

# WE, WOMEN

by Giorgia Mauri

The real extraordinary part of this project dedicated to women, apart from the life stories they tell, which in themselves are unrepeatable and unique, is the spirit with which the women participate in the interviews and devote their time to revealing their stories and recounting their experiences. All women should be able to have their own space to tell their stories, a space to tell what they have learnt. They always talk about learning, almost never about having taught even though they very often teach life, give direction, contain the flow of existence of their family or those closest to them. The real extraordinary part of this project is the possibility to give a space and time to listen to these stories. All women should be able to have a space and time dedicated to them. All women should feel the pride of being able to tell their stories, to be able to stop and collect their thoughts and retrace their story to pass it on to other women, to mark a path, to leave an indelible mark.

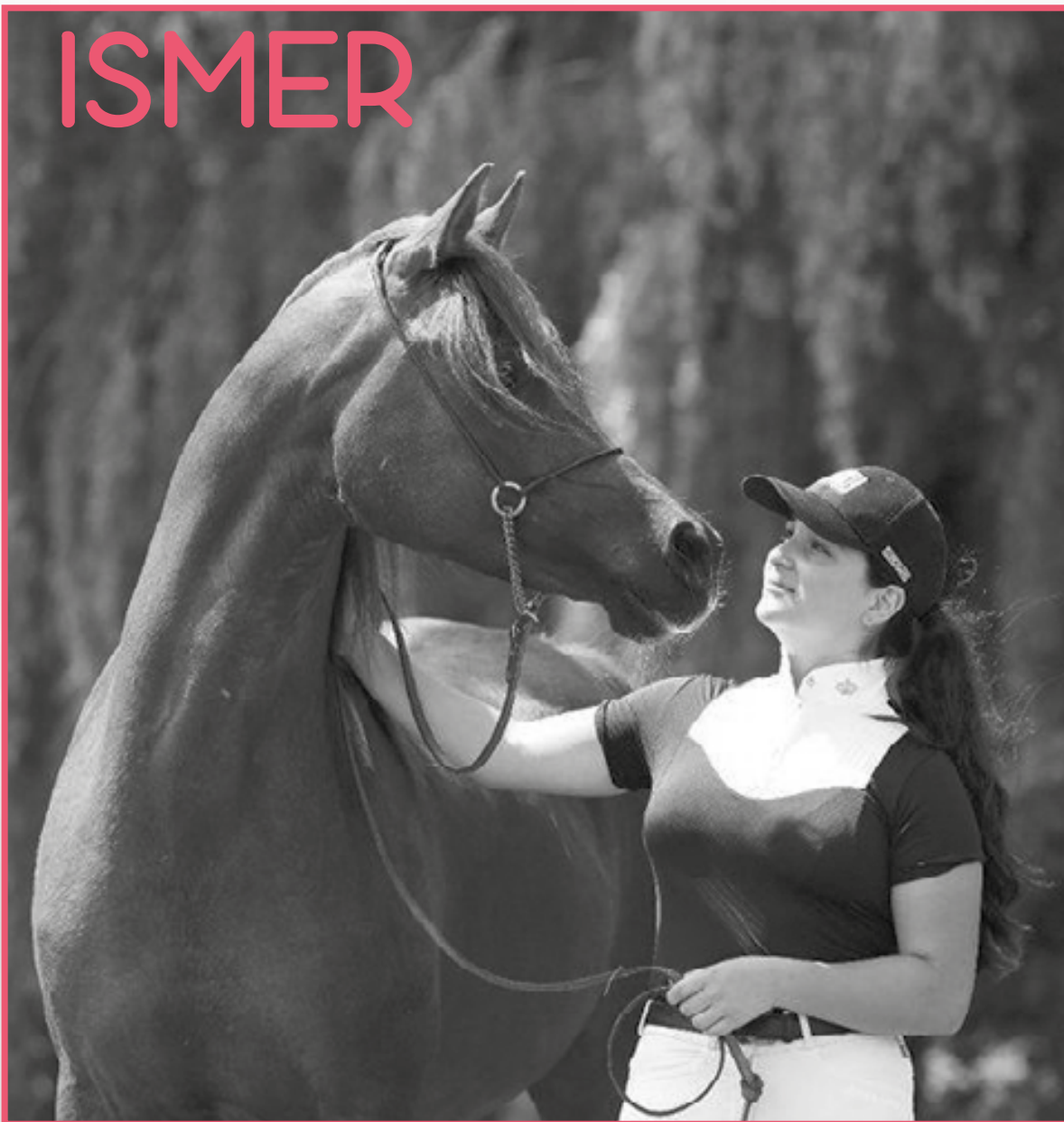


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# LINA ISMER



Student, Amateur Photographer

My name is Lina Ismer and I am happy that Giorgia asked me to be part of her project "We Women".

I live with my family in a little village in Lower Saxony, Germany, where my parents running a farm. At the moment I'm still going to school, but my dream is to study veterinary medicine as my dad later.

Beside of that, I also would like to devote myself to photography, which I have already started.

My family is breeding Arabian Horses since more than 60 years, that's why I think its not a big surprise that I have the same interest as my ancestors for the Arabian Horses. My family started to take me on shows, when I was still a little girl. I can remember standing in the collecting ring and watching my dad showing our homebred horses by himself. Most of my childhood I spent in the stables brushing the mares or playing with the foals out on the fields.

After the years I got more and more interested to this special World. I tried to get more and more involved in our company and now I've already got my tasks in areas like social media or taking care about our website. As well I'm always available if somebody is looking for help. However, the most interesting part for me is, when we're taking our horses into the paddock and talking about, how much they've been grown up and of course changed since they were babys. It gives me always a proud feeling.

