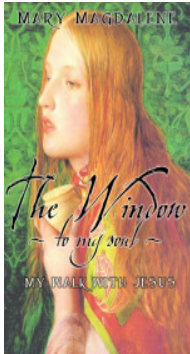


**Interview conducted by Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopes and posted at:
www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopes on
Saturday, April 21, 2007
&
<http://timewithtannia.tripod.com/>
June 2007**



About Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés is a writer by profession, a mother by choice, and a wife by the covenant of marriage. She was born in Guayama, Puerto Rico and currently live in Germany with her husband and two sons. In 2004, she published her first free-style inspirational poetry book, *The Window to my soul, My Walk with Jesus*, with Tate Publishing and under the pen name of Mary Magdalene. On March 2006, the book was voted “**Best Poetry Book**” by www.christianstoryteller.com The book could be purchased directly from the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com and at all major online stores.

Author’s webpages: www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopes and [//http.timewithtannia.tripod.com](http://http.timewithtannia.tripod.com). The author also has a blog at www.amazon.com

An interview with Jo Linsdell

1. Tell us about yourself. You made a big career move, from modeling to writing! Wow.. What events in your life trigger that change? Any regrets?

I did modeling as a hobby when I was younger. It was fun to be pampered and made up in different ways. I was always interested to see how other people saw me and the styles they would give me. Although I did several photographic jobs I knew I was never going to make it big as a model as I’m far too short. I’m only 5’3” (that’s 161cm).

I’ve always enjoyed writing. That started as a hobby too. About two years ago I finally decided to send off an article. It was published two weeks later in a newspaper in Florence called “*The Florentine*.” This was when I realized it didn’t just have to be a hobby anymore.

I’ve always moved house often and traveled a lot so I’m used to change. I believe that everything happens for a reason and therefore don’t regret any decisions I’ve made over the years.

2. You moved from England to France, and currently living in Italy. That must have been quite a cultural and language shock for you. How did you cope with these changes? Did you find it difficult to learn French and Italian?

I learned French in school and although I never classed myself as particularly good I did manage to pass the exams and cope with simple conversations. I wasn't in France for very long so it was never a problem though.

With Italian it was different. I came to Rome with the intention of staying for 3 days and just ended up continuously extending my visit. It was very difficult in the beginning as I didn't know a word of Italian. I started learning the basics at my first job here. I was a receptionist for a hostel and although the main language used was English I started to pick up common phrases. I taught myself colors, numbers etc by using language sites on the internet and a dictionary. It was only when I met my, now, husband that I really started speaking Italian though. A friend of a friend introduced me to him at Piazza di Spagna. There was a connection between the two of us instantly but he didn't speak English, so I started to study Italian so I could talk to him. Love is a great motivator!

3. You are a fruitful writer, seven self-published books. Congratulations! When did your writing evolve from hobby to profession?

Like I mentioned before, it was probably the day my first article was published. It made me realize that writing didn't just have to be a hobby. This gave me the courage and motivation to write my first book. It's great to be able to do a job that is also my hobby.

4. Give us a small description of your books. What do you want to accomplish by publishing them?

My first book is 'Italian for Tourists' an English-Italian phrasebook designed specifically for tourists. It covers all the language a tourist is likely to need while in Italy and also contains a pronunciation guide and a map of Italy. I wrote this book because although there are lots of phrasebooks out there most contain too much information or phrases that are irrelevant to a tourist. I included the information I would have wanted when I came here and the most common words and phrases that people staying in the hostel used to ask me.

My second book is 'A guide to weddings in Italy'. I wrote this following my own wedding here in July last year. The Italian bureaucratic system is complicated and at times confusing. A book like this would have been a great help when I was planning my wedding but one didn't exist. I decided to write it myself to help others understand Italian regulations, what documents they need and how to get them, what types of weddings are allowed, Italian wedding traditions, proverbs etc... It covers all the information they are likely to need to plan their wedding here in Italy.

My other books; 'Il Dolce Natale: Christmastime in Italy', 'La Befana' and 'The Patron Saint of Lovers' cover Italian traditions and culture. **'Some risks are worth taking'** is a short memoir of how I ended up in Rome and **'INSIDE.OUT'** is a collection of poems. All are available in electronic format from www.lulu.com/jolinsdell

I love Italy and through these books I get to combine my two passions; writing and Italy.

5. Did you have any mentor(s)? If yes, how they influenced your writing and your life? Have you mentored anyone? If yes, who, why, and how long?

I've never had a mentor as such but I try to support others in their writing careers and they do the same for me.

6. Tell us about your chat room at <http://jolinsdell.tripod.com>. What motivated you to have a weekly chat room? How can an author become a guest at your chartroom?

I attended the Muse Online Writers Conference in October last year and found it incredibly useful. One of the nicest things about it was the opportunity to chat with other writers and members of the writing industry and share advice and tips. I decided that I would host a weekly chat room at my website to help writers network with others in the industry. I invite a different guest speaker each week and have met some lovely people and learned a lot of useful information about the industry through the chats.

