

Persepolis in brief

Persepolis is Marjane Satrapi's memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. Satrapi paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran: of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life, of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval and of the enormous toll repressive regimes exact on the individual spirit. Marjane's child's-eye-view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows the reader to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family.

Subject Focus: Personal memoir, Iranian revolution, freedom of expression, women's rights, oppression, discrimination, religious persecution,



Marjane Satrapi was born in 1969 in Rasht, Iran. She now lives in Paris, where she is a regular contributor to magazines and newspapers throughout the world, including *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*. She is also the author of *Embroideries* and *Chicken With Plums*, several children's books, and the internationally best-selling and award-winning graphic novel autobiography in two parts, *Persepolis* and *Persepolis 2*.

Other graphic novels by Marjane Satrapi

Chicken With Plums

2006

Level: Adult

The heartrending story of a celebrated Iranian musician who gave up his life for music and love. In Tehran in 1958, Nasser Ali Khan, one of Iran's most revered tar players, discovers that his beloved instrument is irreparably damaged. Though he tries, he cannot find one to replace it, one whose sound speaks to him with the same power and passion with which his music speaks to others. In despair, he takes to his bed, renouncing the world and all its pleasures, closing the door on the demands and love of his wife and his four children. Over the course of the week that follows, his family and close friends attempt to change his mind, but Nasser Ali slips further and further into his own reveries.

Embroideries

2005

Level: Adult

Satrapi's mother, aunt and their group of friends tell stories about their lives as women, and, more specifically, the men they've lived with and through. One woman tells a story about advising a friend on how to fake her virginity, a scheme that goes comically wrong. Another tells of escaping her life as a teenage bride of an army general. Satrapi's mother tells an anecdote of the author as a child; still others spin yarns of their sometimes glamorous, sometimes difficult, lives in Iran. Discussions of sex are frank and explicit and laced with high humor.