Until today, I've never experienced any difficulties or obstacles as a woman in this scene. I think, because of the fact that we're all sharing the same passion, everybody treats each other with respect. I also think, that today in most cultures it's not a big deal anymore, if you're a woman, a child or a man, it's much more important what character traits you have and how to deal with other people.

**MY MESSAGE TO THE FUTURE GENERATION IN THIS BUSINESS IS: IF YOU WANT TO FULFIL YOUR DREAMS, THAN DO IT! DON'T THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT IT IF ITS RIGHT OR NOT. START WORKING FOR IT TODAY. ITS NEVER TOO EARLY, BUT ALSO NEVER TO LATE.**

# GIOVANNA ROSICARELLI



Secretary

Hi, I am Giovanna but I prefer to be called Giovv. I live between Italy and Qatar, 43 years old, mother of two wonderful children, wife since 2015 of the trainer Alessio Scaramella, who is handler in Al Rayyan Farm (Qatar) and made me discover this fascinating world of horses ...it was a grey Friday afternoon, it was raining, I was locked in the car, sad, the emptiness was hounding my every thought (difficult moment in my life) suddenly I heard a knock on the window, it was Alessio, handsome as the sun.

He didn't ask me anything. Serious, with his olive green eyes: "Sunday come with me on horseback" ...I spent a morning on a wooden chair, silent and melancholic...until the first caress of an Arabian horse.

I suddenly felt light, detoxified.

I was almost dazzled by their elegance and at the same time naturalness. The horse is par excellence an example of powerful musculature, a symbol of strength, an icon of beauty and radiance. It is no coincidence that it is the ideal animal for physical and psychological therapy.

"Alessio and his arabs saved me!"

To date, I cannot say I am an expert, I do my best,

one step at a time, every day is a good opportunity to learn.

I admit, I often encounter difficulties; the world of the Arabian horse is far removed from the other types and disciplines of equestrianism, but living the stable every day, following (when possible) Alessio in the various national, international and world competitions encourages me to learn more and more. Then there are them, my 'equestrian' friends (no need for names, everyone knows) who are a great support, they make the difference!

It sounds like an obvious sentence, written and repeated, but in life you need courage, the courage to get involved, to take risks, to take that 'plunge' into the void even when everything seems impossible, scares you, everyone is against you, but the will to see, to know, to know takes over. Never get 'stuck' in habits, always make your dreams fly high.

