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Hilda Hiary (Amman, Jordan, 1969), «Tomorrow» (2019, acrylic on canvas, detail), courtesy of the artist

The reporters are like hornets. They don't believe in the laws of physics. They fly against all logic. They glide over incredible stories. They meet unthinkable people. Presidents and brigands. Terrorists and financiers. Poets and singers. And sometimes the boundary between the two categories can hardly be distinguished. For a journalist, there is no impossible interview. Always trying is an instinct before a duty. Sara, the protagonist of *Sognando Rania* (Golem Edizioni), the new book – the first novel – by Lucia Pozzi, took it into her head to get to put her notebook in front to the Queen of Jordan. Without help. Without business cards to open the palace doors. Only with unconsciousness and a tough face. And the passion.

Jordan fascinates you. A fatal attraction. Rania is the epicenter of a desired world . A diadem that illuminates without dazzling. A beauty that comes from within. Queen without showing off crowns or blue blood. Sara's journey is a ticket of hope. A docking in Amman. The friend of a friend. Never seen. And heard only by email. An interview already sold to an important weekly without having spoken to the direct interested party. Risks are not calculated. Otherwise they are just gambles. Sara always believes it. And sometimes never.

Lucia Pozzi

When lands in Jordan he realized that it was worth it. However it goes. Amman is as he thought. The Orient of books. And the pages are never wrong. You know it. He works there between newspapers and volumes. She works as a freelance reporter (salary is an independent variable) and a bookseller. Or rather, he gives a hand to the owner, an elderly Neapolitan gentleman, to find buyers for his antique tomes. Being surrounded by beauty helps.

The imprinting with the Middle East is called Jaber, the factotum of the friend, Paolo, who will host it. Driver, confessor, philosopher. Jaber is loyal and reliable. His is the car that comes out of chaos when Sara loses all hope for a taxi. He is the antechamber that takes her to Paolo. Italian indecipherable and fascinating. The hidden treasure. That he left a wrong marriage and an uncertain country behind him. For Sara, that with Paolo is a slow-moving feeling. A curious look, understand to understand each other. To try to explain “the complex mechanism that governs the harmony of their love”. Paolo is a man without time and place. Maybe he still doesn't know what to do with his life. Maybe others had decided for him.

Paolo's house is a theater with all actors not protagonists. Maybe because everyone has cover stories. Stories of wounds in the body and soul. Of submission and redemption. Of women. They came from far away and also from around the corner. All with the same calm determination of those who, however, life has been without edges. Like Nina: the feeble but solid thread that leads up to Rania. The queen who is present on the walls and in the hearts. The light, which in the East means everything, to believe that the future is a day to be lived without fear. Queen inside without the need for a crown to impose her on the world. Queen because she has no subjects, but a people, her people. As beautiful as someone who had a gift and then there is nothing to boast about.

Nina works in the communication staff of the Hashemite sovereign. All interview requests go through her. An intelligent barrier. It is not influenced by names and titles. Look the interlocutor in the face. He works instinctively. It does so with Sara too. Without giving her illusions. It's just courteous. A kindness that is not a facade. But the Italian journalist is convinced that it is the last step of her dream. We cannot go beyond. Sara more can not ask. Jordan has already given her so much. Rania would be the whole thing. But life is a film with a canvas impossible to learn before. Someone calls it fate. In the Middle East they rely on the mysterious, but just, will of someone who is higher. And they whisper confidently: Inshallah.

The book and the author

«Sognando Rania» is published by Golem edizioni (pp. 186, euro 16). The author, Lucia Pozzi, since 2000 is the editor in chief of the “Messenger”. Previously he worked for various newspapers including the

“Corriere” and “ItaliaOggi”. In 2006 he published for Mondadori «Another world is possible? Words to understand and to change », written with Giuliano Amato. He holds lectures at the Master in Economics and Communication and Media Management of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Rome Tor Vergata.