

## We Are Iran The Persian Blogs Nasrin Alavi

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### The Persian Puzzle Penguin We are Iran

In a Persian Mirror Yale University Press

How Iran—and the world around it—have changed in the four decades since a revolutionary theocracy took power Iran ' s 1979 revolution is one of the most important events of the late twentieth century. The overthrow of the Western-leaning Shah and the emergence of a unique religious government reshaped Iran, dramatically shifted the balance of power in the Middle East and generated serious challenges to the global geopolitical order—challenges that continue to this day. The seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran later that same year and the ensuing hostage crisis resulted in an acrimonious breach between America and Iran that remains unresolved to this day. The revolution also precipitated a calamitous war between Iran and Iraq and an expansion of the U.S. military ' s role in maintaining security in and around the Persian Gulf. Forty years after the revolution, more than two dozen experts look back on the rise of the Islamic Republic and explore what the startling events of 1979 continue to mean for the volatile Middle East as well as the rest of the world. The authors explore the events of the revolution itself; whether its promises have been kept or broken; the impact of clerical rule on ordinary Iranians, especially women; the continuing antagonism with the United States; and the repercussions not only for Iran ' s immediate neighborhood but also for the broader Middle East. Complete with a helpful timeline and suggestions for further reading, this book helps put the Iranian revolution in historical and geopolitical perspective, both for experts who have long studied the Middle East and for curious readers interested in fallout from the intense turmoil of four decades ago.

### **The Garden of Reflection and Other Short Stories** Vintage

For many years, heartache prevented Nahid Rachlin from turning

her sharp novelist's eye inward: to tell the story of how her own life diverged from that of her closest confidante and beloved sister, Pari. Growing up in Iran, both refused to accept traditional Muslim mores, and dreamed of careers in literature and on the stage. Their lives changed abruptly when Pari was coerced by their father into marrying a wealthy and cruel suitor. Nahid narrowly avoided a similar fate, and instead negotiated with him to pursue her studies in America. When Nahid received the unsettling and mysterious news that Pari had died after falling down a flight of stairs, she traveled back to Iran--now under the Islamic regime--to find out what happened to her truest friend, confront her past, and evaluate what the future holds for the heartbroken in a tale of crushing sorrow, sisterhood, and ultimately, hope.

**The Twilight War** University of Washington Press  
This interrogates the racist construction of Aria and Aryanism in an Iranian context, arguing that these concepts gave the Indo-European speaking Persian ethnic group an advantage over Iran's non-Persian nationalities and communities.

*To Keep the Sun Alive* Random House

An accessible history of Iran predicts its eventual cultural and military dominance in the Middle East while illuminating many factors that are commonly misunderstood by the West, including the oppression of citizens under current leadership and their negative regard of western policy.

**Food of Life: Ancient Persian And Modern Iranian Cooking and Ceremonies** Springer

Darius doesn't think he'll ever be enough, in America or in Iran. Hilarious and heartbreaking, this unforgettable debut introduces a brilliant new voice in contemporary YA. Winner of the William C. Morris Debut Award "Heartfelt, tender, and so utterly real. I'd live in this book forever if I could." —Becky Albertalli, award-winning author of *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He's a Fractional Persian—half, his mom's side—and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life. Darius has never really fit in at home, and he's sure things are going to be the same in Iran. His clinical depression doesn't exactly help matters, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, the boy next door, and

everything changes. Soon, they're spending their days together, playing soccer, eating faludeh, and talking for hours on a secret rooftop overlooking the city's skyline. Sohrab calls him Darioush—the original Persian version of his name—and Darius has never felt more like himself than he does now that he's Darioush to Sohrab. Adib Khorram's brilliant debut is for anyone who's ever felt not good enough—then met a friend who makes them feel so much better than okay.

*The Persian Night* We are IranWe Are Iran is a seamlessly edited multi-voiced portrait of contemporary Iran, translated from Farsi, using that nation's weblogs as its primary source. Iran has more web diarists than most countries, and in cyberspace many Iranians find a freedom to express opinions that is not available to them in print. Theirs is not the Iran of bearded ayatollahs and thuggish militias, but a country that has educated itself to the point where it finds the Islamist fundamentalists antiquated and laughable, where adult literacy (and computer literacy) is higher than in many European states, and where 70 per cent of the population is under 30 and keen to usher in a new Iran. Their voices - infused with Persian lyricism - are refreshing, utterly at odds with the grim vision of the country peddled by Western governments. They talk of their conflicts with the law, the condition of women, of repression and its subversion, the police and media, of singing and dancing, of snatched romance and nostalgia for lost heroes. Reading We Are Iran, you have the sense that, for more reasons than are obvious, the worst thing that could possibly happen to Iran now would be a US attack. We are IranThere are now 64,000 blogs in Farsi, and Nasrin Alavi has painstakingly reviewed them all, weaving the most powerful and provocative into a striking picture of the flowering of dissent in Iran.Persian Mirrors

