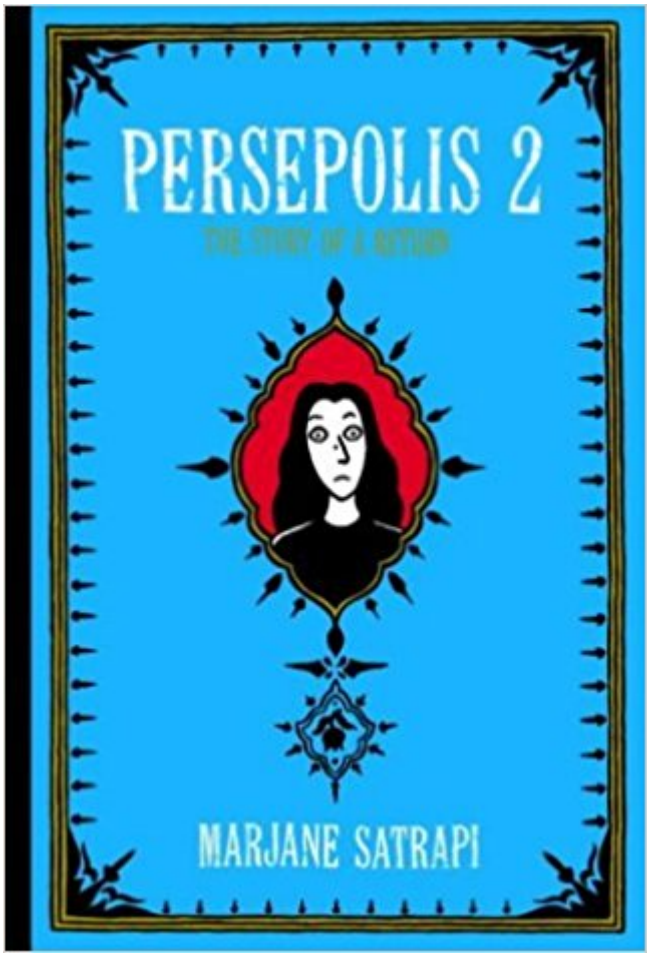
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Persepolis 2: The Story Of A Return



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Synopsis

In Persepolis, heralded by the Los Angeles Times as Ã¢â ¬Å“one of the freshest and most original memoirs of our day,Ã¢â ¬Â• Marjane Satrapi dazzled us with her heartrending graphic memoir about growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Here is the continuation of her fascinating story.In 1984, Marjane flees fundamentalism and the war with Iraq to begin a new life in Vienna. Once there, she faces the trials of adolescence far from her friends and family, and while she soon carves out a place for herself among a group of fellow outsiders, she continues to struggle for a sense of belonging.Finding that she misses her home more than she can stand, Marjane returns to Iran after graduation. Her difficult homecoming forces her to confront the changes both she and her country have undergone in her absence and her shame at what she perceives as her failure in Austria. Marjane allows her past to weigh heavily on her until she finds some like-minded friends, falls in love, and begins studying art at a university. However, the repression and state-sanctioned chauvinism eventually lead her to question whether she can have a future in Iran.As funny and poignant as its predecessor, Persepolis 2 is another clear-eyed and searing condemnation of the human cost of fundamentalism. In its depiction of the struggles of growing upÃ¢â ¬â •here compounded by MarjaneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s status as an outsider both abroad and at homeÃ¢â ¬â •it is raw, honest, and incredibly illuminating.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Picking up the thread where her debut memoir-in-comics concluded, Persepolis 2: The Story of a

Return details Marjane Satrapi’s experiences as a young Iranian woman cast abroad by political turmoil in her native country. Older, if not exactly wiser, Marjane reconciles her upbringing in war-shattered Tehran with new surroundings and friends in Austria. Whether living in the company of nuns or as the sole female in a house of eight gay men, she creates a niche for herself with friends and acquaintances who feel equally uneasy with their place in the world. After a series of unfortunate choices and events leave her literally living in the street for three months, Marjane decides to return to her native Iran. Here, she is reunited with her family, whose liberalism and emphasis on Marjane’s personal worth exert as strong an influence as the eye-popping wonders of Europe. Having grown accustomed to recreational drugs, partying, and dating, Marjane now dons a veil and adjusts to a society officially divided by gender and guided by fundamentalism. Emboldened by the example of her feisty grandmother, she tests the bounds of the morality enforced on the streets and in the classrooms. With a new appreciation for the political and spiritual struggles of her fellow Iranians, she comes to understand that "one person leaving her house while asking herself, ’is my veil in place?’ no longer asks herself ’where is my freedom of speech?’" Satrapi’s starkly monochromatic drawing style and the keenly observed facial expressions of her characters provide the ideal graphic environment from which to appeal to our sympathies. Bereft of fine detail, this graphic novel guides the reader’s attention instead toward a narrative rich with empathy. Don’t be fooled by the glowering self-portrait of the author on the back flap; it’s nearly impossible to read Persepolis 2 without feeling warmth toward Marjane Satrapi. --Ryan Boudinot

