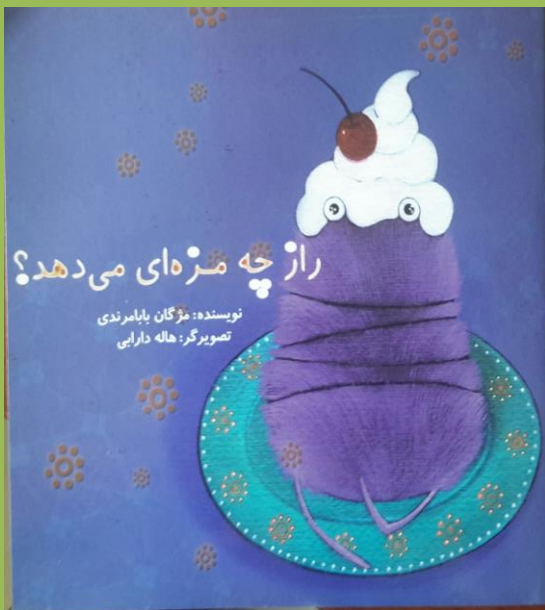


# What is the Taste of Secret?



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## The Taste of Secret

My mom said a secret means something that you keep to yourself and you do not share it with anybody. Now, I had a secret in my heart.

That day when mom went to the kitchen from the living room, I followed her. There, I saw the secret. It was in mom's hands. She was wrapping that. Then, we returned to the guest.

The secret was shaking in my stomach and was moving from one side to the other side. It was coming up to my mouth, hiding at the back of my teeth and waiting to jump out.

Mom brought drinks for the guests. I ran to him and took one. Mom looked at me which meant I did something bad. But I could not open my mouth to tell her I wanted the drink to wash the secret down from my mouth. I quaffed the drink. It was cool. The drink sweetened the secret little by little and was moving down.

Mom put the last glass before a guest. I put my glass on the tray and sat next to the grandma. But the secret jumped up suddenly and again sat behind my teeth. I took the biggest red apple which was in the fruit dish.

Mom looked dagger at me. I bit off the apple greedily. The juice of the apple was running down from my mouth corner.

Again mom looked dagger at me. The secret tasted of the apple. When eating the apple, the secret was moving down with it. Right as the apple finished, the secret jumped up and sat at the back of my teeth.

This time, I began to eat a cookie. While mom kept looking at me, I ate as much foodstuff as I could. It was of no use. The guests asked about my health but I signaled to them that I could not talk.

Then, mom called me. She was in the kitchen. I pay no attention. Her tone was angry. The guest turned their faces to me. Mom came back to the living room and said: "Am I not calling you?" I signaled to her that I would not move.

Mom got very very angry. She returns to the kitchen. Even the grandma looked dagger at me. After a short while, someone brought grandma's birthday cake to the living room. She got so happy because she had not known mom had held her a birthday party.

Mom said: "It was a secret between Amir and I. Setare knew that too of course." I told to myself: "How good it was that I had not known it was another secret as keeping two secrets in my heart was impossible."

Mom brought her gift and gave it to the grandma. Grandma unwrapped it. There is a small beautiful thing in it.

I went to mom and she murmured: “Bad Setare...” I moved toward the grandma and sat on her lap. The bottom of my dress was rubbed on one side of the cake. I kissed grandma to congratulate her birthday. Her face got wet. She asked: “Oh, why are you crying?” I told her everything loudly. I did not know why everybody laughed. Grandma kissed me. Mom embraced me and kissed me several times. We left them to wash my hands and face. I cleaned my nose too. I returned to the guests.

Grandma cut a big piece of cake and put it on my dish. There was a small pink flower on the cake. I said: “Happy birthday!” I could not eat the cake. I was very full.

She calls out loud:

Just say one, two, three, and spring will be here!

Her eyes stare at mine. I cannot believe it. I laugh. There are no Smiley Faces now.

- One, two, three. Spring is already here.

I tell: "Ok and I leave there." I desire to go home on foot not to be home even as much as a quarter.



**Mozghan Babamarandi** has started writing for children since ۱۹۹۰ focusing mostly on teenagers. She is a well-known figure in Iranian children & teenagers' literature and her books are published by famous Iranian publishers. Her stories reflect her own childhood. Her books contain ethical and social themes. She is fond of short-story format and this is the prominent format of her books which are published in Iran.. At the time being, she lives in Tehran. She is the author of more than ۲۸ books of novel and collection of stories for children and young Adults .Among her books are:

### **Children & Young Adults Stories:**

۱. **The news presenter was silent**, Rowzaneh Publication, ۲۰۱۸
۲. **I was my grandma's mom**, Peidayesh Publication, ۲۰۱۸
۳. **Daddy's Laugh Paint**, Monadi Tarbiat Publication, ۲۰۱۷
۴. **In the name of god, Raise exam sheets**, Monadi Tarbiat Publication, ۲۰۱۷
۵. **The yard was full of bird and song**, Monadi Tarbiat Publication, ۲۰۱۷

