

Behrooz



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Guide*



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## Shahrestan Adab Cultural Institute

Founded in 2010 by a group of young Iranian poets in Tehran, the Shahrestan Adab Cultural Institute (meaning literally 'Province of Letters') quickly became a center of discovery and promotion of young literary talents.

With an annual program called "Aftabgardan-ha" (the Sunflowers), the Institute is also active in promoting Persian classical and modern poetry especially among male and female youth.

Shahrestan Adab also founded Madresseh Roman (School of the Novel) with the aim of teaching the talents discovered by the institute how to write a novel. The teachers accompany these future authors, step by step, in this fascinating world of Letters. On the other hand, the publishing house of Shahrestan Adab, specializing in the field of Persian literature, has published, over the past five years, numerous well-known and rewarded works. In 2014, it was awarded the Best Editor of the Year by Hassan Rohani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ali Mohammad Moadab, a renowned poet, has been appointed director-general of the Institute since its founding.

Sharestan Adab Publishing house is the editorial department of the Institute. Since its foundation in 2011, several books have been published, most of which have received awards and nominations nationally.

At the 28th edition of the Tehran International Book Fair in 2014, Sharestan Adab was awarded the Best Editor of the Year by Hassan Rohani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. With 150 books divided into 3 different collections, namely fiction, literary research, and poetry, this publishing house aims to welcome, advise and guide its talented authors in this exciting creative process

# FICTION

## **The Russian Songs**



*Author: Ahmad Modghagh*

*Year of Publishing: 2017*

*No. of Pages: 240*

*Size: 13 × 20*

*ISBN: 9786008145394*

*Sample English text is available.*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** Ya'ghoub is from a noble family who came to Kabul because of his conflict with his father. Once in Kabul, he fell in love with Mobarakeh, a female Afghan combatant fighting against the ruling Communist Party in Afghanistan. Although the girl is not attracted to him Ya'ghoub refrains from giving up and resorts to force and is very persistent. Thus the girl is uncomfortable and fed up with his insistence. This love raises Yaghoub's humane emotions and during a coup is softer and less cruel as he is less after imprisoning, flogging, and killing people.

He steals his father's money, to join the party. Although he has neither any sympathy nor any interest in them he becomes a follower of the Mujahidin. But his way is not aligned with the objectives of their cause and struggle. Meanwhile, he fights with Na'eim, Mobarakeh's husband who is his rival in love.

**Introduction:** The story of "the Russian Songs" takes place in Afghanistan and during the anti-Soviet struggle of different groups of people. Meanwhile, an Afghan young university student who is wealthy while trying to stay far away from both his family and war seeks his own courses and interest such as art. However, the turn of the events forces him to find his way to war, and this is caused by his falling in love with a girl. "Love" and "treason" are two significant components that the reader faces. Furthermore, doubt and vagrancy are the key features of the leading character of the story.

“Ya’ghoub” is from a noble family who came to Kabul for education but he got acquainted with a leftist fighting group and plays a role in their empowerment, joins them but in the middle of the way.....

The reader finds him/herself in a new world of language and language combination in encountering the text of “the Russian Songs”. This writer’s innovative style can motivate the reader to precede reading line by line and turn the pages with endless eagerness.

**Book Expert:** The weak sound of the puppy came from under the four-wheel cart. He puts his palm on the cold ground and bends to look underneath the four-wheel cart. The pebbles hurt his hand’s palm. As he moves his head lower, he discovers the thin face of a little lottery-selling girl who has placed the box of her lottery tickets under her hands to feed a puppy with a piece of bread. Now the hot-beets-seller who has kneeled down on the ground is fascinated by the sight of the puppy that is anxiously eating the piece of bread.

It is not a fearful fact that we play the role of victims in our era; fearing starts when we are the forgotten victims; the silent corpse with no memory in the world, no memory no recall. Being a victim is easy if others remember us. I fear of being forgotten as I become a victim and no one remembers me as neither is in the poem of any poet nor the character in any novel.

### About the Author:



### Ahmad Modaghagh (1985-Qom)

Ahmad Modaghagh is one of the most talented Afghan writers living in Iran. He graduated in Islamic jurisprudence. He has penned only a few novels, but they have grabbed the attention of the audiences and literary critics in Iran.

#### ***Awards:***

*-Selected in National Press Festival, 2014*

*-Nominated for two periods of the national festival of the story of Matil, 2013 and 2014,*

*-Third Place of Ishragh Literary Festival, 2014*

*-Second Place in Thousand and One-Night Literary Award, 2014*

*- To the thirteenth festival of poetry and the story of Sura in the story of teenage story, May 94*

*-Second place in Balkh Literary Award, Afghanistan, 2015*

*-The First Place in The Fine Arts Festival, M2015*

## **Eternity**



*Author: Mehdi Safari*

*Year of Publishing: 2017*

*No. of Pages: 240*

*Size: 13 × 20*

*ISBN: 9786008145387*

*Sample English text is available.*



### About the Book:

**Abstract:** “Eternity” is the story about a young man, named Amirali, who, on a pilgrimage tour, went to the holy shrines (Karbala) accompanied by his brother-in-law and a few young people. However, on their way in pilgrimage to Kazem-ayn, they are kidnapped by ISIS. While in captivity and after that, some incidents took place which evolved Amir-Ali’s characteristics and qualities.

Amirali who is a young student grew up in an intellectual family. He is the very polite, decent, regular, submissive and disciplined individual. Not only is he a top student at the university, but also a champion in the shooting (of bow and arrow/rifles). He is in no way impulsive (before making a decision he complies with wisdom rather than his desires. He is decent, polite and positive. He and his sister live an ordinary life, until Amin shows up, who gets married to his sister and as his brother-in-law becomes a member of the family. Amin is a preacher. One day the subject of a pilgrimage tour to Karbala comes up. Amirali although unwilling (due to ethical excerpts) reluctantly agrees to set out as a pilgrim to the holy shrines, accompanied by Amin (The two become fellow traveler). This journey (to Karbala) is full of odd and certainly costly events. Amirali is kidnapped by ISIS. Hesham and his two sisters try to rescue him.

**Introduction:** The plot of the story mainly focuses on Amirali’s evolution. He is a typical Iranian young man whose attitude and mentality is very similar to everyone else’s (he has an ordinary view towards life and surroundings). He does not care about the

anti-ISIS war ISIS and Iraq. It is not acceptable to him that the war in Syria and Iraq should concern us who live in Iran. He still believes that a Basiji member (mobilization) is merely identified by his active-participation ID card. Thus, that is what Amirali's mentality and belief are when he steps into this story and is caught as a captive in the trap of ISIS he has this belief. While in captivity he witnesses the worst crimes (committed by ISIS) and gets well matured during such events.

"Eternity" is Mehdi Safari's second novel, with a captivating topic. Mehdi Safari is one of the writers who reflect the society and the major changes in it and what the writer attempts to depict in the novel is ISIS, terrorism and the consequences of ISIS's activities and operations. The language of the book is fluent and considering the details that the writer has depicted in the book, its style can be considered descriptive. Another interesting point in this novel is the attention of the author to the evolution of characters. The reader can feel his evolution step by step. Although Amirali's family is religious and a believer in God, he attends neither any religious nor any social ceremonies such as those held in convention centers, Basij, etc. Amirali is reluctantly stuck in such a condition to act contrary to his liking and finally gets involved in the events which lead to great personal and spiritual evolution.

