is it that is really important. Our health is our basic and greatest value.

In Vzajemna Health Insurance we meet this every day. Our task is according to the principles of reciprocity and inter-generational solidarity to take care of this; an individual in a case of illness does not stand alone. Following the principle me for you and you for me. When we are healthy we contribute to those who are not so lucky.

When we are doing well, we contribute to those who need our help. When it is about health, we are the ones you can turn to. Therefore it was with happiness that we decided to support this book, one that will help many patients and those around them. At the same time it will represent some consolation and hope to all of those who are going through a difficult period of waiting for organ donation. Nevertheless it represents some satisfaction to the relatives that had a donor in the family, that a part of the deceased continues to live and offers happiness and enables a quality life to someone else.

We wish this book would leave a trace in every reader, maybe encourage him to become a donor and with this gift another human being may return to health or even a new life. This is the most we can do for a fellow man.

Aleš Mikeln, Vzajemna Health Insurance

VZAJEMNA
Jaz zate, ti zame.

SPONZORS

VZAJEMNA
Jaz zate, ti zame.

VEČER
nov dan. nov večer.

slovenija transplant

DRUŠTVO ZA CISTIČNO FIBROZO SLOVENIJE

tara
ZA OSEBNOSTNO RAST

PULMODATA

fotoformat

MESTNA OBČINA PTUJ

Foto Alenka Slavinec

Tea GAJŠEK - The Power of Life

The book is written following a real life event. It speaks of a mother and her daughter who was born with CYSTIC FIBROSIS. This illness is not talked about enough and the majority of people know too little about the disease. We are just people living in a cruel world. What did this girl experience in just 15 years of life in her battle with this disease? Along with the whole family the mother had to learn how to help the child breathe, she dedicated her life to ease the child's pain and further tried to take the pain onto herself. How can parents possibly come to terms with such a heavy burden and responsibility? There are no answers to be found for these questions, they come from life, from experiencing them; our feelings are a ticking bomb.

How this disease advanced and what a toll it took. It's a really sad moment when you realise that the time has come and the disease is clear to see. The first signs are when you see your child cannot do things that other children do. Why was the first lung transplant necessary? All of this was very stressful for the entire family; out motto became TOGETHER WE CAN DO ANYTHING. And we really managed. After all of this we lived normally, for a year and a half life was like a dream. Then like a bolt of lightening we were hit by bad luck. A sudden worsening of the health of our beloved daughter changed our dreams. In this moment I realised how thin is the line between life and death. This sort of thing is only to be seen in the movies, but we lived liked this. Even then we still did not forget our motto. Five months of a real battle for our daughters life, followed by being back on the urgent list for a second lung transplant. This all took a long time but now it seems it was just a moment, we found a donor and yet again my husband and I were standing outside the operating theatre door. Why? How could this happen? It is not important me anymore because we live our dreams again. We live all together!!!! WE LIVE.....

Blog: http://www.ednevnik.si/?w=jazdarovalec

Foto Raed Qutena

Alenka SLAVINEC, born in Ptuj in1977 is an internationally renowned photographer and film producer. Tea's childhood friend has illustrated this book with a new opus of 25 photos on the theme of H2O. The titles and content of each chapter is symbolically tied to a picture and thus help the reader with the text and connect their own experiences with the content of the book. The H20 photos are available to buy - details from alenka.slavinec@gmail.com.

IRELAND AND THE US, Lipizzaner horses, the famous Crossword and LOVE SYMPHONY IN US are Alenkas most successful exhibitions, travelling around the world today.

Instagram, alenkaslavinec

THANK YOU FOR BEING A DONOR

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