Part one of Satrapi’s autobiographical graphic novel found her surviving war, the Islamic Revolution, religious oppression and the execution of several close friends. If part two covers less traumatic events, it’s also more subtle and, in some ways, more moving. Sent by her liberal, intellectual parents from Tehran to Vienna to get an education and escape the religious police, rebellious but vulnerable teenage Satrapi learns about secular freedom’s pitfalls. Struggling in school, falling in with misfits and without a support group, she ends up dealing drugs for a boyfriend and eventually finds herself homeless on the streets. Forced to return to Iran, Satrapi must once again take up the veil, but learns to live within the constraints of her native land, which border on the surreal. For instance, while Satrapi’s racing to catch a bus, the religious police tell her to stop running so her bottom doesn’t make "obscene" movements. "Well, then, don’t look at my ass!" she angrily responds. The book’s cornerstone is her relationship with her parents, who seem to have enough faith in her to let her make the wrong decisions, as when she marries an egotistical artist. Satrapi’s

art is deceptively simple: it’s capable of expressing a wide range of emotion and capturing subtle characterization with the bend of a line. Poignant and unflinching, this is a universally insightful coming-of-age story. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This type of book is usually not my come of tea. However, when I heard some of the schools in the Chicago area were attempting to ban the book from their reading list, I decided to see what all the fuss was about. I discovered this book was a memoir from a woman who grew up in revolutionary Iran. This book was obviously designed for a younger group because it is in a comic book type of format, which actually made it an enjoyable read because of the illustrations on each page.The Complete Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi is a 341 pages long and the story begins in 1980 when the author was 10 years old. It tells about when the Islamic revolution took place in 1979 and how all women had to wear a veil. The story moves on to explain the many changes that occurred in Iran while she was growing up.The author relates how close she was to her family and how they did their best to protect her from the changes going on in Iran over the years. Her parents sent her to Austria to learn French and she also learned some German as well. This is basically an autobiography of the author and I think it is a book American youths should also read in order to understand the dangers of religious extremism. The author now lives in Paris, France and is still writing.In conclusion, even though I think this book will appeal to women more than men, I still think it was a good read. If you want to find out how women (and anyone else who did not follow every rule) were treated for breaking any of the very strict religious rules in Iran, you might want to read this book.Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: Haiku Moments: How to read, write and enjoy haiku)

Persepolis 2 by Marjane Satrapi is a graphic memoir detailing her high school years away from Iran and her eventual return to the country of her birth. This book is a follow up to her Persepolis and pretty much starts off where the first book left off.Once again Satrapi uses the graphic style to tell her story and the visuals really add to her words and in a few places taking the place of words altogether giving weight to the phrase that a ’picture tells a thousand words.’ In this part of her story Satrapi chronicles the isolation she felt while going to school in Austria. The uncertainty of never really fitting in to any one group and the search of trying to figure out just who she was. While in Austria she experienced so many freedoms that she never could have dreamed of while living in Iran. She also had to deal with peoples misperceptions of what it meant to be Iranian. In the end,

once she graduated from high school she felt that the only way to learn who she was, was to return to the country of her birth.Once back in Iran Satrapi faces a new struggle. The one of trying to fit back into a box that she no longer fit into. It was a hard reality for her to face when she realized that she had become so adjusted to the freedoms she had in Europe that she forgot what living in the repressive atmosphere in Iran was like. Satrapi had fled back to Iran looking for a place to belong and instead she found that even there she didn't have an identity. She was too westernised now to fit comfortably back into her old skin.Satrapi does a wonderful job of telling her story and in conveying all the emotions and the struggles that she faced both at school in Austria and back home in Iran. Her search to find out her identity was at times tragic and at others times amazingly beautiful. Her style of writing and drawing really conveyed all the emotions that she must have been feeling at the time. I thoroughly enjoyed this additional glimpse into Satrapi's life and will be on the look out for any additional works that she might come out with. What can I say....sometimes I'm a horrible voyeur!See my other reviews at tickettoanywhere.blogspot.com

I had never read a graphic novel before and wasn't sure if I would like it. I found that it was easy and very enjoyable. The story is very good and keeps your attention. I am old enough to remember the overthrow of the Shah of Iran, but this gives a new perspective. The storyis from a little girl's perspective. Worth the read.

The author tells her story of growing up in Iran during tumultuous government changes. What drew me to this book was the authors choice of expression. This story is not comical and yet the author writes these comic strips of her story; Capturing her funny memories from her childhood and the violence her family endured. I think this should be a required reading.

Really fantastic. Couldn't put it down. If you like personal stories or have any interest in Iran and/or even the complexity of what's going on now in the Middle East, I highly recommend. It won't explain all the history, etc. to you per se, but it offers an inside account of being a child and young adult from a smart, endearing, politically aware family (and more, a family who's history is intertwined with Iranian politics) who's experiencing the effects of the Revolution throughout her childhood and young adult years. Also offers a super interesting account of young adult counterculture Vienna in the 80s. Graphics and writing are both great. Satrapi is a gifted story teller. Her parents (who are a big part of the story) must be very proud. Was sad when it ended....

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