Anyone that wants to be a guest speaker can apply by completing the short online application form located at the bottom of my chat room page at <http://jolinsdell.tripod.com>

7. What are your current projects or assignments?

I've just finished updating the "Weissmann Guide to Rome" (published by NorthStar Travel Media LLC) and I'm now working on some translation assignments for some Italian companies.

8. What are your hobbies?

Writing and reading are high on my list. I love drawing too when I get the chance. I also love traveling and playing with my dog, Bea.

9. What type of books do you read?

Everything and anything! I have a wide variety of tastes in books and will happily read the classics e.g. Jane Austen, Oscar Wilde etc... but also love thrillers, sci-fi, and romance.

My favorite author is probably Dean Koontz. I read both in English and Italian.

10. When is your most productive writing time? Does your surrounding influence your writing? If yes, how?

I normally write in the mornings as I teach English as a second language in the afternoons. My writing is more influenced by how I feel than where I am. I do most of

my writing on my computer in my home office; however, I can quite happily write from anywhere.

11. I noticed all your books are self-publish. Have you consider using a royalty publisher for your next book?

I self published because I was unsure of myself in the beginning and didn't have the courage to query and risk being rejected. This may have been a mistake as going with a traditional publisher would have probably meant more sales and visibility. I like the fact that I had and have complete control over everything to do with my books though. From the writing and the format to the cover art and the marketing of the book, I control it all.

The books are selling, too, so I must be doing a good job ☺

It has been a great learning curve for me as it's meant I've learnt a lot about the industry and the other elements involved in publishing a book. It's a lot of hard work though and I think that for my next book I might try a traditional publisher.

12. Internet radio is becoming one of the most rapid growing marketing venues available today. Have you considered doing some LIVE radio interviews, too? If so, when do you think it will be available?

Internet radio seems to be a growing market and I'm always interested in new ways to promote my writing. On Saturday 21st April I was interviewed by Denise Turney for the program 'Off the shelf'. The interview is available at <http://www.blakeradio.com>

13. A word of advice to new writers

I could write a million things here! The most important thing I think is to believe in yourself and never give up. You can't expect others to think of you as a writer if you don't believe it yourself. Also just because one person doesn't like your work doesn't mean that another won't think it's great.



JO LINSDELL¹ - Born in Gillingham, Kent (UK) in September 1980.

Married

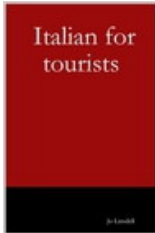
name Joanne Denise Feliciani. She uses her maiden name, Linsdell, as her pen name. She is a fulltime freelance writer. She writes regularly for various websites, newspapers and magazines. Her books are all available to buy at www.lulu.com.

Visit her at <http://jolinsdell.tripod.com> or <http://www.lulu.com/jolinsdell> or <http://www.myspace.com/jolinsdell>

¹ Jo Linsdell was the Featured Author for the month of June, 2007 at Time with Tannia (<http://timewithtannia.tripod.com>.)

Jo Linsdell's Books²

Italian for Tourists paperback



After the success of the ebook, this is the much requested paperback version. Italian For Tourists is a basic guide to the Italian language covering phrases and words most needed by tourists. It includes all the words and phrases a tourist is likely to need during their stay in Italy as well as a pronunciation guide and a map of Italy. It is divided into 17 sections to help you find what you are looking for in the shortest possible time.

A Guide to Weddings in Italy



'A guide to weddings in Italy' has all the information you need to organise a wedding in Italy. It includes information about types of weddings, Italian wedding traditions, Italian wedding proverbs, useful contact details, a notes section, and more....

Available in paperback and ebook

Italian for tourists



This book contains all the important vocabulary and phrases a tourist is likely to need when visiting Italy. It is divided into 16 sections to help you find what you are looking for in the shortest possible time. This is a really handy guide to have and refer to whenever you need to. In addition you can print off the entire guide or just certain pages if you need to so you can take them with you without the need to lug along your computer

IL DOLCE NATALE: Christmastime in Italy



Reference book about Italian Christmas traditions. Includes sections on decorations, food, music and more.

² These books were featured during the month of June, 2017 at the Coffee Table section of "Time with Tannia" website (<http://timewithtannia.tripod.com>.)

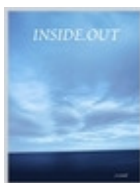
LA BEFANA



Learn about the Italian tradition of La Befana, the friendly witch in this short but informative ebook.

A great book for kids!

Inside.Out



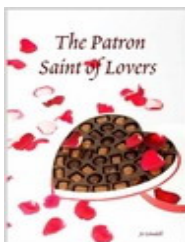
Inside.Out is a small collection of poems about life, death, friendship and love.

Some risks are worth taking



We're all looking for something, that missing element to our lives that will make us happier...or even complete. Not all of us will ever find that special thing as we're scared to take a risk that will change our lives. I took a big risk. This is my personal story of how I came to live in Rome and my feelings about how my life has changed in the 6 years since I've been here. Some risks are worth taking....

The Patron Saint of Lovers



Who was Saint Valentine? Why do we celebrate this festival on February 14th? How is the festival celebrated in Italy? and many more are answered in this short e-book about one of the most popular day's of the year.