TRAVEL INK FOUNDER, KAREN OSMAN, WINS MONTEGRAPPA WRITING PRIZE AT THE EMIRATES AIRLINE FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

29 March 2016, Dubai: *The Good Mother* is a dark psychological thriller based on a mother’s letters to a prison inmate incarcerated for murder

Karen Osman, the founder of [Travel Ink](http://www.travel-ink.com), has won the [Montegrappa Writing Prize at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature](https://www.emirateslitfest.com/competitions/montegrappa-writing-prize/montegrappa-writing-prize-previous-winners/) for her novel *The Good Mother*. The fictional work is a thriller, set in the North of England about a mother who writes to a convicted murderer in prison. It’s not long before she is involved in a complex relationship with the inmate, which sees her descend into a world of plotting, deception and revenge.

The prestigious Montegrappa Writing Prize, now in its fourth year, has established a strong reputation in literary circles and previous winners **Rachel Hamilton, Annabel Kantaria**and**Lucy Strange**all received book deals soon after winning the competition. Both Hamilton and Kantaria have gone on to become international bestselling authors and guests at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature.

The annual award submissions are evaluated by Luigi Bonomi, one of the UK’s leading literary agents who has launched the careers of many bestselling authors through his agency, Luigi Bonomi Associates (LBA). Also involved in the review process was **Selina Walker**, Publisher at Century and Arrow and the woman behind international hits *Before I Go To Sleep* and *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

Delighted with the result, Osman said: “winning first prize has been a total shock and a dream come true. Although I spend my days crafting copy for clients, this is the first time I have worked on a novel and I definitely hope to make a name for myself as an author. To be recognised by industry experts at this level and given the opportunity to meet Luigi again at the London Book Fair is incredible. ’’

Talking more about the subject matter she added: ”the book is set in Durham where I went to university and there were volunteer opportunities to write to inmates at the nearby prison. The idea always fascinated me and combined with my experiences as a new mother, the idea grew from there.’’

Talking about what impressed him with *The Good Mother*, Bonomi said: ”Karen’s opening chapter and synopsis leapt out at me – a wonderfully dark story, rich with potential and intrigue. Domestic Noir is exactly what publishers and readers are looking for and Karen has this in spades.’’

The first prize includes a trip to the London Book Fair 2016, with flights courtesy of Emirates Airline and accommodation from InterContinental Hotels. Osman will meet with Bonomi to discuss her novel in more detail at a lunch held during the event.

37 year-old Osman runs her own business [Travel Ink](http://www.travel-ink.com) which she founded in 2011 offering specialised writing and translation services for the travel, tourism and hospitality sector. She is also the Travel and Tourism Chairperson for the British Business Group and a speaker at the upcoming Arabian Travel Market 2016 on the topic of using social media to promote travel brands.

**Notes to Editor:**

Award-winning author, entrepreneur, and luxury travel journalist and editor, Karen has lived the expat life for almost twenty years across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Originally from the United Kingdom, Karen has built an impressive enterprise combining her two passions: luxury travel and the English language.

In addition to being an award-winning author, Karen founded niche communications company [Travel Ink](http://www.travel-ink.com)in 2011, providing content writing and strategy, public relations, social media, training, and translation services to hotels, airlines, and tourism establishments.

Karen uses her commercial experience in luxury hospitality, combined with her academic qualifications, which include a BA in Linguistics and English Language from the University of Durham and a Teaching (TEFL) Certificate from the University of Cambridge.

In her role as Managing Director, Karen oversees a team of writers, editors, and PR and social media consultants to deliver quality content for exceptional results.

As a testament to its success, Travel Ink was shortlisted as a finalist for the SME Advisor Stars of Business Awards in two categories (Hospitality & Tourism and Communications) just one year after the company’s inception.

Karen has been recognised for her achievements in the areas of entrepreneurship, luxury travel, and the written word and has featured in various regional and international publications including Hello!, Stylist, Forbes, The National, Ahlan!, and Gulf News to name a few. She has also been included in 2017’s edition of [Ahlan’s Hot 100 People](http://www.ahlanlive.com/karen-victoria-osman-617620.html), an accolade recognising the pioneers and game-changers shaping the UAE’s social and cultural landscape.