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NBC UNIVERSAL EXECUTIVE AND WOMEN'S ISSUES ADVOCATE TO SPEAK AT ST. MARTIN OF TOURS SCHOOL JUNE 18

Personal experiences drive Sophie Mokhtari to write a novel that brings hope to all who want to overcome life's challenges like incest, rape, alcoholism, and domestic violence

LOS ANGELES (June 10, 2008) - Sophie Mokhtari has not only survived the challenges that life has thrown her way, she's thrived as a result of them. And now the passionate NBC Universal Executive has written a book that engages the heart and forces conversations to take place about the challenges that women in this country face today. The author will discuss her first book, "China Girl: A Daughter's Journey," with the seventh grade students of St. Martin of Tours School in Brentwood on June 18.

Mokhtari's power and passion come through as more than just a momentary escape into fiction. "China Girl" tells the story of two women - a mother and daughter - who are raised in a culture that demands silence. Each one endures a series of life-altering events, including alcoholism, unwanted pregnancy, incest, sexual abuse, and abandonment. The novel is written from her heart with the intention of exposing issues that have been buried within the Asian cultures for centuries. Writers of the Round Table Press will release this first book in the Lemonade Series in August.

"I'm going to talk with these students about why people write books and what the writing process is like," said Mokhtari. "I want them to know why I chose to write about what I did and why I want to create these stories - to share experiences with women and girls around me and help them work through them if need be. If we embrace these issues through education, kids will be aware that these actions are wrong and they have a right to say no."

It took 25 years of sweeping her shame underneath the carpet and another five years of a personal and emotional journey for Mokhtari to talk about being a victim of her father's sexual abuse and alcoholism and her mother's mental abuse and neglect. She writes from a place of wisdom, pain, sorrow, and joyful discovery. Inspired by the stories of real women, every book in The Lemonade Series will show the world how to squeeze a sweet life from a sour circumstance.

"Sophie is a dynamo. She has tremendous ambition and professionalism and that combination makes her voice unstoppable," said Publisher Corey Blake. "She will make a huge difference in the lives of a massive number of people. Sophie has a deep desire to make a difference in her world. Something clicked with Sophie, and she knew that now was her time."

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About Sophie Mokhtari

Sophie was born in Hong Kong. At an early age, she was taken from the grandparents who were raising her and sent to the United States to live with the parents she barely knew. Adjusting to life in America was, at times, difficult for Sophie who lived with an alcoholic and sexually abusive father and a mother trying to survive her own difficult reality. To escape the harsh environment of abuse and neglect, Sophie spent countless hours in the library, reading volumes of fairy tales, books of adventure, and stories about foreign countries.

After graduating from the University of Delaware with a BA in International Relations, she drove across the country to Los Angeles with just a few hundred dollars in her pocket and two suitcases of belongings – and a young man who later became her husband. After working as a travel agent for the largest agency in the U.S., and enjoying the perk of being able to travel and explore 27 countries, she moved on to NBC Universal where today she is director of logistics.

To learn more about Mokhtari’s stories, both personal and fictional, visit chinagirlbook.com. For interviews with Mokhtari or to request an advance copy for review, contact Sue Publicover, 207.752.4802 sue@writersoftheroundtable.com or Kim Jackson, 802.345.9730 kim@writersoftheroundtable.com.

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ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

Writers of the Round Table Inc., helmed by Chairman of the Dream Corey Blake, is a full service writing company specializing in the development, marketing, and distribution of exceptionally written content. Its goal is to partner with powerful leaders from all walks of life who have the immense desire to make a difference in the lives of others and to do so through books. Clients are guided through the process of creating something truly remarkable that will change and influence lives in a positive way and on a massive scale. For more information, visit www.writersoftheroundtable.com.

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