**Book Expert:** I was aimlessly walking along the street. I didn't know how long it took me to come back to my senses (came to myself) by a driver honking his noisy horn. I was an obstacle in the way. The driver rolled down the window, cursed me, and

furiously started (gazed) into my eyes. He moved his lips up with a gesture to show how disgusting he found me. The refrigerated Nissan van had blocked the sidewalk. I saw the disgusting carcass (corpse) of featherless chickens lying in the midst of the crushed ice pieces. An old woman pulled out a chicken leg from the middle of the ices and examined it. I got an upset stomach by looking at this scene (as I found it disgusting and sickening). I walked a few steps before sitting down on a bench. At this time, a girl climbed down her SUV with the clutched curly hair, entered a grocery store (a supermarket), and came out with a pack of cigarettes. She had made her blue jeans pierced (she had many holes in her jeans). I asked myself. Why do we live? Who wins and who loses in this life?

The answer was: Whoever can afford to buy fresh chicken wins? He, who can enjoy life more wins? Or whoever is loved more by others (most popular among others) wins? Amin sacrificed himself for me and lost his life. What is my duty here? What is the right way? These thoughts attacked my head in every direction.

### About the Author:



*(Mehdi Safari 1989-Tehran)*

*Mehdi Safar* is an Iranian writer and researcher that began his career by writing literary critics while authoring pieces for some of the novels. Most of his works are focused on issues involving the social theme. Some of his books could grab the attention of the readers and literary circles.

## **A Loud Song**



*Author: Aliasqhar Ezzati Pak*

*Year of Publishing: 2018/4<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*No. of Pages: 140*

*Size: 14 × 21*

*ISBN: 9786006889412*

*Sample English text is available.*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** Habib's thoughts are different from his family's and, unlike his family, who are active on the scene of the war, he justifies himself with various excuses (such as going to college, homework, his fears, etc.), to avoid going to the war zone and while considering it an insignificant issue. Uncle Mustafa's advice and remarks are useless both to him and his father .while the war is going on, he falls in love with a girl called Shokooh; unaware that the war changes his destiny and turn of events are going to be different from what he expects. Remaining ignorant of any news about her beloved son, Aziz is very anxious , every now and then turns on Aqajan's radio set, hoping to hear some news on Radio-Baghdad, announcing their list of the Iranian captives (POW's), maybe this way she could hear some news about Hadi, but she does not know how things will turn out, as if Aqajan is never supposed to find his lost hero in this mortal and earthly world, and the remnants of the body of Hadi who has been the victim of the tyranny and oppression of the perpetrator of Saddam Hussein's regime, and totally will be converted into light. And his long-awaited soul is capable of reaching out to his child, Hadi who has been eagerly expecting to meet him in the other world .

**Introduction:** The story is about Hadi, the missing son of a family who are from Hamedan and who have suffered a lot of torment and anguish during their involvement in many adventures while looking for him. The author, writing in the form and style of a diary, while remaining loyal to the truths of "the Sacred Defense" while complying with the storytelling principles to draw a totally

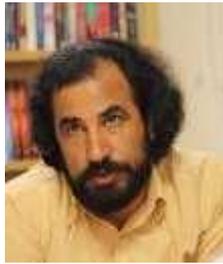
documentary illustration of the time that only the role of imagination in its regulation is merely to make the scenes more transparent and help the reader identify with the same heroes of the story. A novel that initial attempt to make a real and explicit narration of the war with a humane look, toward a war far from hatred. It has been influenced by the history of the narratives of war as well., A Songa story that conveys to its readers, the most of its messages in its characterization and making space,

Loud Song is a story which is candid and straightforward and without beating around the bush. The writer doesn't leave anything in implication. One of the features of Ezzati's book is its being native. Relationships in this story are highly meaningful and calculated. When classifying its kind, "A Loud Song", in a glimpse, is a work in the literature of war that claims to be different, and this difference in language (and scenes) is acceptable, and thus this book is considered one of the works of war literature, which, apart from its originality, has made this work a recommendable work of art.

**Book Expert:** My dad's face was pale (faded): I did not have the color. Amin was crying. I heard a voice of groans, moans, and shouts from behind me. I turned back my head.. Rescuers were dragging (pulling) out a woman from under the rubble of the beauty shop. They brought out the woman placing her on the stretcher. It was Mrs. Samawat. Again shouting and screaming was heard, this time from Aghajan's home. I got up stood up. I wiped my face. The uncle was standing near their heads. I wanted to go forward; a screaming voice of the crowd came from behind

me. I turned back my head. It was Shokooh. Suddenly my mother's cry was heard. They placed another person on the stretcher. It was my aunt. They were moving the second body. It was Aziz's body.....

### About the Author:



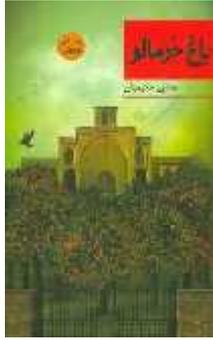
#### *Ali Asghar Ezzati Pak (1974-Hamedan)*

Ali Asghar Ezaati has commenced his literary career in 2006 by penning the book titled "I'm at the back of the door ". He could create some novels for his readers during the past decade. Ezzati's works gained the attention of many literary critics and award juries and he managed to nab a variety of literary awards.

At present, Ezzati is responsible for the group's story of the Sharestan-e Adab cultural institution, which has been conducting extensive and successful literary works in the field of literature, especially the literature of revolution and sacred defense. So far, several novels have been published, including:

- "I'm at the back of the door", 2006, Selected as the best book in Hoze-ye Honari Book of the Year,
- "Coming Soon"(Awarded in Salam Literary Prize and Children and young adults Literature Festival
- "Angel Wave"
- Kianoush Garden

## **Persimmons Garden**



*Author: Hadi Hakimiyan*

*Year of Publishing: 2017/4<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*No. of Pages: 183*

*Size: 14 × 21*

*ISBN: 9786006889153*

*Sample English text is available.*

*Reprinted 4 times in less than one year.*

*Honored in "Ghلام-e Zarrin Literary Prize"*

*Selected in the Ninth Course of the Islamic Revolution Story Prize*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** The main characters of Persimmons Garden are two teen boys with different spirits who at the same time try to claim their right during the Pahlavi Dynasty. They accompany "Naneh Kordi", one of the influential figures in the story, to the historical city of Yazd. In addition, they face Reza Shah, who is spending his last days in power, in the governor's office. During this meeting, the reader finds very interesting and readable adventures that they quote this encounter to the children of their village many years later. Koochek-Ali is cautious Hosseinali is trouble-maker but brave, and Nanneh Kordi is naïve and superstitious but experienced. The village suffers from the ignorance and excessive backwardness of its inhabitants.

Unveiling laws have still executed the mourning of Imam Hussein(a.s) is still prohibited, and no one has any news of the current events (taking place) around the globe or even the capital including the events that disrupt the enforcement of the law and overwhelming chaos is ruling over the country. The boys accompany Nanneh Kordi to go on a journey, a journey that throws them out of the village's ignorance into the middle of the September 1941 events.

