

CHETA BALKANICA

A series by

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HOW DID I GET MARRIED

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EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAY

Amidst the loud voices of the merchants of a busy bazar, selling poultry, vegetables, milk and other local products, a cheta of five made cuts through checking on the products and especially young girls.

MARKO(55) the elder leads the way followed by **GOCE (35)** who backs him up, while a few feet behind line up **GJERGJ (50)** and futher down the line wandering on her is **STANA (30)**. The last is the young bachelor, **MIRZO (18)**

MARKO

My God, such a hot weather!

GOCE

And even hotter girls selling chickens.

MARKO

Hotter indeed! - Mirzo!

Mirzo speads up comning closer to the rest of the man, almost bumping into a peasant girl with hand busy with products.

MIRZO

Ops!

MARKO

It's about time young fellow! Look all around you - chose and pick!

Mirzo follows suggestions and carefully looks around touches the live animals and some products...

MIRZO

They seem all good brother.

MARKO

About time, I said.

MIRZO

Yes brother... about time... about what?

Marko, signs Goce to speak instead...

GOCE

As I've been saying for a long time... chose a good looking girl and than you are a full member of our cheta.

GJERGJ

Exactly! A married man who cares to his heart for family and friends.

MIRZO

(turns abruptly on Gjergj)
Mind your own business, and I mind mine.

MARKO

Well, your business is OUR business. Cheta's business. You can count on us. We can arrange everything you just have to chose.

MIRZO

I want to find love, not just a girl out there.

They all laugh.

STANA

(joining in)
Love is good. You find yourself a bride and love comes straight after that...

MARKO

Well said! Nothing without love. A lot of love. And a long line boy afterwards.

They turn on Mirzo waiting for his word.

MARKO (CONT'D)

Well, look!

A overweight girl with a crooked nose, **SELMA (22)**, covered in jewelry, followed by her gorgeous, much younger sister **AIDA (18)** cut through the bazar carrying some shiny boxes...

GJERGJ

If I wasn't married already, I would pick this one in heartbeat?

Mirza is drawling upon the sight of the gorgeous girl.

Marko and Goce start whispering something and follow the girls who drop the boxes to a jewelry store, next to a vegetable stand. The girls hand the boxes to their father,

DAVUD (55), a jewelry merchant, who takes the boxes inside of the store.

Cheta stops to the nearby stand, keeping an eye to the jewelry store...

MARKO

Freshly picked this morning? The sales woman comes to their assistance.

WOMAN

Yes very fresh. Look...

She pulls a bundle spinach, and holds it by her oversized chest.

GOCE

How much?

WOMAN

Well how much do you want.

MARKO

Well, want a lot... and not just spinach...

A shy Mirzo, with hands shivering, checks on the live chicken right by the feet of the gorgeous girl...

MIRZO

(to Marko)

They look good. Really good. In the background, behind the store we see a horse...

STANA

Healthy too.

Mirzo hides behind the stand so that no one can see him.

MARKO

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

EXT. STREET CORNER - NIGHT

Gjergj and Goce, put black masks over their faces and hoodies over their head as they prepare for the ambush. Goce sports an old school knife, while Gjergj holds a bunch of ropes over his shoulder.

Marko, and Stana hiding behind the bushes, keeps an eye on the scene.

The shadow of a man holding some boxes lies on the street. It is Davud, the jewelry merchant. Gjergj jumps in front of him, while Goce blocks his back and put the knife under his neck.

GOCE

Lay down!

GJERGJ

Hands up!

Davud doesn't budge. They Goce and Gjergj pull and push trying to take the jewelry box out of his hand. In the middle of the fight Marko appears holding his knife in one hand and waving a mace on the other, hile stana stands by his side.

MARKO

Back off. All of you.

(to Davud)

Not you!

(to Goce)

Return to the man what belongs to the man.

Stana hands the open box to Marko.

STANA

If you want, you can have the necklace ...

MARKO

(pushes his sword by
Goce's neck)

To the man, I said, and prepare to die.

Davud pick up the box and begs Marko.

DAVUD

Spare them, Let them go. They are probably poor and in need money.

(turns to Goce and Gjergj)

Here, you guy take those golden necklaces and go.

Goce and Gjergj lay by the wall, hands down.

MARKO

Did you hear the man?

They pick up the golden necklaces and run. Davud hands Marko some gold.

DAVUD

Thank you for saving my life.

MARKO

(rejects the offer)

Don't even mention. Friendship is all I ask. The jewel on top of the gold. Your daughter for my brother in arms, Mirzo.

DAVID

You got it! Whats mine its yours.

MARKO

Promise made - a promise kept, or shame lives with you forever!
Cheers to friendship!

EVERYONE

Cheers to friendship!

CUT TO:

EXT. IN THE GARDENS - WEDDING DAY

Loud sound of wedding celebration is at its peak. Cheta members are lined up around the men's table filled with all sort of foods and drinks appropriate for the occasion.

As Davud goes around the table to greet the honorable guests he recognizes his golden necklaces in the necks of Gjergj and Goce. Cheerfully he brings the golden neckless out of their clothes, exposing them. They realise they have been exposed.

DAVUD

Beautiful jewelry you got, my friends...

Cheta members realize they have been exposed.

DAVID

But hey, let bygones be bygones.
Cheers to the friendship!

Marko stands up

MARKO

Promise made - a promise kept, or shame lives with you forever!
Cheers to friendship!

Cheta, following him, stands up rising their glasses.

CHETA (IN GROUP)

Cheers.

Davud invites everyone to sing and dance. In the middle of the celebration, he disappears leaving the guest enjoy it all. Minutes latter he shows up holding the covered Bride.

Mirzo, a bit tipsy jumps up and exited joins them.

DAVUD
(handing his daughter to
Mirzo)
Yours for life!

MARKO
Yours for life, Mirzo!

Cheta raises their glasses once more.

CHETA (IN GROUP)
Yours for life. Enjoy it! Cheers!

MIRZO with his hands shivering, slightly removes veil off the BRIDE's face and takes a pick inside. Mirzo cant believe his eyes, shake his head as he wants to clear out of the alcohol and makes another effort. He pulls the vail away for everyone to see revealing his bride:

The crocked nose Selma, covered with jewels. She smiles and her teeth are black.

Mirzo passes out on his friends arms. Holding Mirzo, they step forward turning on Davud, who steps forward too followed by his beautiful Aida. He raises his glass, while behind him, close ranks a great number of family members raising their glasses.

DAVUD
Promise made - a promise kept, or
shame lives with you forever!
Cheers to friendship!

The cheta comes to terms with reality and Mirzo is waking up. They hold up his arm up with a glass in his hand.

CHETA
(defeated)
Cheers.

DAVUD
Music! Let the celebration begin!

The fireworks and smoke covers the place amidst the loud wedding music.

THE END