Over the past thirty years, while the United States has turned either a blind or dismissive eye, Iran has emerged as a nation every bit as capable of altering America's destiny as traditional superpowers Russia and China. Indeed, one of this book's central arguments is that, in some ways, Iran's grip on America's future is even tighter. As ex-CIA operative Robert Baer masterfully shows, Iran has maneuvered itself into the elite superpower ranks by exploiting Americans' false perceptions of what Iran is—by letting us believe it is a country run by scowling religious fanatics, too preoccupied with theocratic jostling and terrorist agendas to strengthen its political and economic foundations. The reality is much more frightening—and yet contained in the potential catastrophe is an implicit political response that, if we're bold enough to adopt it, could avert

disaster. Baer's on-the-ground sleuthing and interviews with key Middle East players—everyone from an Iranian ayatollah to the king of Bahrain to the head of Israel's internal security—paint a picture of the centuries-old Shia nation that is starkly the opposite of the one normally drawn. For example, Iran's hate-spouting President Ahmadinejad is by no means the true spokesman for Iranian foreign policy, nor is Iran making it the highest priority to become a nuclear player. Even so, Baer has discovered that Iran is currently engaged in a soft takeover of the Middle East, that the proxy method of war-making and co-option it perfected with Hezbollah in Lebanon is being exported throughout the region, that Iran now controls a significant portion of Iraq, that it is extending its influence over Jordan and Egypt, that the Arab Emirates and other Gulf States are being pulled into its sphere, and that it will shortly have a firm hold on the world's oil spigot. By mixing anecdotes with information gleaned from clandestine sources, Baer superbly demonstrates that Iran, far from being a wild-eyed rogue state, is a rational actor—one skilled in the game of nations and so effective at thwarting perceived Western colonialism that even rival Sunnis relish fighting under its banner. For U.S. policy makers, the choices have narrowed: either cede the world's most important energy corridors to a nation that can match us militarily with its asymmetric capabilities (which include the use of suicide bombers)—or deal with the devil we know. We might just find that in allying with Iran, we'll have increased not just our own security but that of all Middle East nations. The alternative—to continue goading Iran into establishing hegemony over the Muslim world—is too chilling to contemplate.

#### *Persia 1001 Nights* Catapult

"How do we recognize the moment our future has been written for us? In *To Keep the Sun Alive*, as the Islamic Revolution looms just outside the gate of an Iranian family orchard, Rabeah Ghaffari has built a world so lush, so precise that you will find yourself rewriting history if only to imagine it could still exist."—Mira Jacob, author of *The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing* "[A] tenderhearted de?but novel . . . A wide-ranging narrative, showing the enduring ramifications of filial and political violence." —*The New Yorker* The year is 1979. The Iranian Revolution is just around the corner. In the northeastern city of Naishapur, a retired judge and his wife, Bibi-Khanoom, continue to run their ancient family orchard, growing apples, plums, peaches, and sour cherries. The days here are marked by long, elaborate lunches on the terrace where the judge and his wife mediate disputes between aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews that foreshadow the looming national crisis to come. Will the monarchy survive the revolutionary tide gathering across the country? Will the judge's brother, a powerful cleric, take political control of the town or remain only a religious leader? And yet, life goes on. Bibi-Khanoom's grandniece secretly falls in love with the judge's grandnephew and dreams of a career on the stage. His other grandnephew withers away on opium dreams. A widowed father

longs for a life in Europe. A strained marriage slowly unravels. The orchard trees bloom and fruit as the streets in the capital grow violent. And a once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse, set to occur on one of the holiest days of year, finally causes the family—and the country—to break. Told through a host of unforgettable characters, ranging from servants and young children to intimate friends, *To Keep the Sun Alive* reveals the personal behind the political, reminding us of the human lives that animate historical events.