**Introduction:** The novel talks about September 1941. He in his story narrates the resignation and exile of Reza Shah Pahlavi who was sent abroad when the Allies have occupied the country. The story is narrated in the first person pronoun. A narrator is an old man who narrates the story 70 years ago to several young journalists. The story begins with the issue of "unveiling". The

story is about the country's lower class (the poor) in the aftermath of the outbreak of the Second World War, the transition of power from father to his son in the Pahlavi Dynasty, and the occupation of the capital by the Allies. The situation of the rural poor in the book largely seems incredible and even humorous to the reader of the age of the explosion of information. This poor class includes the community who neither knows their king nor do the name of their country and even are unaware of what the term "country" means.

The unveiling was confronted with the resistance of many religious people and religious scholars and resulted in intimidation, threats, and imprisonment of countless people. In this novel, pulling women's hijab and the brutal extortion by the regime's police officers from simple rural people are depicted. Hadi Hakimian narrates his novel "Persimmons Garden" in a simple and captivating way and sometimes mixed with the satire of the historical flow of Reza Shah's last days in power. Actually, the author, by writing this novel, illustrates a dictator's personality who is a loser. Characteristics of this book include features such as a healthy and original (authentic) language, a cheerful right and prose, and a fluent (rhetoric) narrative. The description of Yazd's rural architecture and the environment is very captivating and attractive and is well described in the book. Sweet dialogues and, most importantly, and surprising subject of the novel are very innovative and make half the way for the novel. In this novel, we encounter a character who creates adventure and mainstream with whose help alone a writing of a (well-documented) historical novel and a narration proceeds free from a formal or anti-formal

reading and in itself (because of being well-documented) not only is a fair reading but also based on the history. The book presents both research and the art of story writing. In a nutshell, this novel is recommended as it has several exciting and fascinating scenes in the storyline.

***Book Expert:*** "As I took the tray into my hands, I went ahead unconsciously, swallowed my saliva, and asked calmly: "Do you mean you are Reza Shah?" The old man as if seemingly was distracted (as if he didn't hear me), picked up the bowl of water from the copper tray, and drank it with single breathing, and said: "Your Majesty, the Glorious Head of the Royal position, Reza Shah Pahlavi! You are on the verge of being melted just like a snowball in the sunshine of a hot Tamooz day

I did not know what Tamooz meant, but Hossein-Ali, who had always heard something from his mother, whispering in my ears told me that Tamooz, according to the elderlies, refers to hot summer days during the month of July. So Tamooz sunshine is a hot sunshiny in July. Hossein-Ali, who was holding the radio tightly in his arms, stood near me, and was carefully watching the old man."

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### About the Author:



### Hadi Hakimiyan (1978-Yazd)

Hadi Hakimiyan, Iranian novelist, has started his literary career in the previous decade by writing the novels that have grabbed the interest of his readers and literary critics. His works have gained attention in the literary prizes and awards as well. Hakimiyan's main subject of interest is social issues. Among his books are:

- Starvation Tower, (Nominated in Jalal Literary Award)
- The flower of pomegranate winds (Selected in Ghanipour Literary Award)
- Rampage Strait
- High Cedar of Gurab (Selected in the Revolution Story Festival)
- the Sleep of a leopard

## **In the Name of Youness**



*Author: Ali Armin*

*Year of Publishing: 2017*

*No. of Pages: 207*

*Size: 12.5 × 19.5*

*ISBN: 9786008145356*

*Sample English text is available.*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** Sheik Youness is a theology student who vowed, to be a preacher of God's religion during one Ramadan, in a deprived village, in exchange for his daughter's healing. After he goes to the village, he is very disappointed at how the villagers receive him. Sheikh Youness does not face a warm welcoming reception by the villagers.

But the native clergy in the city encourages him to be persistent and stay in the village. On the contrary, however, it seems that that clergy is a person of prayer, named 'Ajaber', who issues a *fatwa* and runs an organization, using tricks and lies while taking advantage of people's superstition and false teachings. So the sheik loses in this arena. The situation is so bad for him that Sheikh Youness rages on the villagers and resolves to leave the village. Before leaving, Sheik Youness participates in a race to descend into a strange well. At the bottom of the well, after weeping and whispering and praying to God he reaches full self-realization (he kills the "big black snake of ego inside him"). Subsequently, the good wheel suddenly turns and brings him out.

**Introduction:** In this story, the author follows a similarity between the story of Jonah the Prophet and a clergy named Youness. He follows the evolution of Youness's character inspired by a Quranic story, and in this way makes his reader interested in a good story. The story is narrated from God's view (the omnipotent), who tries to cite the slightest movements and states of the characters in the story. The story is linear, but sometimes the Omnipotent enters Youness's mind and in

flashbacks goes back to the days spent with his daughter and the memories he retrieves. As the way in which the Omnipotent enters Younes's mind is without warning, the reader does not perceive this act of Youness's meditation and journey into the self. One of the beauties of the book is how the writer tries to show the language, dialect and the accent (rural pronunciation) of the villagers. The design of the novel, "Named Youness", is a brilliant and interesting idea, and the author has been able to explain to the reader the benefits of the story of Youness, the Prophet, about the existential nature of man and his various aspects.

**Book Expert:** The first hand to go up was Kamaal's. After him, other hands, like the dead men who came out of the grave, rose one after another. All of them were high except for Nadir's and Younes's. Nader slowly raised his hand. Yooness raised his hand calmly. Nader wrote everyone's name. He just did not write Kal-Javad's name who was a grown-up man. As he started to write Yooness's name, Zar-Heydar prevented him from doing so, saying: "We children belong to the countryside, with the plains, mountains, hillside, mountain skirt, and wells; we have been around. But Hajj-Agha is a stranger from the city. Therefore, if you agree, he should be exempted from the lottery." Kamaal exhaled the thick smoke of his cigar through his blond mustache. He frowned while moving his thick brow, and said: "These are all in vain. There is no discrimination here among us. Those who have enjoyed the pleasure of their prayers at the altar and the salutations of the people and the Prophet all their lives let them for once bearing the bitterness of the well."

### About the Author:



### Ali Armin (1982-Tehran)

Ali Armin, Iranian young novelist, and clergyman is the Ph.D. student. He has penned different novels and short stories that welcomed by readers and were honored in various literary festivals and prizes.

#### *Some of his works:*

-I love to fly with Para motor, -Shahab's Comic Strips, -With the Name of "Yunes", -Crystal and Carpet Rug,

-Who makes Miss Orange sad? -Khatam Book, -Your Opal must belong to me.

#### *Awards:*

-Nominated for Ishraq Festival, Qom, 2017,

-Won second place in Devine Art Festival, Qom, 2017

-won in "Sohan-e Rooh" Irony Festival, Qom, 2014,

-First place at the "Soil and Sun" Congregation / Dezful, 2014

-First place at the National Congress of the Clergy and Revolution, Qazvin, 2015.

## **Booklessness**



*Author: Mohammadreza Sharafi Khaboushan*

*Year of Publishing: 2018/4<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*No. of Pages: 260*

*Size: 21× 14*

*ISBN: 9786006889979*

*Sample English text is available.*

*Selected in Jalal Al Ahmad Literary Award, Iran, 2017*

*The winner of the book of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2016*

*Honored in the Martyr Ghanipur Award, Iran, 2016*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** Mirza Ya'qoub, a specialty salesman, an antique dealer as well as a middleman (broker), is very keen of manuscripts and stone printing of books and is willing to spend any money a lot on books. His only hobby and entertainment are dealing with books. He peers in alphabetic letters, he peers in words, as if touring and taking a trip with them. He also peers in Kufi scriptwriting. He is willing to go that extra mile. He even goes a long way on this route and is willing to risk his life to this end, while sparing no efforts to find what he wants.

