



## 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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## **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**

**From reader reviews:**

**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 being 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?

**Brenda Seddon:**

This *My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes: Uncensored Iranian Voices* is great publication for you because the content and that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it information accurately using great organize word or we can claim no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having *My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes: Uncensored Iranian Voices* in your hand like getting the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no book that offer you world in ten or fifteen small right but this reserve already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

**Patsy Phan:**

This *My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes: Uncensored Iranian Voices* is brand-new way for you who has attention to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having small amount of digest in reading this *My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes: Uncensored Iranian Voices* can be the light food in your case because the information inside this specific book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books build itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, yep I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in reserve form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this guide is the answer. So there is not any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss the item! Just read this e-book sort for your better life and also knowledge.

**Robert Bowser:**

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