#### **Mirrors of the Unseen** Basic Books

**THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO IRAN** If you announce that you are going to Iran, someone will certainly advise you not to go. Ignore them, for this is one of the most exciting countries on Earth. This book will take you all the way through 5,000 years of Persian history into today's modern Iran. It is about the places and history of Persia's "One Thousand and One Nights" and how those stories have shaped the modern Iran that it is today. Many westerners, especially women (including some of my friends), feel hesitant about travel to Iran. This is because the western media only reports kidnappings, terrorist activities and endless wars in the region. This has been particularly since the 9/11 attacks, when a group of Al-Qaeda terrorists, a Wahabi religious group from Saudi Arabia, attacked the United States. These attacks resulted in 2,977 fatalities and causing long-term consequences for the Middle East and the rest of the world. With the US invasion of many countries in the region including Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya. The so-called 'War on Terror' resulted in countless casualties and tremendous human suffering in these countries. Interestingly, Iran managed to stay out of these US led wars until today, although President Trump was awfully close to bombing Iran towards the end of his term. Fortunately, he was not re-elected to office in 2020. This book helps you prepare for a romantic tour in Iran, should you choose to and are able to do so. We will visit the authentic historical places of Persia's "The One Thousand and One Nights" stories and see Iran from an insider's perspective. This is an opportunity to explore the origin of these stories from our childhood, from "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" to "Sinbad the Sailor". In Chapter 2 Brief history of Persia: Iran is home to one of the world's oldest and continuous civilizations and reached its territorial height in the sixth century BC, when Cyrus the Great founded the Achaemenid Empire, which stretched from Eastern Europe to the Indus Valley, making it one of the largest empires

in history. In Chapter 3 Amazing inventions from Persia. Many Philosophers, Scientists, Medics, Chemists, Architects, Physicians, Geologists, Psychologists and Mathematicians from Persia and at that time, were leading the Ancient World and delivered the basis for today's inventions. In Chapter 4 A historical tour of two weeks through Iran. The Persian Empire has left remnants of an extraordinarily rich cultural heritage, not only in today's Iran, but also across the entire ancient empire territory. From Persepolis, the ancient capital of Persia, to the World Heritage sites in Esfahan and Yazd, we will discover them all. Chapter 5 The discrepancy between the western media representations of Iran and of the real conditions in Iran by some highly researched data and well-grounded facts. We shall explore the day-to-day life of Iranian people on the streets. Chapter 6 Diversity, which is in the DNA of Iran and its root are in the cultural heritage of Persia. Many tribes of Turkish, Armenians, Georgians, Jewish and Caucasians migrated to Iran building one of the most diverse societies on Earth. Chapter 7 Iran's politics today. The political system in Iran is shaped by its history, its diversity and by its unique geopolitical position. In Chapter 8 The illegal US sanctions on Iran. In October 2018, the UN's "International Court of Justice (ICJ)" declared the US sanctions on Iran as illegal. We will discover the reasons behind these US led sanctions. In Chapter 9 Despite all the human suffering caused by the US sanctions, Iranians have shown great strength, perseverance and resilience. Iran has made great progress in many areas. A substantial part of the proceeds from the sales of this book goes towards supporting the UNHCR .

#### We are Iran Penguin

*Persian of Iran Today: Volume 1* is the first of two introductory Persian language textbooks by Anousha Shahsavari and Blake Atwood. Its innovative multimedia curriculum draws on the latest trends in language pedagogy and interweaves grammar- and vocabulary-building exercises with narrative elements in order to engage and develop students' abilities in Persian. *Persian of Iran Today* is a proficiency-based resource that gives equal weight to the development of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, and encourages students to use and create with the language from the very beginning. *Persian of Iran Today* is published by The University of Texas at Austin's Center for Middle Eastern Studies Publications program.

#### Safavid Iran Brookings Institution Press

Andree Malraux, the highly cultured French writer and philosopher once said: "There is mysticism everywhere in Iran..." In her book of short stories, "The Garden of Reflection

and Other Short Stories", FloZa writes about her own experience in this country. From France - FloZa brings to life the residents, and the social culture of modern-day Iran in a contemporary collection of short stories inspired by her real-life experience, "The Garden of Reflection and Other Short Stories". "The Garden of Reflection and Other Short Stories" describes, light-heartedly and with philosophy, the adventures of a young woman, who for family reasons comes back to her country of origin after 17 years of absence, and finds it all totally changed due to the Revolution. The way she and her half-European son are received, however, strongly impresses her. Through her stories, FloZa introduces the readers to the Iranian people, their customs, and the importance of family ties in their culture... FloZa draws ample inspiration from her own journey raising her son during 7 years in Iran. She writes: "Indeed, I was impressed by the care and attention that we witnessed every day in Iran. We had nowhere to go and we were accepted kind-heartedly. We spent 7 wonderful years together with our family. Maybe it was the war years that had created such patience and solidarity among the people, I don't know. During that particular time of my life it did me a lot of good to be there, sheltered, cared for, and feeling in no danger whatsoever". In Iran, I met a strong feeling of tolerance towards children and a general appreciation and respect for "the woman." We should keep in mind that Iran has inherited a very old and refined culture, and a tradition of tolerance and understanding that still exists among the population".