Mozzafar al-Din Shah's was very careful that nobody would see his books; he was greedily interested in books with a zest. Now, as time passed, Lessan al-Dawlah had somehow inherited those rare royal books and was selling them to get his greedy hands on the money. Mirza Yaqoub, who had been interested in books (and scriptwriting) since childhood, visits a house to get his hands on some valuable books but finds the landlord dead. He has been murdered. Zakiye had already brought a special book for Mirza Yaqub to sell to him which was an exquisite manuscript, a golden-edged Divaan-e Hafez handwritten beautifully in an exquisite fashion. Mirza intends to get his hands on the copies that Lessan ul-Douleh has concealed.

After Muzaffar al-Din Shah's demise, the next king fires Lessan al-Dawlah from the royal court and collects the key to the library from him before handing it to somebody named Mirza Mahdi. Subsequently, Lessan al-Dawlah is coerced to steal books from the library. It is a period when five thousand (5,000) copies of

exquisite books are stolen from Golestan Palace in order to be transferred to the Western Museums and libraries to be added to their priceless treasures and adornments.

**Introduction:** The narration of "Booklessness" starts using a first-person singular pronoun. It is about Muzaffar al-Din Shah's time. "Booklessness" takes the reader back to the Qajar era, talking about shooting the parliament with canons conveying a cocktail of the incident and cinematic and visual affairs using an eloquent expression. The sweet prose and the adventures of the book lead the reader to the conclusion of the book. The story describes the character of those who are "using books as their hobby and entertainment" but are only attracted to books because of their covers and papers. What matters most is the appearance of a book. They remain unaware of the contents.

The reader actually has a mirror before him and is seated watching his own behaviors and personality in this mirror of the book. This book invites the reader to speculate and to think and urges him to think about his own behaviors. The reader is confronted with questions that need to be answered by him. In fact, the writer places the reader in an interrogation position. The narrative structure of "Booklessness" has transformed it into a work that the reader must contribute to its reading and the author attempts to present a narrative that from its very beginning would not reveal what is in his mind.

**Book Expert:** Doesn't if King Ghertas (paper) cured us since the monster got power, cut the books, gave the manuscripts and exquisite painting to the strangers, and perished the books in the swimming pool? It now takes it out on me previously on that Zakiyeh and human beings and even out on all people of Tehran and Iran. The shelling of the parliament building, suffocating, and tearing down people aren't they "atoning"? Is Atoning of these insults true just by writing on papers? Don't you think that the property of paper has been burning down since time immemorial with the Satan from swelling, causing the books to be burned down and the exquisite versions of books, writings and paintings to be thrown into skirt of the strangers (European museums) destroyed the books in the pond? And cursed us? Now to my head, Zakiye and his predecessor, and all the people of Tehran, but Iran, have been ruined. This is not the shelling (and closure) of the Parliament and the choking and the abdomen of torn apart misery? The misery is caused as our punishment for disgrace to paper?

All of us deserve to be cursed by "paper", we were all bad on paper; from this, stupid Mozaffaradin Mirzai who did not understand anything and was sick who did not know what the book was, and his obese son. His bookkeeper is a thief, the speaker of his parliament is a thief, members of the parliament are thieves, the antique dealer is a thief, the construction worker is a thief, the slave is a thief, the housemaid is a thief, and even me, and I am a thief. This is the punishment for every one of us. Paper came to spit its curse at us from the mouth of the canon. I said to myself: "Kill Mirza Ya'qub! Your punishment has just begun."

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### About the Author:



### *Mohammadreza Sharafi Khaboushan (1978-Tehran)*

*Mohammad Reza Sharafi Khaboushan* is one of the young talents of Iran's contemporary literature who has become relatively well-known among Iranian audiences by authoring fiction books that contain new initiatives in terms of the language they use. He is well-versed in poetry in addition to storytelling and has so far published two collections of poems. Beyond the two prestigious Jalal Ale Ahmad and National Book of the Year awards, *Sharafi* has managed to nab the Golden Pen Literary Award, the Shahid Habib Ghanipour Award and the Holy Defense Book of the Year Award in Iran.

#### **Some of his books:**

-Yahya and Yakarim. Tehran: Sooreh Mehr, 2012

-Your Hair is the Home of the Fish (Moohaye to Khaneh-e Mahi-hast). Tehran: Asre Dastan, 2013

-Van Gogh Love (Ashoghi Be Sabk-e Van Gogh). Tehran: Shahrestane Adab, 2014

-Booklessness (Bi Ketabi). Tehran: Shahrestane Adab, 2016

## **Lend me your Skull Brother**



*Author: Mortaza Karbalaee*

*Year of Publishing: 2017/3<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*No. of Pages: 288*

*Size: 21× 13*

*ISBN: 97860068145837*

*\*English text is available.*

*- Award nominee of Ghalam-e Zarrin Literary Prize, Iran, 2013*

*Jalal Al-Ahmad*

*- Award nominee of Jalal AleAhmad Literary Prize, Iran, 2013*

*Jalal Al-Ahmad*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** Noorullah is heavily influenced by the bitter events of his personal life in the past, on the contrary, Salim is keenly thinking of the future. To the point where he leaves his comrades during a critical warfare mission on the edge of the Arvand River, he goes to the ruins of Cinema Rex in Abadan, where he prepares himself for the college entrance examination (higher education) through reading textbooks. Interestingly, in the midst of this crisis, a young girl named Layali appears beside him out of the blue, by mere chance. They fall in love. Salim offers his proposal for marriage to her. They have not known each other long enough to get totally acquainted. They do not know much about each other. Layalie, a girl whose house and city were destroyed by the enemy and their parents and all their family members were martyred, gives a positive answer to Salim, a combatant who left his companions in the most difficult conditions of the war.. ...

**Introduction:** Lend me your Skull Brother is the story of a group of Iranian scuba divers who are responsible for identifying the operation, have lost their commander recently (during the operations), and because they are unaware of what lies ahead by the upcoming events and the exact timing of the operations that are in progress, they find difficulty with their new commander. This novel is a fascinating and mysterious narration about a bunch of scuba divers belonging to the “Operations Intelligence Units” whose mission is to identify Ba'athist enemy positions on the verge of Operation Valfajr 8 (crossing Arvand-Rood and liberating Faw).

The writer in several chapters of his novel while reviewing the events of the past and future goes into the depths of the main characters of the story and invites the readers to explore the events of the story as he reveals the unsaid facts of the Holy Defense. By commingling the realities of war with artistic creativity, the book "Lend me your Skull, Brother!" while being loyal to the history of the war, has been able to maintain its literary and artistic value as a personality-driven novel. The most distinguished and dramatic feature of this novel is the presentation of a profound and non-stereotyped narrative of the war and its people as well as the mood, the intricate and complex nature of the soul and the mood of the people involved in the war. People who transcended by the spiritual atmosphere of the waterfront and together with the identification of enemy positions, they also visit the sights of intuition. This charming and fascinating novel is narrated by the scuba divers, diving in the midst of the troubled river of Arvand Rood, diving through the immortal heavenly kingdom, and pursuing pearls of knowledge in it! But at the expense of their lives!