I think one must live with remorse, never regret:

"all I regret in my life is what I did not do!"

I am a dreamer, I look outside my mind without limits, I always like to think that there is something extraordinary waiting for me ....for me and my family.

**TO ALL THE WOMEN OF THE 'ARABIAN HORSE' WORLD AND BEYOND. TO THE YOUNG AND MATURE ONES MY LIFE MOTTO IS 'HAKUNA MATATA' ... DO IT. FEEL IT. ENJOY IT !**

# RITA MONTALBANO



Horse stable, Breeding and Farm Manager

I am Rita Montalbano, I have spent a part of my life doing something else, I mean that I did not take care of horses even if I rode regularly, as a hobby, in my free time. I come from a beautiful town, Lecco is nestled between the lake and the mountains, I was a sporty and professionally satisfied young woman, and up to about 30 I spent my life there.

During a visit to Fieracavalli, back in 1993 if I remember correctly, I met Franck Boetto who was at that time entering the world of the Arabian horse in Italy, coming from France. He showed the Arabian stallion Coaltown, who had recently arrived from the United States. I don't know if it was due to the kick in the head taken by a colt that had run away, or if it was fate, in short, we started dating and in a short time I left my job and the charming town on the lake, to follow him in an incredible adventure that, apart from the sentimental part, also taught me everything that, today, is my experience of the Arabian show horses .

In those years, around the Arabian horse, there was a great excitement, the shows were very popular and, in a very short time, the Center we had rented (in which we were personally doing all the renovations, improvements and building facilities for horse training) was full of horses, Franck sometimes visited new customers who requested his services, I was left alone, managing the staff, often helping in the stable, taking care of the work of the boxes, I remember that the hours of daylight were not enough, I remember that I was really overwhelmed by work because I also took care of all the administrative part, I remember that everything went fast, a succession of successes and victories in the show, the difficulties of the harsh winters, the frozen pipes that burst ... the sleepless nights to assist the mares during birth.

Many responsibilities, success and requests for collaboration that had come faster than expected ... in a short time my life had completely transformed. I remember well the expression of my friends, when they came to see me, and they found me sweating on the tractor, or with a gallows in hand, they who were used to seeing me in a suit, and with stiletto heels! I felt satisfied and happy, very often overwhelmed with fatigue but, I clearly

felt that the horses were something I had under my skin, the physical efforts and worries did not weigh on me, I was doing what I wanted to do, what made me happy.

Franck and I, apart from being in love, we were a team, young and strong, positive and enthusiastic, it really seemed that nothing and no one could scratch what we were building with sacrifices and a lot of dedication.

We spent together, in this incredible (from all points of view) and not always easy adventure, something like 14 years, years that taught me a lot, in which I met fantastic people, true friends that I still find today in the shows, breeders , vets, handlers, photographers ... how much road on trucks, so many joys, disappointments, pain and a lot of life.

Like all things, this adventure also came to an end, and now Franck is one of my best friends. After a few years spent "away" from horses, in 2013 I followed Stefano, my current partner, who had received a job offer in Qatar, as a private trainer (he trains thoroughbred for racing), and after only 2 months I started working as a show & breeding manager for his same sponsor, in a beautiful Farm in full development and construction, about fifty kilometers from the city of Doha.

This opportunity has opened up a world to me, the possibility of continuing with my passion, in a country so different in culture, habits, cuisine, climate and religion, but so fascinating, interesting and, in its own way, welcoming. I have already spent 9 years in Qatar, the beginning has been not easy at all, the staff did not accept me immediately but, over time, we became really a great family, I had the opportunity to breed mares with bloodlines remarkable, exclusively Straight Egyptian, I covered them with stallions of great value, I met and collaborated with fantastic people, I created important bonds of friendship and collaboration.

The local breeders really surprised me, they were real friends, people who don't express much but who are always there for me, who have shown me how much they appreciate me, on several occasions, and on whom I can count. I am proud

of what I have created in these long years in Qatar, I worked for a very special person, a fair and always correct boss, someone a little shy, but a very good person, with a big heart, he and his family have been mine for all these years, an experience that I will bring forever in the heart as something very special.

