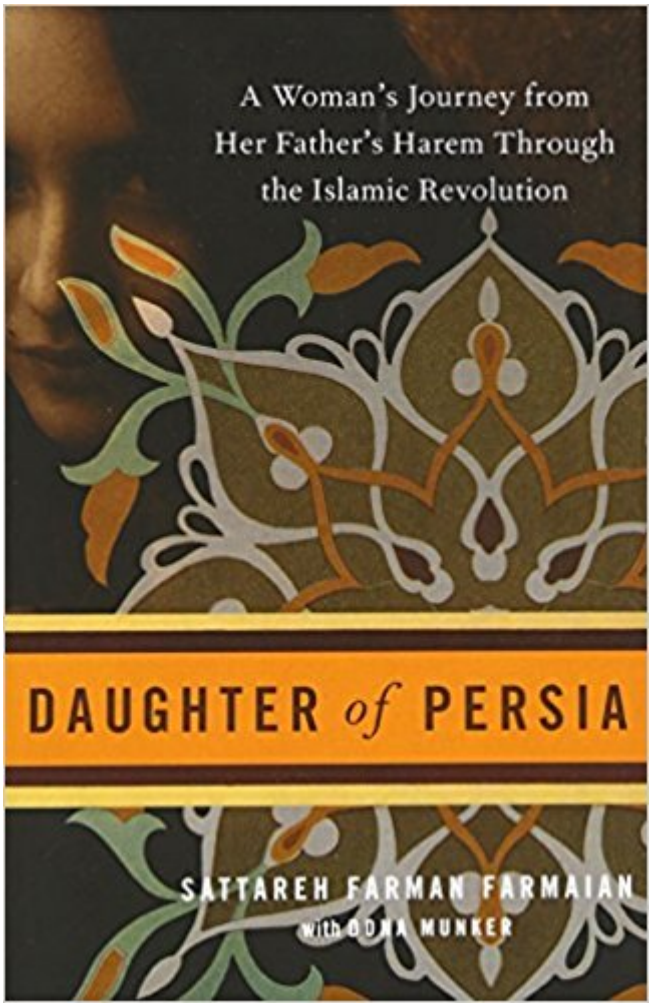
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Daughter Of Persia: A Woman's Journey From Her Father's Harem Through The Islamic Revolution



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Synopsis

"A riveting memoir about an inspiring Iranian woman and her country’s road to revolution."Ã Â "A lesson about the value of personal freedom and what happens to a nation when its people are denied the right to direct their own destiny. This is a book Americans should read." --Washington PostThe fifteenth of thirty-six children, Sattareh Farman Farmaian was born in Iran in 1921 to a wealthy and powerful shazdeh, or prince, and spent a happy childhood in her father’s Tehran harem. Inspired and empowered by his ardent belief in education, she defied tradition by traveling alone at the age of twenty-three to the United States to study at the University of Southern California. Ten years later, she returned to Tehran and founded the first school of social work in Iran.Intertwined with Sattareh’s personal story is her unique perspective on the Iranian political and social upheaval that have rocked Iran throughout the twentieth century, from the 1953 American-backed coup that toppled democratic premier Mossadegh to the brutal regime of the Shah and Ayatollah Khomeini’s fanatic and anti-Western Islamic Republic. In 1979, after two decades of tirelessly serving Iran’s neediest, Sattareh was arrested as a counterrevolutionary and branded an imperialist by Ayatollah Khomeini’s radical students.Daughter of Persia is the remarkable story of a woman and a nation in the grip of profound change.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As founder in 1958 of the Tehran School of Social Work, Sattareh naively believed, "If one only avoided politics, one could achieve something constructive." After two decades of humanitarian

efforts in Iranian family planning, day care, vocational programs and aid to the poor and prisoners' families, she was arrested in 1979 by Khomeini's machine-gun-toting teenage minions. Branded an "imperialist," she narrowly escaped execution and now lives in the U.S. The 15th of 36 children, Sattareh revered and feared her "all-powerful" father, a prince and governor. This dramatic if restrained autobiography, written with freelancer Munker, describes her patriarchal upbringing and her education at UCLA. She belatedly realized that "keeping our mouths shut let the Shah do what he wanted." Her memoir is actually most effective as a political document. She powerfully condemns the Eisenhower-backed coup that toppled democratic premier Mossadegh and installed ruthless dicatator Reza Shah Pahlavi, whose fascist secret police were trained and financed by the CIA. The Shah's corrupt, unjust regime, she graphically demonstrates, fueled explosive resentment that found an outlet in Khomeini's fanaticism. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