#### **Escape from Iran** Simon and Schuster

*Food of Life: Ancient Persian and Modern Iranian Cooking and Ceremonies* by Najmieh Batmanglij provides a treasure trove of recipes, along with an immersive cultural experience for those seeking to understand this ancient and timeless cuisine. This edition is a more user-friendly edition of the award-winning and critically acclaimed cookbook series which began in 1986. *Food of Life* provides 330 classical and regional Iranian recipes as well as an introduction to Persian art, history, and culture. The book's hundreds of full color photographs are intertwined with descriptions of ancient and modern Persian ceremonies, poetry, folktales, travelogue excerpts and anecdotes. The book began in exile after the Iranian Revolution of 1979 as a love letter to Batmanglij's children. Today, as accomplished adults in their own fields, her two sons, Zal and Rostam, encouraged her to redesign the book for their generation. *Food of Life* propels Persian cooking into the 21st Century, even as it

honors venerable traditions and centuries of artistic expression. It is the result of 30 years of collecting, testing and adapting authentic and traditional Persian recipes for the American kitchen. Most of its ingredients are readily available throughout the U.S. enabling anyone from a master chef to a novice to reproduce the refined tastes, textures, and beauty of Persian cuisine. Food-related pieces from such classics as the 10th century *Book of Kings*, and 1,001 *Nights* to the miniatures of Mir Mosavvar and Aq Mirak, from the poetry of Omar Khayyam and Sohrab Sepehri to the humor of Mulla Nasruddin are all included. Each recipe is presented with steps that are logical and easy to follow.

#### **America and Iran** Chronicle Books

*The Epic of Kings, Hero Tales of Ancient Persia* Firdausi - *The Epic of Kings, Hero Tales of Ancient Persia (The Shahnameh)* is an epic poem by the Persian poet Firdausi, written between 966 and 1010 AD. Telling the past of the Persian empire, using a mix of the mythical and historical, it is regarded as a literary masterpiece. Not only important to the Persian culture, it is also important to modern day followers of the Zoroastrianism religion. It is said that the poem was Firdausi's efforts to preserve the memory of Persia's golden days, following the fall of the Sassanid empire. The poem contains, among others, mentions of the romance of Zal and Rudba, Alexander the Great, the wars with Afrsyb, and the romance of Bijan and Manijeh.

*Shahnameh: The Epic of the Persian Kings* Fruzan Seifi

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • We all have dreams—things we fantasize about doing and generally never get around to. This is the story of Azar Nafisi's dream and of the nightmare that made it come true. For two years before she left Iran in 1997, Nafisi gathered seven young women at her house every Thursday morning to read and discuss forbidden works of Western literature. They were all former students whom she had taught at university. Some came from conservative and religious families, others were progressive and secular; several had spent time in jail. They were shy and uncomfortable at first, unaccustomed to being asked to speak their minds, but soon they began to open up and to speak more freely, not only about the novels they were reading but also about themselves, their dreams and disappointments. Their stories intertwined with those they were reading—*Pride and Prejudice*, *Washington Square*, *Daisy Miller* and *Lolita*—their *Lolita*, as they imagined her in Tehran. Nafisi's account flashes back to the early days of the revolution, when she first started teaching at the University of Tehran amid the swirl of protests and demonstrations.

In those frenetic days, the students took control of the university, expelled faculty members and purged the curriculum. When a radical Islamist in Nafisi's class questioned her decision to teach *The Great Gatsby*, which he saw as an immoral work that preached falsehoods of "the Great Satan," she decided to let him put *Gatsby* on trial and stood as the sole witness for the defense. Azar Nafisi's luminous tale offers a fascinating portrait of the Iran-Iraq war viewed from Tehran and gives us a rare glimpse, from the inside, of women's lives in revolutionary Iran. It is a work of great passion and poetic beauty, written with a startlingly original voice. Praise for *Reading Lolita in Tehran* "Anyone who has ever belonged to a book group must read this book. Azar Nafisi takes us into the vivid lives of eight women who must meet in secret to explore the forbidden fiction of the West. It is at once a celebration of the power of the novel and a cry of outrage at the reality in which these women are trapped. The ayatollahs don't know it, but Nafisi is one of the heroes of the Islamic Republic."—Geraldine Brooks, author of *Nine Parts of Desire* ?????? ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ??????? ?????? /? Lulu.com

