



**1-Welcome Roxie! It is a great pleasure having you as my guest in concurrency with Ivan's release in Italy. Would you like to begin this interview by telling the readers something that they wouldn't otherwise find in your official Bio page?**

Well, let's see. I love to knit! I'm not very good at it, but I keep practicing and making misshapen dish towels and scarves. I also collect handbags, love rollercoasters and am terrified of large bodies of water like lakes and oceans.

**2-Ivan is the first book of Russian Protector Series, but it can be read as a standalone. We would be pleased if you can let us know something more about this series of hot and steamy books. Why did you choose to write about Russian characters?**

I've always had a fascination with the mafia and mobsters of all types. A few weeks before starting Ivan, I had watched Eastern Promises (Viggo Mortensen \*swoon\*) and started going through a Russian hero phase. I remember digging through my shelf of Harlequin Presents searching for more sexy Russian men!

And, then, one evening, the idea for this series came to me. I wanted to write a series around four brothers, but as I was brainstorming the books, I decided that four boys who grew up in an orphanage together was a more interesting and complicated bond than blood brothers. Once I had that detail worked out, the series came together very quickly.

**3-Your male characters are strong alpha men. They would do whatever it takes to take care of their woman. Where did you draw inspiration?**

From the men around me, mostly. Definitely not the illegal sides of my characters! But the protective, caring alpha? Yes, absolutely. My husband is certainly an alpha, a lot like Ivan actually. I think that's a fantasy for many women--a man who loves deeply, protects and defends his family. It's easy for to me to take the things I love best about my husband and turn that up all the way for my romance heroes.



#### **4-Would you like to introduce Ivan and Erin to Italian readers?**

Erin is a twentysomething college student who has taken on the responsibility of caring for her older sister who struggles with a drug addiction. She's fairly naive about the dangerous world that her sister has become embroiled in and stumbles into a messy situation. Luckily, Ivan is there to save her!

He's gruff, quiet, detached. He grew up in an orphanage before running away with his three friends--Dimitri, Yuri and Nikolai--and has lived a very, very hard life. He's done some bad, bad things, but he's trying to reinvent himself as a proper businessman. He's not really looking for love or a relationship, but there's something about Erin, something special, that grabs him and won't let go.

#### **5-We take the opportunity to announce that Follie Letterarie will release soon also your book "Close Quarters", a mix of steamy romance and intrigue. Would you like to tell us something more about it?**

Close Quarters was a story I wrote as part of the first SEALs of Summer collection. I was invited to write a novella for the collection and had a really fun time trying something a little different than my usual mobsters. I used one of our favorite vacation spots--the Texas Hill Country--as the setting and really enjoyed the chance to place two characters who were trying so hard not to fall in love in the same place where my husband asked me to marry him.

#### **6-What do you love to be surrounded from when you're writing? What you can't do without?**

I typically have some handwritten notes next to me. A Dr. Pepper or some coffee. I also have to have background noise of some kind. Sometimes it's music. Sometimes it's reruns of Forensic Files or British period pieces like Cranford or episodes of Narcos. My daughter and two Great Danes also spend a lot of time in my office so I'm used to the sound of crayons on paper, her iPad playing YouTube videos and the dogs snoring.

#### **7-How do you feel when one of your books is going to be released?**

Excited. Nervous. Hopeful.

#### **8-Do you allow yourself to be influenced by the reviews?**

No. I don't read them. Many, many years ago, when I first started writing, I would read reviews and take them to heart. Eventually I realized that I need to write books for me and not for anyone else, not for reviews or accolades or sales. If I tried to make reviewers happy, my rough drafts felt flat. My voice, my characters, my storylines--they're me, for better or for worse.

**9-Can you tell us if there are any new works in progress and if there are any new projects in sight?**

After a sabbatical related to health issues, I'm coming back this year with new books. Kostya, Danny, Ivan's sequel--will all be out this year. I'm also continuing my bestselling sci-fi erotic romance GRABBED series with books for Raze and Cipher.

**10-Is there anything that you would like to say to Italian readers?**

I hope you enjoy Ivan as much as I enjoyed writing it!

**Thank you so much, Roxie, for your attention.**