

FICTION:

Caspian Rain – Gina B. Nahai

The marriage of an Iranian couple begins to disintegrate as the husband seeks the company of a younger, wealthier woman, and the young daughter, Yaas, who narrates the story, becomes increasingly deaf as she struggles for her mother's approval.

Rooftops of Tehran – Mahbod Seraji

Set in Tehran in 1973, 17-year-old Pasha Shahed spends his summer with his best friend planning his future and falls in love with his neighbor Zari, who has been betrothed since birth to another man.

The Saffron Kitchen – Yasmin Crowther

When her troubled past resurfaces with tragic consequences, Maryam departs for the remote Iranian village of her youth, followed by her daughter Sara, who finally learns the price her mother paid to secure her own freedom.

My Uncle Napoleon: A Novel – Iraj Pezeshkzad

A teenage boy makes the mistake of falling in love with the much-protected daughter of "Napoleon," the curmudgeonly patriarch of a large and extended Iranian family in 1940s Tehran.

The Blood of Flowers – Anita Amirrezvani

After her father dies without leaving her with a dowry, a seventeenth-century Persian teen becomes a servant to her wealthy rug designer uncle in the court of Shah Abbas the Great, where her weaving talents prove both a blessing and curse.

Zahra's Paradise – Amir and Khalil {GN AMIR}

A young man and his mother search in vain for his missing teenage brother—arrested during a protest and swallowed up into the void of the Islamic Republic's sham of a judiciary system

The Septembers of Shiraz – Dalia Sofer

Their serene villa life devastated by a wrongful imprisonment, the wife and children of Tehran gentleman Isaac Amin face potential betrayals within their own household and eventually plan an escape.

The Ayatollah Begs to Differ: The Paradox of Modern Iran – Hooman Madi {955.0544 MAJD}

The grandson of an ayatollah who grew up in exile offers an insightful study of the economic, political, and social forces that underly the vast paradoxes in Iranian character, examining Iran as a Muslim, Shiite, and Persian country and sharing the real-life people and diverse voices behind the modern-day nation.

The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny – Shirin Ijadi {955.05 IBADI}

Follows the lives of three Iranian brothers, each subscribing to a different political ideology that tears their country and their lives apart after the Ayatollah Khomeini seized power from the Shah Pahlavi dynasty during the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

In the House of My Bibi: Growing up in Revolutionary Iran – Nastaran Kherad {921 KHERAD}

A young Iranian woman grows up with the love and instruction of her grandmother, until one of her brother visits with ideas of revolution and dissent.

We Heard the Heavens Then

Aria Minu-Sepehr {921 MINU-SEPEHR}

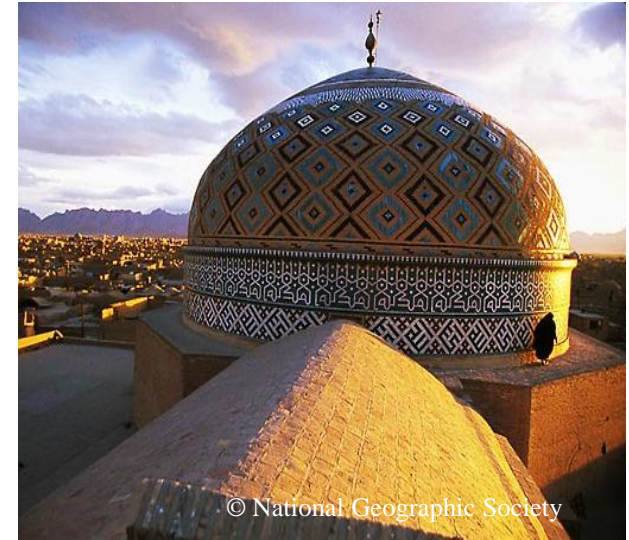
Recounts the author's childhood in Revolutionary Iran, describing his early life of privilege as the son of a high-ranking general in the Shah's Imperial Iranian Air Force, the nightmarish existence his family endured after the Ayatollah rose to power in 1979, and their eventual decision to flee to the United States.

The Stoning of Soraya M

Freidoune Sahebjam {306.736 SAHEBJAM}

Recreates the painful ordeal of a woman stoned to death in modern Iran based on her husband's accusation of adultery, laying bare a painful miscarriage of justice and the disparity of rights between the genders in Muslim society.

VOICES OF IRAN



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Iran has a lush literary history, going all the way back to the ancient Sufi poets and the tales of Scheherazade. These works, by contemporary voices, add to the Persian tradition of storytelling. Speaking to the issues of living in the modern world, the authors here give us a rare glimpse into this varied, rich culture.

Annotations are courtesy of NoveList Plus, part of the TFPL e-Resources.