Several victories in show, in the early years, but what interests me most, which is a source of pride for me, is my breeding and the products I have "created" in recent years, passion and dedication pay off, really, and I'm not talking about money, I'm talking

about the respect of those who have been able to recognize what I have managed to achieve, and how satisfying it is to know that, at the end of a hard and heavy day, having done one's duty, following a passion, dedicating love and care to these wonderful animals, knows how to fill you with pride to the point of not even feeling tired! Having transformed stable boys into professional grooms, proud of their work, who do it with a smile and show you wearing the uniform with pride for the name they carry on their chest, responsible and worthy of respect, guys capable of working in a team ... this is priceless to me.

IF I WERE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO APPROACH THIS 'JOB', I WOULD TELL THEM TO BE SURE THEY HAVE A GREAT PASSION INSIDE. AND I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT LOVING HORSES AND LIFE IN NATURE. I AM TALKING ABOUT REAL PASSION. THEY WILL ENCOUNTER MANY DIFFICULTIES AND AS MANY DISAPPOINTMENTS THAT ONLY PASSION CAN COMPENSATE FOR. THERE WILL BE NO HOLIDAYS AND WEEKENDS, NO WORKING HOURS, HOT SUMMERS AND COLD WINTERS. PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND SOCIAL LIFE WILL BE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM AND OFTEN, THEIR CHOICES WILL NOT BE SHARED OR SUPPORTED BY THOSE WHO WILL BE AT THEIR SIDE... BUT IF ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ALL THIS, THERE WILL BE WHAT THEY WANT 'FROM INSIDE'. THEN THEY WILL HAVE TO DO IT. THEY WILL HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE FROM THE 'OLD SCHOOL' WITH EXPERIENCE TO SHARE AND PASS ON, SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THE ARABIAN HORSE AND THEY, WITH HUMILITY AND DEDICATION, TREASURING THE ADVICE THEY RECEIVE, WILL BE ABLE TO CREATE THEIR OWN WAY.

I WISH THEM THAT IT IS NOT ONLY THE EARNINGS THAT ATTRACT THEM, EVEN THOUGH WITHOUT THOSE THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REALISE ANY DREAMS, BUT TO REMAIN FOCUSED ON WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR THEIR CHOICE, ALWAYS WITH THEIR FEET FIRMLY ON THE GROUND, BEING AWARE THAT BEING ABLE TO LIVE OFF THEIR PASSION IS A PRIVILEGE RESERVED FOR FEW!

# WE, WOMEN

is:

Margot Chazel  
Sunny Sassudelli  
Chiara Carrer  
Antonia Bautista  
Jennifer Dhombre  
Kamila Kozłowska  
Anna Maria Raffa  
Jennifer Von Dahn  
Urszula Łęczycka  
Kathleen Ohlsson  
Ally Nelson  
Mindy Peters  
Rosangela Brugali  
Elena Vignato  
Cristiane Durante Guardia  
Talitha Bakker  
Desiré Faraone  
Sandra Platzeck  
Raquel Jacobas  
Adriana & Alessandra Moura  
Magdalena Muraszko-Kowalska  
Helena Jodie Byrne  
Manuela Lucini  
Christie Metz  
Dana Russo  
Patrycja Makowska  
Mary Hellen Chavez  
Dulce Rosas  
Flávia Torres  
Kasia Dolińska-Witkowska  
Elisa Grassi  
Raquel Sorvilo  
Yassmin Atieh  
Nadia Boersch  
Paola Marinangeli  
Sandra Zänglein  
Lisa Brown  
Anna Scarpa

Judith Forbis  
Taryl O'Shea  
Beth Ellen Hunziker  
Judith Wich-Wenning  
Martine Van Hee  
Nabila Al Ali  
Eileen Verdieck  
Samantha Mattocks  
Laurelle Anderson  
Diana Cantey  
Claudia Brugman  
Lætitia-Marie De Belsunze D'Arenberg  
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Lina Ismer  
Giovanna Rosicarelli  
Rita Montalbano