

50 LIKES TO TALK

A BOOK BY TOSCA DB



- Are you an optimist or a pessimist?
- I am an optimist who is constantly deceived by what happens in the world.
- So this would make you a...?
- A disoptimist.
- I don't think that exists.
- I am an optimist who is going to convert.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I am talking about the past.

Let me take you back to the myth of Morpheus.

In Greek mythology, Morpheus is one of the sons of Hypnos, the god of sleep.

His talent consists in sending all sort of human shapes into people's dreams.

Italians stole the copyright and produced a system called 'La Smorfia', combining the name of the god with the Jewish tradition of the Kabbalah, where mysterious meanings are ascribed to words, letters and signs, that eventually translate into numbers .

The human need for rationalizing the subconscious opens the door to occult and imagination:

We all like some solicited premonition, don't we?

And we love a rational explanation to all the weirdness we produce!

Italians came up with their own, jazzy, mix, translating the Kabbalah into a formula where sacred and profane coexisted in funky appropriation.

By the seventeenth century, my hometown Genoa had come up with a scheme called Lotto, that is really your lottery, where each number up to 90 had a reason to exist.

And the reason was to be located in your dreams.

The key to interpretation was perfected by the visionary minds behind all things Italian (spaghetti, pizza, mandolin, the holy trinity of the Belpaese), that is the Neapolitans.

Digging in the archetypal society of Italy of the 1600s gave birth to a book that collects medieval habits, century-old beliefs, countless references to Jesus, and tons of that repressed sexual compulsion that La Smorfia pulls up at every dream.

As a book conceived in the Country that's bathed in sun and church, dreams mix up with Christ like the central lever in the yogurt machine.

In the system of the Smorfia, therefore, religious connections make up for a good half of its 90 numbers.

There is a 10 percent of them that associates with rural traditions and culture but hey... the rest is a protectorate of coexisting religion and, guess what, sex.

How surprising that among a society that is crushed by guilt and punishment, there is so much thinking about tits and ass.

La Smorfia, indeed.

Moving to the United States from the tiny little crumb that is my homeland in Italy, the massive shift is...

Proportions.

A land so huge and diverse means there is a niche for pretty much everything a human mind can think of.

Social, racial inequalities are helpless in the face of something that transcends.

And that something is reminded to me every day, in forms so different that this perception only gets reinforced.

It is, in fact, a profound sense of curiosity.

It is, if you think about it, a super power that rises to create immaculate new worlds.

It is the 'suspension of credibility' at its core.

Movies are usually great, when they conquer it.

In fact, don't think Hollywood is here for no specific geographical reason.

It is, as I call it, the paradox of the free.

It is, take it from an immigrant, the spectacular vision of a ginormous big child who is amazed by life itself, thus able to create a spectacular portfolio of possibilities.

Which is also why I thought about sharing this book with you.

A book that lived by the metrics of 500 hundred years ago depicts a world of conventions that have mostly disappeared everywhere but my beloved homeland.

Let me tell you about this and the many meanings of these numbers, and maybe some eccentric will find the arousing pleasure of decoding their dream based on the obsolete.

Meanwhile....

I just turned 50.

Number 50 is the bread, in the Smorfia.

Warm and nurturing.

In numerology, instead, 50 is the expression of personal freedom.

What a gorgeous image, for a number that feels unsettling to every woman who simply is not ready yet.

We don't know what it is, that we have to prepare for, but it goes around the feeling that ageism implies fading out, and we are not ready.

We have still so much do.

In numerology, number 50 likes to talk, therefore me, now.

And with all the body positivity that 's around right now, 50, 60, 70!, turned into super cool numbers.

Number 50 is hosting a multitude of incredible women that are never associated with the gloomy image of the aging lady.

Yes, it's women I am thinking of.

Guys just grow a beard and that's it.

We have mirrors and they are ruthless.

And the journey of reconciliation with them is quite a new one for my generation.

Women close to 50 tend to come from places of objectification and shaming, so now that self-love is a conversation we are allowed to have, we are still growing into it and we'd like to see the progress.

We have been touched by the divine feminine and are finally ready to break free from our outdated stereotypes.

We have some fire within that is not just pre-menopause heat.

We are the people that saw the Nirvana go unplugged on MTV.

We were the girls who practiced the seated position because landline phones.

We endured low-rise everything for over a decade.

50 is a magnificent number, and let me tell you how I got here by means of a very old book .

An exceptionally vintage one, unlike my age.