On the cover: **Meryem Uzerli on her total reload after “The Magnificent Century” – you haven’t seen her like this**

**Turkish Delight**

*The star of tv show “The Magnificent Century” Meryam Uzerli on her total reload after her role as the wife of a sultan, birth of her daughter, getting over depression and new challenges*

There is nothing left in 33 year old Uzerli now from her image redhead beauty Hurrem, the role that has made her world wide famous. In the course of 3 years that the turkish show based in the real life events of Suleiman I reign was being filmed she dyed her hair bright red and has gained weight, because she ate chocolate without limits – the directors asked the leading lady Hurrem to look on screen according to XVI century standards. It has been 2 years since the last episode of The Magnificent Century aired. Meryem left the show earlier than that, before the the last season premiered. She came back to Germany her homeland. And immediately lost weight. She came to out photoshoot with long blond hair. She knows that Hurrem fans were disappointed about this change, but she said that with the new hair color and in new shape she feels more like herself.

In our interview Meryem is not shy to talk about her personal life, without reserve, says that with her daughter’s father (Lara will be 3 years old in February), Turkish businessmen Jan Atesh she ended relationship while she was till pregnant – the man didn’t want the child and even insisted on abortion. This was a hard period in her life: not long before breaking up with Atesh Uzerli had taken up a course at the rehab – the exhaustion due to overwork while filming The Magnificent Century caused break down and intense depression. A lot of time has passed since, the actress has gained her inner balance, came back to work, lives in Berlin and is enjoying motherhood. The one thing that is now similar with her and the wife of sultan is big grey-blue eyes. Though looking into them you can see there has been some changes too: they don’t show the malice of ambitious seductress. Now due to or despite of her life experience looks at the world with tender, childlike open gaze.

*Meryem, the outer changes reflect the inner changes. You look fantastic. I can assume the birth of your daughter is the reason for that*

These are the rules of nature – the birth of a child changes the woman. With Lara’s birth I started to feel more intensely love and wellbeing, and also understood that nothing else will make me feel depressed and long stress. I’m relaxed, feel in harmony with myself. My biggest dream is to see my daughter happy, and my biggest fear is to see her unhappy.

*Has the unlucky experience with Lara’s father changed your attitude towards men?*

I ask myself many questions. Had I not followed my intuition, not listened to the feelings that man stirred in me? Did I ignore the signs or just didn’t want to see them? Did I follow my desires? I believe that the negative experience has an impact on us. Thanks to these situations you learn, understand yourself, understand what you want and what you don’t. I’m thankful. I advise everyone despite everything follow your hart.

*Easy to tell. Now, after three years, are you ready for new relationships?*

I don’t think I need to rush into relationships. My heart is free, but I’m anticipation what’s coming in this direction. I know for sure: I will be happy in a relationship that will accumulate energy, not suck it up, when we will protect each other and be honest with each other. I want to find a person who will accept the real me, and I could rely on him.

*Marie Claire is a fashion brand. By the way, I remember your Turkish Marie Claire cover. We have a close connection. That’s why it’s a pleasure to talk to you about fashion. For example, how will you describe your style?*

Fashion helps me to show my feelings. Of course I wouldn’t put on pijamas for a business lunch, but I don’t make a problem out out of fashion either. I love being cozy and value comfort. If I need to relax a hoodie and jeans will do. On the contrast an oversized jacket will give strength. A blouse and pants when I need to concentrate. Dresses are my must-have, some fabrics are so nice on the skin that you still feel like you are lying in someone’s embrace in bed. In clothes for special occasions I pay attention to every detail.

*The career of an actress is a hard path for a woman who puts motherhood first. Do you manage to maintain a work and life balance?*

This balance often breaks. When work takes up a lot of time I stick to “quality over quantity” rule. If I have one hour a day to play with my daughter I’m fully with her this hour and nothing can distract me. And I always need a reward, it’s good when I know that I will divide the week between work and my daughter, but on Saturday I will have lunch with friends, and the following day I will let myself sleep longer.

*You look like you are a very confident person. Was it always like that?*

Everyone sometimes feel uncomfortable in it’s own skin. When I feel uncomfortable in a certain surrounding, situation or with a person I try to limit the contact. If it’s not possible I take a deep breath and try to connect to my inner self. In this moment tell yourself that you are safe. Concentrate on your strong, not weak points. If you don’t like your body try to accept it or make it possible to change what you don’t like. But love yourself and remember – every person is special. There is no perfection, the essence of beauty Is that people are different.

*Back to your visit to Russia: how did you imagine russian men before and what you think about them now?*

Honestly I had no idea about Russian men and in Moscow due to my schedule I didn’t have time to get to know them. On my meeting there were mostly Russian women or foreigners. I heard that your women are most beautiful in the world and I can confirm it. The only Russian men which I get to know a little during a conversation was very polite, observant, a little bit shy and very concentrated. I like this combination of qualities.

*From you description I can recognize out photographer Anton Zemlaynoy…”The Magnificent Century” is a long a behind you, how do you want to develop in the future?*

I feel like an accomplished actress. My other passion is cosmetics. I always wanted to make my own products. In the last two years I’ve met with the best producers that work for international brands in Paris, Milan and Germany. The result is my own line. For now it’s number of products for the the perfect eye make up.

*As an actress would you consider to take a role in a Russian project?*

I fell in love with Moscow. And I want to come back. Offer me a role that will make new challenges for me and I will accept. If the story will be interesting I will fly not only in Russia, but to the end of the world to be a part of it.