In this poignant autobiography, Farman Farmaian brings Persian history and culture alive. Born in 1921 into the powerful, aristocratic Qajar family, her life spans nearly a century of tremendous change in Iran: from a sheltered childhood in her father's harem (there was an extended family of four wives and over 30 children) through her studies at the University of Southern California where she was the first Iranian student to attend to her return to Iran to found and direct the Tehran School of Social Work from 1958 until 1979 when radical students took over the school and forced her into exile. Intertwined with her personal account is the political history of Iran from the constitutional monarchy of the Qajars through the Western-oriented but brutal Reza Khan and his son Reza Shah to the virulent anti-Western Islamic Republic of Ayatollah Khomeini. This is also a cultural history of a highly adaptable people who learned centuries ago--in order to survive--to trust no one outside one's own family. Highly recommended for all libraries.-Ruth K. Baacke, Bellingham P.L., Wash .Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This was a very satisfying read. Sattareh is an inspiring person who cares deeply about her native country and worked very hard to improve the condition of the people in Iran. Ultimately it was a losing battle but she did not give up on her country until forced to do so. It was interesting to read her mixed feelings about Americans and she realized it is hard for people to truly understand how another country lives without experiencing it for themselves. There is a scene where she is on an American vessel and is dumbfounded by the amount of food that she sees wasted. As a general rule, Americans truly do not understand what it is like to go hungry. It again made me feel grateful to live in such a blessed and abundant country. Also I realized that democracy works (of course not

perfectly) in America because it is founded on Christian principles. Other countries that try democracy but without such moral principles as a base, tend to fail again and again because self interest ends up ruling the day.

This is an eye-opening story of a very brave Iranian woman who manages to cope with unbelievable obstacles in pursuing a life that is significant both for herself and her country. She was born in a harem, saw a revolution and the displacement of her aristocratic family from a position of power and prestige, took an amazing solo journey to the United States to study Social Work, experienced personal harassment while trying to improve the lot of her fellow Iranians, and lived through another revolution in which religious authorities seized power from the Shah. She exhibits extraordinary determination and flexibility in the face of obstacles and disappointment. Her life is an inspiration (and a cautionary tale) for women in male-dominated societies.

I read this years ago and plan to reread it. It provides great insight into the modern history of Iran. She is a very inspiring and appealing narrator. I understood that history much better in light of her oersonal experiences.

I read this book a few weeks ago. It was a page-turner and I simply couldn't put it down, essentially spending my entire weekend reading. The author's experiences informed me about the history of the Persia that existed before I arrived there as an American kid attending Tehran American School in the mid-70s. The author's detailed account of historical culture and politics explained many things I did not understand as a chld.This is one of three books that I believe provide a fairly comprehensive history of Persia / Iran in the 20th Century. I encourage readers to consider reading this book, and alsoÃ Â SONS OF THE GREAT SATANÃ Â andÃ Â Prisoner of Tehran: One Woman's Story of Survival Inside an Iranian Prison. Between these three books, you will gain an understanding of 20th Century Persia / Iran that I truly believe will give you insight into a country that is not well understood in the Western world.

This is a well-written book that tells of one Iranian woman's life. She came from a wealthy family and grew up in her father's harem. Unlike most princes of his time, her father encouraged all his children, not just his sons, to get an education, and so she did not follow the usual path of early marriage and many children, but traveled to the US to get an education. With a masters degree in social work she returned to Iran to found its first school of social work. Her busy, active life there

was destroyed in the Iranian Revolution.In the course of telling of her life, Ms Farman Farmaian offers a history of Iran from 1921 to the present. Despite her personal love of America, she is very critical of the influence our government has had over Iran. She gives powerful descriptions of the difficulties of life under the brual rule of the US-backed Shah and, later, the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini.I learned a great deal about Iran from reading this book and have high admiration for the author.

I have read the farsi version of this book twice , and ordered the English version of this book also. Even though I do not believe some of the stories of Miss. Farmanfarma , but found very well written.The traslation was great , all sentenses , proverbs , poems were translated to the best of the abilty .The print is clean and crisp . The paper looks epxpenssive , the art work delightfull , and its worth the monepy i spent .

If you are interested in understanding what has been going on in Iran for the last 100+ years - how a backward country reached out and touched the Modern Age and then took a giant step back in time - this is the book for you. This is the story of a woman’s life growing up in Persia (Iran), her forward thinking father, and then the men who destroyed him as well as their country.

I purchased Daughter of Persia as a used book from . This was a first for me and I have to admit, a little skeptical about purchasing "used" books on-line, but never again. Not only is this story a wonderful read, but the book’s condition arrived in excellent condition. More people should take the time to read non-fiction books such as Sattareh Farman Farmaian’s life-time journey. Learning about other cultures always helps us to understand today’s highly complicated and diversified world! Many thanks to the author (and Dona Munker) for sharing Sattareh’s remarkable personal story!

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