٦. **Ghelghelak's cocoon was beside grandma**, Amir Kabir Publication, ٢٠١٦
٧. **Whish under the all snow was viola**, Soroosh Publication, ٢٠١٥
٨. **The Story of Situation and Wishes of an Ass**, Peidayesh Publication, ٢٠١٥
٩. **The aunt oldwoman liked storytelling**, Elmi-Farhangi Publication, ٢٠١٥
١٠. **The Seven Steps**, Soroosh Publication, ٢٠١٢
١١. **My mother is lost**, Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults Publication, ٢٠١٢
١٢. **I will become a Spiderman like Rostam**, Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults Publication, ٢٠١٢
١٣. **Even the Sun Cried**, Amir Kabir Publication, ٢٠١٢
١٤. **My Indian Name**, Soroosh Publication, ٢٠١٢
١٥. **Lady Poetess and Mr. Beethoven**, Peidayesh Publication, ٢٠١١
١٦. **Let's go paint the sky**, Madrese Publication, ٢٠١١
١٧. **Every Year Before the First Bell**, Beh Nashr Publication, ٢٠١١
١٨. **What is the taste of secret?**, Elmi-Farhangi Publication, ٢٠١٠
١٩. **A Shying Guest**, Elmi-Farhangi Publication, ٢٠١٠



- ۲۰. **Only the father can awakening me from sleep**,  
Institute for the Intellectual Development of  
Children and Young Adults Publication, ۲۰۱۰
- ۲۱. **Sun Passed Me and Moonlight**, Amir Kabir  
Publication (Shokoofe), ۲۰۰۹
- ۲۲. **Hi Grandpa**, Madrese Publication, ۲۰۰۸
- ۲۳. **Even Men Sometimes Crying**, Madrese  
Publication, ۲۰۰۸
- ۲۴. **The Butterfly Was My First Word**, Soroosh  
Publication, ۲۰۰۸
- ۲۵. **All Stars for You**, Madine Publication, ۲۰۰۱
- ۲۶. **Gold Fountain Pen**, Madrese Publication, ۲۰۰۱
- ۲۷. **A Gift for Narges**, Farhang Eslami Publication,  
۱۹۹۶

- And ۸ story books in print.
- She has more than ۱۰۰ **published stories** at  
prestigious magazines for children and young  
adults in Iran like Doost, Salam Bacheha, Roshd,  
Soroosh, Docharkhe, Baran, etc from ۱۹۹۰ to  
present.

Babamarabdi was awarded many literary prize  
including:

- Winner of Institute for the Intellectual  
Development of Children and Young Adults ۱۶<sup>th</sup>  
Festival for novel “I will become a Spiderman like  
Rostam”, ۲۰۱۳
- Winner of Salam Bacheha Festival for book “Hi  
Grandp”, ۲۰۰۹

- Appreciation of the book "Gold Fountain Pen" at Roshd Educational Festival, ۲۰۰۳
- First Prize in story for "Hi Grandpa" at Press Festival, ۲۰۰۱

### **Other Career Successes:**

- Top Trainer Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran Province, ۲۰۰۹
- First Prize in Drama for the Play "I Miss the Sun" at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults ۵<sup>th</sup> Puppet Show Festival in Tehran Province, ۲۰۰۳
- Third Prize in Music Selection for the Play "I Miss the Sun" at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults ۵<sup>th</sup> Puppet Show Festival in Tehran Province, ۲۰۰۳
- First Prize in Directing for the Play "The Man Had No Lips" at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults ۴<sup>th</sup> Puppet Show Festival in Tehran Province, ۲۰۰۲
- Top Trainer Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in the country, ۲۰۰۱
- Top Trainer Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran Province, ۱۹۹۹

- First Prize in Stage Design for the Play “Aunt Cockroach” at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults First Puppet Show Festival in the country, ۱۹۹۹
- Storytelling Festival Winner of Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran Province, ۱۹۹۸
- The use of the my novel **Only the father can awakening me from sleep** as one of the references in the book **Fatherhood in contemporary discourse** by Anna Pilinska, Cambridge

### **Other artistic activities:**

- Jury member in Drama Festival The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran province, ۲۰۱۶
- Jury member in Razavi Festival stories and memories The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, ۲۰۱۴
- Jury member in Drama Festival trainers of The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in the country, ۲۰۱۰
- Jury member in Drama Festival trainers of The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in the country, ۲۰۰۶

- Jury member in toytelling competition The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in the country, ۲۰۰۵
- Jury member in Theatre Festival Ministry of Education in Karaj, ۲۰۰۶
- Designer scene in the play “Sabr e Zard” in Chahar Soo Hall at the City Theatre, ۲۰۰۶