

## With the heart, page after page

by Lorella Bolelli

Do not be misled by the family name, Cuccoli, which is that of a celebrated dynasty of puppet masters. Rosarita (photo), 38 years old, a Bolognese but she has been living abroad for years due to her work in the domain of international relations, has actually nothing to do with barracks, wooden heads and the simple stories that make children stand open-mouthed. She loves, in fact, the intricate stories of the heart, those which force to dig deep within the souls of lovers; she seeks, like Diogenes with his lantern, the human being in its merciless truth of thinking and feeling creature. And her first novel, *La Logica della Solitudine* (tr.: *The Logic of Solitude*), published with Pendragon – with whom she had already published her poetry collection *L'Amore Più Profondo* (tr. *The Deepest Love*) - is indeed a journey at the centre of a troublesome couple's relationship».

### **What does writing have to do with your working as an international politics specialist?**

«It is always about knowledge. I have a vocation to research and love to understand – that also applies to people, of course. This attitude is as useful in my writing as it is in



### **A specialist in international relations, Rosarita faces in her book the couple's dilemmas**

my work: knowing the writers' lives, for example, helps understand their craft, and so does knowing the statesmen's background».

### **And what about the passage from poetry to prose?**

«As a tool of expression, poetry is more immediate and instinctual, it is the result of the impulse of a moment. Prose, on the other hand, requires more articulated means, although it inherits from poetry the weight of words. That doesn't translate into pompous language but rather in lingering over the meaning of each word».

### **The central theme in the novel is a complicated sentimental relationship. But is it true that love is a privilege for a few?**

«I am not interested in the serenity of a relationship but rather in its truthfulness and adherence to the conscience of the partners. So much "love" on the surface may be virtual, fictitious: incommunicability and then solitude. And like all lies, it is often doomed to end. I personally prefer to live rare instants of absolute to daily boredom».

### **Does the Internet approach or alienate people?**

«It is a crucial tool to add to a real relationship but it cannot replace physical closeness. Those who send 50 messages or sms per day are, in effect, alone».

### **The names of your protagonists, Anna and Marco, remind of a famous song by Italian songwriter Lucio Dalla. Is that deliberate or fortuitous?**

«I liked the image, in the song lyrics, of the twosome leaving the scene hand in hand. It gives the idea of an absolute love; this is not present in the story».

### **To what extent is your book autobiographic?**

«One never answers this question. Every writer's work is autobiographic in that it imposes the writer's vision of characters and situations».