



BBC'S RAGEH OMAAR SIGNS A TWO-BOOK DEAL WITH PENGUIN

London, 4th July 2003, After a spirited auction, Mary Mount, Editorial Director of Viking, has acquired two books by Rageh Omaar from Kate Jones at ICM Books. The first book, entitled *Revolution Day* will be Rageh Omaar's story of the recent Iraq war. During that conflict millions of people turned to Omaar for the quality of his reports from Baghdad. This will be the most important book to come out of the conflict. Omaar has reported from the region for several years and his proposal demonstrates his uniquely personal and insightful response both to the country and its people. It shows that he is not just a fine correspondent but also a terrific writer. Omaar's television and radio reports have secured his position among some of the finest correspondents of recent years and *Revolution Day* will be a vivid and resonant account of a conflict at the centre of modern politics that will be read by generations of readers for many years to come.

Rageh Omaar's second book will centre on Somalia, the land of his birth and will be a very personal book bringing together stories of exile, war, tradition and his own family.

Mary Mount commented: 'The proposals for both these books moved me greatly. Rageh Omaar writes beautifully and brings a compelling and impassioned perspective to this terrifying and controversial war. In both proposals he brings to life what it really feels like to live in a city under fire, and to survive in conditions of profound uncertainty. It is a huge privilege to be launching Rageh Omaar's literary career.'

Revolution Day will be published by Viking in hardback in March 2004 and as a Penguin paperback the following year.

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