***Book Expert:*** It was still an hour and a half before the twilight. As the waters approached the shore, the waters became heavier and flooded with tiny waves into the muds. Now tiny knock, knock (click, click) was heard from the right. Although Mustafa's eyelids were still as heavy as a quilt, his ears heard noises. The sound coming from the right became louder. There was a sound of fast breathing and a lot of intensified knock, knock, from everywhere, knock, and knock.

He opened his eyes. Knock, knock. He saw the shivering shadows in the dark. They shuddered their teeth; only their eyes were talking; the only part of the body that could speak and far from being frozen of ice-cold waters, because they were not on the verge of freezing.

The rest of the body was numb. Knock, knock. Mustafa was finally wide awake. He removed the lid of the honey container and threw it away. He inserted his four fingers in the thick stiff honey to pick some. He ran to his right side, to the one that seemed to be the earliest of all to come out of the water, whose jaws and mouth was locked. Mustafa grabbed the diver's lower jaw (his chin) forced his hand in to open his mouth with his left hand. The diver's chin was pressed down. His jaws could not resist the force of Mustafa's hand. He opened the diver's mouth and put his fingers in his mouth. Which one was which? He could not tell, as the driver's face was covered with mud. Only the eyes were familiar, and there were laughter and drowsiness in them. Mustafa ran to the side of the honey container one more time. He picked up more honey and turned toward the one who had come from the left side and lay on the bamboos, Mustafa then opened his mouth, too. The knock, knock stopped. He put the honey in the diver's mouth. Then he picks up the container to step toward the other newly arrived divers on the bamboos. He took a deep breath and suddenly said: "You are getting warm now. The honey makes you warm. I swear to God you are hot now. Go ahead! Eat! Eat honey!"

.....

## About the Author:



### *Mortaza Karbalaeeelou (1977-Tabriz)*

Morteza Karbalaeeeloo describes as one the freshest, most original voices in contemporary fiction among Iranian acclaimed novelists. He turned his hand to fiction when he was very young. His first short-story collection, "I am Single, Lady" released in 2003, honored in Iran National Award for the Book of the Year. He is the author of 16 books in the novel and short stories published by great publishers in Iran and won different literary prizes. They in turn attracted the attention of critics and audiences. He tries to establish his own style, considered as phenomena in Fiction sphere by critics. Morteza lives in Tehran and is busy to write a novel revolving around Ibn Arabi, one of predominant figures in Islamic mysticism.

#### *Awards:*

*1-The Winner of Isfahan Literary Festival for the book "Mr. Mofid", Iran, 2008.*

*2-The Winner of Mehregan Literary Festival for the book "A woman with green stockings boots", Iran, 2007.*

*3-Honored for the book "I am Single, Lady", IR.Iran National Award for the Book of the Year, Iran, 2004.*

*4-Honored for the book " Ghara Chuban", Haft Eghlim Literary*

*Prize, Iran, 2011.*

*5-Nominated for the book " A woman with green stockings boots" Golshiri Literary Prize, Iran, 2007.*

*6-Nominated for the book "The Fox and Arabic Moments" Ruzi Ruzegari Literary Prize, Iran, 2010.*

*7-Nominated for the book" Drinking Mist in an Orange Garden", Critics in Press Award, Iran, 2010.*

*8-Nominated for the book" Lend your Skull ,Brother " , Ghalame Zarrin, Iran, 2011.*

***Some of his Works:***

Among the famous works can be cited:

- 1-A woman with green stockings boots (short story)
- 2-The Fox and Arabic Moments (short story)
- 3-Gysuf" (short story)
- 4-Imagines (novels)
- 5- Mr. Mofid (novel)
- 6- Drinking Mist in an Orange Garden (novel)
- 7- Silhouette Shepherd (novel)
- 8-Infantry at the Piano (novel)
- 9-Lend me your Skull, Brother (novel)
- 10-The Way of the Carriage (novel)
- 11-Flushed Face (novel)
- 12- Mourning for the Knights (novel)
- 13- *of a Girl Named Aram (novel)*

## **The Green Eyes of Hihuhama**



*Author: Reihaneh Jafari*

*Year of Publishing: 2017*

*No. of Pages: 152*

*Size: 21×12*

*ISBN: 97860068145721*

*\*English text is available.*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** Keivan, the school janitor's son, lives with his father in a janitorial residential unit. His mother angrily left her husband to stay at Khanoom Joon's home. Keivan lived with his little sister, Vida. Keivan hated cats and found them agitating. When he was alone in the school courtyard or in the alley, he thought that cats intended to kill him. This whole cat thing made him resort to hallucination and illusory and thought he is like them and has grown a tail, and this illusion had left him in crisis. He was a great swimmer and was supposed to attend an important swimming tournament, but worrying about others to notice his tail would not participate. He spared no efforts to get rid of this tail. One day he decided to go to the bathroom to cut his tail. And so on...

**Introduction:** This book contains a long story written specifically for teenagers. The author in his fiction narrates a tale based on his imagination for kids. The book is organized to suit the children (keeping in mind their patience) in 28 separate chapters, each with an independent title. Thus, each of them plays the role of a short story. The author has been able to create a fictional story using a trivial subject.

**Book Expert:** With every move in my body, I felt more agitated. Energy provoked me and drove me forward. While holding a stick (cane) I descended from the tree. I sneaked forward to approach the cat. I lifted the stick. The cat was too quick for me and with agility ducked his head and the stick only struck its tail. The cat meowed loudly and quickly disappeared. Baba, who was standing on the porch facing the classrooms, yelled "Hey you child. Why

do you bother these poor miserable creatures?! As if you see your father's murderer when you see a cat!" I pounded down my feet with anger and while throwing the stick to one side, yelled: "not my dad's killer, but the killer of my beloved mockingbirds (nightingales) who were the dearest things I had."

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#### **About the Author:**

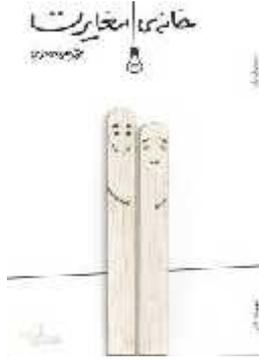


#### ***Reihaneh Jafari (Isfahan-Iran)***

Reyhaneh Jafari is an Iranian translator and writer who write for children and young adults. She has started her literary activities since 1993. She has enjoyed engaging in other cultural affairs including film directing, editing and film scripts for children. She has published 52 books so far, among them are:

- Translator of the 9th-volume collection of the novel "Stink"
- The Dad of My Bird
- My Mother married
- Who else are you?

## Houses in Contrast



*Author: MohammadAli Jafari*

*Year of Publishing: 2017*

*No. of Pages: 151*

*Size: 21× 12*

*ISBN: 97860068145421*

*\*English text is available.*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** The book is about the affairs of a young college student, Sa'eed, who has got married to Sahar for some time and tries to keep his distance from his own family where he is the only child and felt lonely. He spends most of his time at his father-in-law's home, which is crowded with five naughty noisy and adventurous children. And he calls it the "House of Conflicts". Said's father-in-law has been disabled due to involvement in a motorbike accident and that is why he cannot go to work as an ice cream shop-owner. His shop has been shut down inevitably. Sa'eed, who does not want the Cousin Noebar to take over the running of the ice cream business, takes risks to accept that responsibility aimed at helping his father-in-law to restore his health. That is what forms the events and adventures that lead to the formation of the story.

