



# My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes: Uncensored Iranian Voices

By Azar Nafisi, Marjane Satrapi, Abbas Kiarostami, Shirin Neshat, Shohreh Aghdashloo

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In the first anthology of its kind, Lila Azam Zanganeh argues that although Iran looms large in the American imagination, it is grossly misunderstood-seen either as the third pillar of Bush's infamous "axis of evil" or as a nation teeming with youths clamoring for revolution.

This collection showcases the real scope and complexity of Iran through the work of a stellar group of contributors-including Azar Nafisi and with original art by Marjane Satrapi. Their collective goal is to counter the many existing cultural and political clichés about Iran. Some of the pieces concern feminism, sexuality, or eroticism under the Islamic Republic; others are unorthodox political testimonies or about race and religion. Almost all these contributors have broken artistic and cultural taboos in their work.

Journalist Reza Aslan, author of *No God But God*, explains why Iran is not a theocracy but, rather, a "mullahcracy." Mehrangiz Kar, a lawyer and human rights activist who was jailed in Iran and is currently a fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, argues that the Iranian Revolution actually engendered the birth of feminism in Iran. Journalist Azadeh Moaveni reveals the underground parties and sex culture in Tehran, while Gelareh Asayesh, author of *Saffron Sky*, writes poignantly on why Iranians are not considered white in America, even though they think they are. Poet and writer Naghmeh Zarbafian expounds on the surreal experience of reading censored books in Iran, while Roya Hakakian, author of *Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran*, recalls the happy days of Iranian Jews. With a sharp, incisive introduction by Lila Azam Zanganeh, this diverse collection will alter what you thought you knew about Iran.

"*My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes* aims to corrode fixed ideas and turns cultural and political clichés on their heads . . . Iranians themselves live in a complex and schizophrenic reality, at a surreal crossroads between political Islam and satellite television, massive national oil revenues,

and searing social inequalities."--From the Introduction by Lila Azam Zanganeh

Contributors include: Azar Nafisi, author of the best-selling *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, Marjane Satrapi, author of *Persepolis*, Shirin Neshat, internationally acclaimed visual artist, Abbas Kiarostami, award-winning filmmaker of *Taste of Cherry*, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Oscar nominee for *House of Sand and Fog*, Azadeh Moaveni, author of *Lipstick Jihad*

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- Sales Rank: #909654 in Books
- Published on: 2006-04-01
- Released on: 2006-04-01

- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .38" w x 5.50" l, .36 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 132 pages



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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

This timely little book offers a thoughtful, wide-ranging and captivating introduction to a dynamic country most Americans still regrettably associate with romantic-exotic or religious-fanatical stereotypes. Centering on questions of identity and subjectivity in and outside Iran's Islamic Republic, the 15 prominent indigenous and ex-pat voices showcased in this collection include bestselling authors Azar Nafisi (*Reading Lolita in Tehran*), Azadeh Moaveni (*Lipstick Jihad*) and Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*), as well as renowned filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, Oscar-nominated actress Shohreh Aghdashloo (*House of Sand and Fog*) and acclaimed visual artist Shirin Neshat. The brief, often breezy essays, reminiscences, reportage and interviews overturn the facile image of Iran as a single, homogenous entity, providing animated discussions of politics, sex, art, women's rights, racism, poetic culture, underground nightlife, Tehran's Jewish community, censorship, economic inequality and cross-cultural (mis)understanding under a regime that is highly oppressive but continually subverted. Arranged and framed with care by editor Zanganeh (and featuring original art by Satrapi), the book's contents resist an overarching, dogmatic point of view, presenting instead an open-ended invitation to dialogue. Readers will find this volume complex but accessible; it reveals the human stories behind the veil of the headlines. (Apr.)

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From [Booklist](#)

A seemingly devout cleaning lady sweeps a client's living room while pornography plays on the TV. A comp-lit class analyzes Milan Kundera's *Identity* (1998) in a translation deleting two major components, sex and gender equality. Women's clothing mannequins gradually lose their femininity, including their faces, replaced by cardboard disks, and their hands, replaced by cylinders. Of such is life in Iran's capital, Tehran, home, at least originally, of most of the artists and intellectuals contributing to this collection. Together, they raise the flag of hope for a freer culture, though the only basis they show for that hope is their and their peers' talent and integrity. Reza Aslan, author of *No god but God* (2005), ruefully acknowledges that, despite Tehranians' disdain for the mullahs--a taxi is as likely to run one down as pick him up, he says--many more Iranians want the "mullahcracy." Other imaginative and provocative voices herein include filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, Oscar-nominated actress Shohreh Aghdashloo, and graphic novelist Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*, 2003). *Ray Olson*

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## **Review**

If you asked fifty people on the street in America to describe Iran, many would come up with a similar version of an Arab country led by a shah; they would be wrong. This small book offers a large view of Iran through the eyes of fifteen different Iranians who range from poets to writers to philosophers to film directors. The essays are intensely personal and readable—a good starting point for those who want to learn more about Iran beyond the Western perception. —Trisha Burns (PLA) AAUP Best of the Best Program

## **Users Review**

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**Sarah Fernandez:**

The book My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes: Uncensored Iranian Voices make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable far more increase. Book can be your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading through a book My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes: Uncensored Iranian Voices to be your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You may know everything if you like wide open and read a e-book My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes: Uncensored Iranian Voices. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this book?

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**Patsy Phan:**

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**Robert Bowser:**

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