#### **SIMIN HABIBIAN** has collected 1001 of the most well known Persian proverbs and has found the equivalent or similar of each in English. She has also included a literal translation of each proverb in English, to help the reader and so that the cultural similarities and differences can be seen. In addition, 1001 Persian-English Proverbs includes 111 more proverbs illustrated. The reader can guess which proverb it refers to. An answer key in the back tells the reader which proverb the illustration represents. The book is suited for those learning Persian (Farsi) and for second generation Iranian-Americans who wish to further expand their understanding of their mother language and culture. The reader who does not read or speak Persian will find it a pleasant read.

*Persianate Selves* Random House Trade Paperbacks  
This is the story of the dramatic rescue and emigration of thousands of Iranian Jewish students to America, and the miraculous rebirth of an ancient civilization in a brand new world.

#### **Learn Persian Step By Step** iUniverse

"In addition to his numerous pictures of urban life and portraits made in his famous studio in Tehran, Sevruguin made a photographic inventory of the landscape, archaeological sites, and people of Azarbaijan and continued the project in Kurdistan and Luristan (in southwestern Iran)."--BOOK JACKET. "In this generously illustrated book, the first ever devoted to Sevruguin and his singular work, six distinguished authors explore the photographer's life and career."--BOOK JACKET.

*Reading Lolita in Tehran* Bloomsbury Publishing

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We Are Iran is a seamlessly edited multi-voiced portrait of contemporary Iran, translated from Farsi, using that nation's weblogs as its primary source. Iran has more web diarists than most countries, and in cyberspace many Iranians find a freedom to express opinions that is not available to them in print. This is not the Iran of bearded ayatollahs and thuggish militias, but a country that has educated itself to the point where it finds the Islamist fundamentalists antiquated and laughable, where adult literacy (and computer literacy) is higher than in many European states, and where 70 per cent of the population is under 30 and keen to usher in a new Iran. Their voices - infused with Persian lyricism - are refreshing, utterly at odds with the grim vision of the country peddled by Western governments. They talk of their conflicts with the law, the condition of women, of repression and its subversion, the police and media, of singing and dancing, of snatched romance and nostalgia for lost heroes. Reading We Are Iran, you have the sense that, for more reasons than are obvious, the worst thing that could possibly happen to Iran now would be a US attack.

*The Epic of Kings, Hero Tales of Ancient Persia* Phoemixx Classics  
Ebooks

As far back as she can remember, Azadeh Moaveni has felt at odds with her tangled identity as an Iranian-American. In suburban America, Azadeh lived in two worlds. At home, she was the daughter of the Iranian exile community, serving tea, clinging to tradition, and dreaming of Tehran. Outside, she was a California girl who practiced yoga and listened to Madonna. For years, she ignored the tense standoff between her two cultures. But college magnified the clash between Iran and America, and after graduating, she moved to Iran as a journalist. This is the story of her search for identity, between two cultures cleaved apart by a violent history. It is also the story of Iran, a restive land lost in the twilight of its revolution. Moaveni's homecoming falls in the heady days of the country's reform movement, when young people demonstrated in the streets and shouted for the Islamic regime to end. In these tumultuous times, she struggles to build a life in a dark country, wholly unlike the luminous, saffron and turquoise-tinted Iran of her imagination. As she leads us through the drug-soaked, underground parties of Tehran, into the hedonistic lives of young people desperate for change, Moaveni paints a rare portrait of Iran's rebellious next generation. The landscape of her Tehran — ski slopes, fashion shows, malls and cafes — is populated by a cast of young people whose exuberance and despair brings the modern reality of Iran to vivid life.

### **A History of Iran** Halban Publishers

A while ago, we were employed to work in the Iranian desert for three months. We lived in hotels, progressing to self-catering,

and so mixed our environments between work, domesticity, and social activities. During the day we experienced temperatures up to 60 degrees Celsius! But, conversely, we enjoyed the legendary Iranian hospitality of swimming, tennis, parties, and dining out, in our leisure time. In this book, we show you the real words, phrases, specific vocabulary, and grammar that we needed on a day-to-day basis while we lived there. Both of us genuinely believe that any shortcomings in this book will be overcome by the fact that it will be VERY USEFUL to you. This book contains what you will really need! No more, and no less. We show you what you need to know, and teach you how, why, and when to say it. Put it like this: by the time we left Iran, we could speak Farsi quite adequately!