**Introduction:** The "Houses in Contrast" is a story of two families, each representing two different family classes with a different lifestyle in the community. Sa'eed, as a single child was born and educated in a prosperous family, whereas Sahar, his wife, was born and brought up in a family whose members have warm, sincere and close attachments to one another. The differences between the lifestyle of the two families, concerns, anxieties, pleasures, sadness, and discomfort are sometimes implied through the narrations presented by the narrator and sometimes is directly revealed through Saeed's words of comparison, who witnesses the differences between the two families. From this endeavor, satirical and very humorous situations are created. "Houses in Contrast" is the story of "hope" and "position." Because

throughout the entire story, the main character's quest to reach a happy-ending is obvious. Considering the author's narrative style and the details that he presents, illustrations and the tangible subject matter of the story, the novel can be converted into scriptwriting to make a television serial or even a cinematic movie. Thus it will attract the attention of many viewers.

***Book Expert:*** I browsed the Internet all night. Not to in order to distract my mind. I was looking for a remedy for my anguish. I had no confidants to speak to. Maybe it would have helped if I had an elder sister. Something in my heart (my being nuts assured me) assured me that I had fallen in love. I noticed all the traits (of love) in me: Head down coupled with sadness, forgetfulness coupled with insomnia, losing weight and a profound loving look, hatred towards people with a desire to be alone, smile, gestures with eyes, and sometimes sighing. Then while browsing the internet, I realized something. I realized the school of thought of being nuts has roots and runs in the family.

### About the Author:



*MohammadAli Jafari*

*(1985-Yazd)*

Mohammad Ali Jafari has already written books on the biography of the martyrs and elders. But "Noble Occupation" can be considered as his short story book. A book on the lifestyle that characterized the author as a handsome, intelligent, and capable.

## **The Sleeping Panther**



*Author: Hadi Hakimiyan*

*Year of Publishing: 2018*

*No. of Pages: 207*

*Size: 19.5× 12.5*

*ISBN: 97860068145236*

*\*English text is available.*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** Mirza Reza, a friend of Kooche-Ali's father, initially comes to the village to sell out his inherited real estate, but finds a job later as a teacher in the nearby village school; a good man who has done his time and just been released from prison. Through the pains (he suffered in the prison) the boys while listening to the memoirs of the father get acquainted with while accompanying him on a trip to the city. Kooche-Ali's father is a man who despite the fact that has caught a wild leopard with his bare hands cannot claim his right from the village sheriff (Kad-khoda) and the cruel Prince kad-khoddha who governs the city through oppression and tyranny. Perhaps during the reign of Nasser al-din Shah that is how the entire lower class of Iran suffered from the tyranny of the ruling authority. However, at the same time, Mirza Reza Kermani is ready to confront the wild leopard sitting on the throne, and Kooche-Ali plays a crucial role in Mirza Reza's plan.

**Introduction:** The book "the Sleeping Panther," attempts to drag a story from the abundance of pages of history, to remove the unknown dust from its face, and to put it before the eyes of young readers, to tell them about the life and biography of Mirza Reza Kermani, Nasser-al-Din Shah's assassin, who was 40 years old. Hadi Hakimian's latest novel, with a metaphorical storyline, portrays the depth of a nation's desperation and misery at the time of Nasser, but hopelessly yet it shows hope and a way out.

**Book Expert:** The bold Cossack moved eyes again around the yard and stretched out his finger toward Hosseinali for the first

time: “so let’s take that bald man.... I think he knows something. Isn't it possible to go alone?”

Hosseinali while running in the roof upstairs shouted: “Hey, bald are you, yourself... even I am a friend of chancellor... even a friend with the King, Majesty!! Woe to you if you touch me. The annoyed bald Cossack ran toward the stairs and wanted to climb the roof chasing Hosseinali... but their commander called and said: “leave him”.

### About the Author:

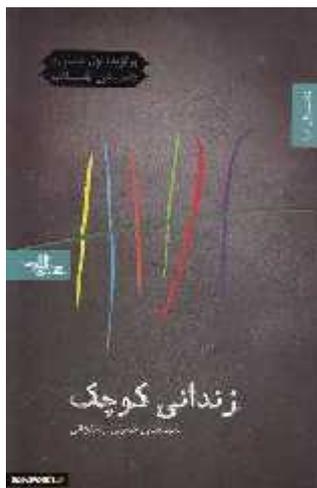


### Hadi Hakimiyan (1978-Yazd)

Hadi Hakimiyan, Iranian novelist, has started his literary career in the previous decade by writing the novels that have grabbed the interest of his readers and literary critics. His works have gained attention in the literary prizes and awards as well. Hakimiyan's main subject of interest is social issues. Among his books are:

- Starvation Tower, (Nominated in Jalal Literary Award)
- The flower of pomegranate winds (Selected in Ghanipour Literary Award)
- Rampage Strait
- High Cedar of Gurab (Selected in the Revolution Story Festival)
- the Sleep of a leopard

## **The Little Prisoner**



*Author: Seyyed Hassan Husseini Arsanjani*

*Year of Publishing: 2017/9<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*No. of Pages: 91*

*Size: 19.5× 12.5*

*ISBN: 97860093395587*

*\*English text is available.*

*- 1st place in the fourth festival of the revolution story.*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** Headmaster of the school became so angry when he noticed the schoolmaster had slogans on the thatched wall of Reza Gholi's house, one of the villagers, that he informed the commander of the police officer. The police who found the school principal suspicious questioned him, arrested him, and took him to the police station. Zeynal and Rasoul (two adolescent characters) became curious and followed the school principal's case. Later on, presumed that if most of the walls in the village were covered with graffiti of slogans and if writing slogan on the village walls continues, the school principal will not be held responsible or considered suspicious. Therefore, they started to write a slogan on all other walls in the village. They got away with it from the agents at that night. However, Zeynal was arrested and sent to a detention center, where he got acquainted with the other combatants and finally together escaped from the jail.

**Introduction:** The story of this book is abstract and related to the pre-revolutionary era. The story took place in a village. Students wrote anti-Shah slogans on the walls. Initially, the police point the finger at the schoolmaster, who is also the teacher of the village school. He gets arrested and is taken to the police station. Next, the pupils strive to free him. In doing so they get involved in various adventures. The simplicity in the expression of events in this book and mentioning the timely details have made the readers of the book identify with and take the story characters as their role models. Rural environment of the novel properly describes the

social, political, cultural, and somehow the traditions of a typical Iranian village. The author's strategy to instill this feeling in the reader is using an information device inside the prison. He conveys the news about the revolution step-by-step to his reader quoting the decrepit radio of warrant officer Teymuri, and this strategy, though stereotyped but effective, was used in this part of the novel. The story continues in its specific and transparent path free from explaining any trivial secondary issues constantly moving the reader in the story path.