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Chicken with Plums

Marjane Satrapi {GN SATRAPI}

In Tehran in 1958, Nasser Ali Khan, one of Iran's most acclaimed tar players, discovers that his beloved instrument has been irrevocably damaged, launches a fruitless search for another one to replace it, and takes to his bed, renouncing the world, its pleasures, and life itself.

The Pomegranate Lady and Her Sons: Selected Stories

Goli Taraghi

A collection of stories from the Iranian author includes a tale about a woman whose former maid becomes her jailer and a story about an old woman searching for her fugitive sons in Sweden.

Touba and the Meaning of Night

Shahnush Parsipur

Touba, a woman born into an upper-class family marries young to secure her family's financial future. Though marital success eludes Touba (she was trapped twice in a loveless marriage), she grows intellectually and spiritually throughout her eight decades.

The Age of Orphans – Laleh Khadivi

His innocence shattered when his parents are massacred by the soldiers of Iran's new shah, a young boy is taken in by the same army that killed his family, hides the truth about his Kurdish origins, and is instructed to kill his own people when he is deployed to his native Zagros Mountains.

Equal of the Sun - Anita Amirrezvani

When the court of sixteenth-century Iran is thrown into turmoil by the heirless Shah's death, his daughter, Princess Pari, incites dissent with her efforts to instill order and taps the assistance of a eunuch servant to navigate a Machiavellian power struggle.

The Wandering Falcon – Jamil Ahmad

Set in the Federally Administered Tribal Lands at the intersection of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan follows the story of Tor Baz, who travels throughout the region while considering his prestigious lineage and witnessing the effects of extreme culture and geography on the lives of those he encounters.

Censoring an Iranian Love Story

Shahriar Mandanipour

An Iranian author writes a love story about a young couple who must hide from the Campaign Against Social Corruption as the writer himself crosses out sections of the manuscript to avoid the same organization's censorship.

Children of the Jacaranda Tree – Sahar Delijani

A tale set in post-revolutionary Iran follows the experiences of Neda, Omid, Sheida and other individuals from three generations of families whose political activist loved ones were murdered during the violent purges inside Tehran's prisons.

Teaspoon of Earth and Sea – Dina Nayeri

Collecting forbidden American paraphernalia, young Saba Hafezi of 1980s Iran becomes convinced that her suddenly missing mother and twin sister have departed for America without her, a situation that compels her to envision her twin's Western life through the years.

NONFICTION:

Things I've Been Silent About - Azar Nafisi

{921 NAFISI}

A memoir offers a portrait of the author's family and childhood in Iran, centered around her powerful mother and her manipulative fictions about herself, as she reflects on women's choices and her own struggle to free herself from her mother's influence.

Persepolis and Persepolis 2 - Marjane Satrapi

{GN SATRAPI}

The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran, a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life.

Honeymoon in Tehran: Two Years of Love and Danger in Iran - Azadeh Moaveni {921 MOAVENI}

The Iranian-American author describes her return to Iran as a reporter for "Time" magazine, her marriage to an Iranian man, the repressive Iranian society and its impact, and her family's decision to leave Iran.

Then They Came for Me: A Family's Story of Love,

Captivity and Survival in Iran - Maziar Bahari

{365.4509 BAHARI*}

A former prisoner in one of Iran's most notorious prisons offers a moving memoir of how thoughts of his family got him through the days of torture, in a book that also sheds light on Iran's history.

My Life as a Traitor: An Iranian Memoir – Zarah

Ghahramani {921 GHAHRAMANI}

A young Iranian woman describes growing up in a family that prized tolerance and freedom of thought, her arrest as a student for not keeping her head covered, the psychological and physical torture she endured in prison, and her eventual release and escape to Australia.

Prisoner of Tehran: A Memoir - Marina Nemat

{921 NEMAT}

Nemat tells the heart-pounding story of her life as a young girl in Iran during the early days of Ayatollah Khomeini's brutal Islamic Revolution--arrested, tortured, and sentenced to death for political crimes.

Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books

Azar Nafisi {921 NAFISI}

Describes growing up in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the group of young women who came together at her home in secret every Thursday to read and discuss great books of Western literature.

Persian Girls: A Memoir - Nahid Rachlin

{921 RACHLIN}

The story of an Iranian girl growing up in a culture where, despite the Westernizing reforms of the Shah, women had little power or autonomy.

My Name is Iran: A Memoir - Davar Ardalan

{921 ARDALAN}

An award-winning NPR producer brings to life the stories of three generations of women and their ordeals with love, rejection, and revolution, from her American grandmother's love affair with an Iranian physician, her Iranian-American parents, and her own return to an Islamic Iran and to a world without the freedoms she experienced in the West.