**Book Expert:** Each of the boys made a comment and expressed his idea. Then sheriff's bulky tall figure was seen in the turn of Hammam Alley. There was a cashmere bundle under his arm and his broad and corpulent face was seen red like a pomegranate. Gholumi was excited to see him and ran toward him. Breathlessly, he said hello in a nasal voice, and revealed the news of the graffiti (the writing on the wall) to him. The sheriff that was appalled by the news gave the bundle to him, touched his soft suit, and walked fast. The crowd said hello to him and moved away to open his way. He moved his round hat, got his hackles, and looked at the wall. The writing covered all over Reza Gholi's house and seemed red under the sunlight like a pigeon's blood.

- Well, what has been written that attracted such a big crowd to gather here? What? "The people in the crowd looked at each other and Gholumi's round eyes were filled with laughter and said: "ha, ha, ha! What you say, master! We are blind and illiterate as you. We cannot predict the future!

### About the Author:



### *Seyyed Hassan Hussein Arsanjani (Shiraz-Iran)*

Writing about the lives of villagers in the years of the Iranian Islamic revolution and the role played by this massive popular movement is the main subject of the books of Seyyed Hassan Hussein.

Some of his books are:

-Surveillant of the Eighth Grade Class, 2012/ Selected at the Third Festival of the Revolutionary Story

-The Land of Stone

-Seventh-grade Pupils

## Those with Horn Noses



*Author: O'zra Musavi*

*Year of Publishing: 2017*

*No. of Pages: 183*

*Size: 19.5× 12.5*

*ISBN: 9786008145394*

*\*English text is available.*

*-Honored on the Parvin Etesami literary prize.*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** This story is about a teenage girl whose parents left the country for medical treatment. Hence, she has to stay at her aunts' house for a while. There is an adolescent boy there, too. He has to give up his room to let his cousin stay there. This fact makes him sad. In addition, he considers his cousin in the way of his clandestine operations. Thus there is a hidden fight between the two cousins which leads to unpredicted results. Soheil has just gotten an independent room in their house and is happy about it. However, his cousin, Niloufar, whose parents went abroad to give birth to their new toddler, is their guest and in a way occupies (takes over/confiscates) his room. So this boy is angry. His anger grows when he feels that his cousin ingratiates to his family. His aunt suffers from lupus disease but wants to have a child.

**Introduction:** This novel was written for teenagers and has a captivating attractive story. As the adventure is tangible, the reader can easily identify the main character of the story and put himself in the character's shoes. The story of this social novel takes place during the contemporary era. The story proceeds with "association". Association is often tied with the story. This book has been admired by both readers and literary critics while being qualified for the domestic literature awards.

**Book Expert:** Eventually, my parents' entry visa was issued. Farshid, my father's friend (who lived abroad) was responsible for all of that. He had talked my parents into attaching mom's medical file (profile) before sending it to him via email so that he could take it to a specialized clinic to show it to one of those old

bald doctors who with wrinkled shaky hands know the whole story as soon as they glance at a patient's file.

Dad sat down on the sofa. Mother placed the last pieces of the dishes in the water-dropper to dry and threw the scrubbing sponge in the sink stuck.

- "Make sure you buy another (sponge) when you go out. Please, buy a proper dishwashing sponge next time. These rough scrubbing sponges scratch all the dishes." She then reached for the towel on the kitchen cabinet to dry her hands but the towel was not there.

### About the Author:



### O'zra Musavi

Mousavi is one of the most talented and energetic woman writers who have a great interest in writing stories for children. The main theme in most of her books is the adventures of revolution and sacred defense. His works have won many literary awards so far. She has many books for children so far, including:

- "Plaque without Head", Short story, 2008
- "The angel of rude", Short story, 2011
- "Cat Cathedral Conqueror" Short story
- "Sadri Garden Celebration" Novel
- "The Clown and the Bitter Orange", Novel
- "Mom!" Where is God? "Picture book

### *Awards:*

-Honored in the Third and Fifth Holy Defense Story Festival / 2008

- Second place in the fourth festival of the story of revolution / 2011
- Second place in the tenth festival of poetry and young story 2011
- The First Place of the 11th Young Poetry and Sura Festival/2013
- Second place in the Ishraq festival of Illumination / 2014

## **Romance, the Vincent Van Gogh's Style**



*Author: Mohammadreza Sharafi Khaboushan*

*Year of Publishing: 2017/2th Edition*

*No. of Pages: 212*

*Size: 21×14*

*ISBN: 9786006889061*

*\*English text is available.*

*- Nominated for Jalal Al Ahmad Literary Award.*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** Alborz with a congenital defect in one of his legs was the playmate of Nazli, the Brigadier General's daughter. When Nazli grows up like Alborz gets involved in the field of painting. The two intimate friends become closer to one another not only due to their interests in the art of painting but also emotionally. However, later on, Nazli took away from Alborz and chose her own lifestyle which ended in (a marriage and) divorce from her husband. Following that Nazli steps on the road of nonchalance, irresponsibility, and laziness.

Nazli is flying to Europe in compliance with her father's wish and decision. But just before setting out for her last journey to Europe, she finds her father's behavior suspicious. She asks, her childhood playmate, Alborz to keep not only her father under surveillance but also keep an eye on the commuting of anybody to their villa and garden when she is away in (during her absence). In order to comply with Nazli's instructions, Alborz secretly keeps everything under surveillance, including the commuting of anybody to the villa and garden and the general's activities. He must also discover whether the general will bring home any woman in the absence of Nazli and her mother. Subsequently, during his mission, Alborz noticed a well and cellar which is the secret of the general's suspicious operations (movements).

The general with the help of some of his military companion (with the same ideology and mentality as himself) kills the pro-revolutionary activist (people) who are opposing the Shah – murders them, drags them to the cellar and throws them into the

well. They decided to kill the revolutionists arbitrarily, while informing neither the ruling authorities (power), nor (even) security centers (intelligence service – SAVAK) and perished the revolutionists' commanders without leaving any signs, trace or fingerprints aimed at protecting the monarchy and this belief that struggling movement against the monarchy should be suppressed and quelled even before being born (strangled).

Finally, the stinking smell of the accumulated dead bodies went out of the well and the general together with his allies tried to get rid of the smell by pouring gallons of acid inside the well. Alborz found out the secret by hiding in the room of the general's daughter eavesdropping the conversation of the sergeants and the General. Alborz went out of Nazli's room and heard a sound from the well. When the general heard the moaning he took out his weapon bending into the well to shoot toward the dead bodies. The general raised his head and noticed the presence of Alborz and the dog. The general was shocked /surprised to see Alborz. The dog approached his owner as the sign of loyalty. The general lost his balance and fell down into the well with his dog. Alborz left the garden's outer space by hearing the sound of walking. Alborz went to Mashhad by understanding the life secret of the General to his house and visited him. The general finally recognized Alborz and divulged his life secret.

***Introduction:*** The story is about a boy, Alborz, who grew up as the janitor's son in the house of one of the commanders of the imperial army and was the playmate of his daughter, Nazli. At the beginning of the novel, Alborz did something unusual for Nazli

that is a bit contrary to his habit, but it motivates the reader to try to figure out Alborz's action. Book of "Romance, the Van Gogh's Style" is written in four chapters. The author artfully plots three different socio-cultural environments in three different times. In a very varied space, Tehran is in the threshold of the Islamic Revolution and it describes the intellectual atmosphere of the intellectuals of that era, the interactions of the army at the time of the Shah, and very different dominant atmosphere on the surrounding village of Quchan city and ends an attractive story. The historical condition of the story narration also includes the era after Muzaffreddin Shah Qajar to Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

**Book Expert:** According to Nazli, painting makes you deaf, takes your hearing into the paints and when you think about the painting or when you are drawing, not only you see the colors but also you hear them. The smell and taste you feel is the smell and taste of paint. You cast your touch on your painting using the tall narrow handle of your paintbrush. Then sometimes you decide to give so much space to this touch that you use your fingertip to mix the pain to bring out your desired colors.

### About the Author:



### *Mohammadreza Sharafi Khaboushan (1978-Tehran)*

*Mohammad Reza Sharafi Khaboushan* is one of the young talents of Iran's contemporary literature who has become relatively well-known among Iranian audiences by authoring fiction books that contain new initiatives in terms of the language they use. He is well-versed in poetry in addition to storytelling and has so far published two collections of poems. Beyond the two prestigious Jalal Ale Ahmad and National Book of the Year awards, *Sharafi* has managed to nab the Golden Pen Literary Award, the Shahid Habib Ghanipour Award and the Holy Defense Book of the Year Award in Iran.

#### **Some of his books:**

-Yahya and Yakarim. Tehran: Sooreh Mehr, 2012

-Your Hair is the Home of the Fish (Moohaye to Khaneh-e Mahi-hast). Tehran: Asre Dastan, 2013

-Van Gogh Love (Asheghi Be Sabk-e Van Gogh). Tehran: Shahrestane Adab, 2014

-Booklessness (Bi Ketabi). Tehran: Shahrestane Adab, 2016

## **Mahna's Appointment**



*Author: Mahdi Kaffash*

*Year of Publishing: 2018*

*No. of Pages: 55*

*Size: 19.5×12.5*

*ISBN: 9786008145943*

*\*English text is available.*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** Sadegh, an Iranian lawyer, goes to Syria as a combatant “Defender of the Shrine” to fight against ISIS and uses the pseudonym “Abolfazl” there. One of the ISIS headquarters is located in Mahna Building, from where snipers shoot at the defenseless people who try to flee the city. Abolfazl’s team joins other warriors from various countries, whose mission is to conquer the building in collaboration with other combatants. Abolfazl, who was a martyr’s son, joined the “Defender of the Shrine Warrior group” in spite of his mother’s protest. That is why he tries to make his mother happy in various ways. Experiencing many adventures, finally after tunneling their way into the basement of the building they succeed to penetrate into it and after engaging in a difficult fight they manage to conquer it...

**Introduction:** This novel had conducted research about the events in Syria and the holy defense tried to make the story credible/believable by expressing the details. The present book created suitable characters. It is a remarkable book. is book could be significant by the proper characterization and identifying characters fully far from exaggeration and excessive descriptions, pursuing several stories simultaneously alongside the original storyline without compromising the main issue of providing military, geographic and public information about the Syrian crisis, creating distinct spaces in the story, the atmosphere of concern and family life, war and even the past. Mahna’s Appointment is a beautiful abstract of resistance with this concept that each character represents a group of the war-involved group

in Syria like the old Ba'athists, Hades al-Sha'b of Iraq, Fatimid, Qods, and Pasdaran Corps, Takfiris with different nationalities, etc.

***Book Expert:*** He magnified the map. Yellow circles had been drawn around several apartments on the street where the complex was located. It is Here! About ten apartments around the street. One of the Mujahidin members who had witnessed the car explosion said had dragged himself into this street after the blast. By looking at the magnified picture it seems that the block is a dead end and that these ten apartments are the only place where he could have hidden.

### About the Author:



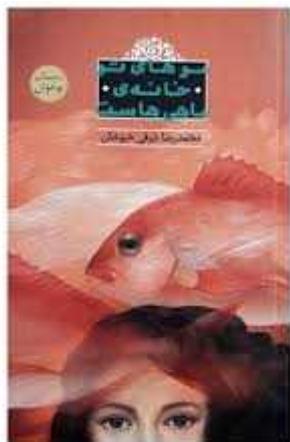
### *Mehdi Kaffash*

*(Gorgan-1983)*

Mehdi Kaffash is one of the most successful Iranian writers in the field of fiction literature. Most of his works have been appreciated in various literary awards. He has been editor of several magazines and literary magazines. Kaffash mainly writes stories on holy defense and political and social issues. Among his bestselling books are:

- Certain Time
- The Mahna Appointment
- Let it Stay
- There was one, lack of three

## **Your Hair is the Nest of Fish**



*Author: Mohammadreza Sharafi Khaboushan*

*Year of Publishing: 2018/4<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*No. of Pages: 104*

*Size: 19.5×12.5*

*ISBN: 9786008145813*

*\*English text is available.*

*- Selected in Fifth Festival of the Revolutionary Story in the Teenage Section, Iran, 2012*

### About the Book:

**Abstract:** “Your hair is the nest of fish” is the narration of a teenager who lives in a village near Varamin. During his meditation, an Arab girl appeared before him in a revelatory way and says strange things about an ambiguous time and place. Sometimes she refers to a not too far event and sometimes to a near event. The boy follows the girl as his adolescence curiosity and due to his truth of heart, he longs to discover her secrets and words and thus faces problems normal for his age. The problems were such as the classmates’ reactions and not being taken seriously by adults, etc. this revelation ends in a tragic incident in Vakilabad village of Varamin and he witnesses a massacre which is the source of a huge evolution in the birth for the future years. This little child (as if traveling in time) travels from the year 687 to the year 1964 and the adolescent of the story finds her and gets acquainted with her. This girl narrated the story of Ashura and the adolescent simultaneously visited (what had taken place) in 1964. The main story of this girl is when Bani Assadi tribe presented in Ashura event; they faced with the abandoned bodies of the martyrs lying on the ground. Many girls and women participated in their funeral ceremony.

One reason to use the young girl in the story is that many girls and women saw this event and buried the bodies of the martyrs. On the other hand, “I used the girl character to make the story attractive both for boys and girls and somehow to be the witness of the story”. As if things are repeated again because the dead

bodies were on the ground in 1963, 6, 1, and then they were collected.

**Introduction:** This novel is about the bloody events during June of the year 1963, to the protest of the people of Varamin city against Imam Khomeini's arrest and detention. The author tried in this work to keep the young readers attracted until the end of the story by proper characterization. He was certainly successful. This book narrates this event as a story and is a novel with all the features of a good adolescence novel. The narrator is the teenage boy and the tone of the book suits the age and the narrator's view. There are one or two secondary stories about the main story which are attractive for teenagers. The good point in the text of the story is that it is written in a conversational or dialog form. This issue is so valuable in prose. It is very difficult to write a conversation with the prose tone. The ending of the story is good from which you can see the suffering and grief of the story but has a bright future.

**Book Expert:** "The truck runs faster and throws us up and down. Some dust rises again and some people who had put on their hats in Varamin, now take them off to place them in their pockets or in scarves. I see handbags carried by one or two people. One person brought his shovel in the truck. Hairs dance and a film of dust are sitting on some bald people's heads. One person's head is shaded and becomes funny by the shower of perspiration. I want to laugh but I am hungry. As my mother says "you can't laugh with an empty stomach." She tells the truth. Laughter is for the rich. It is really for the ones with a full stomach. Laughter suits those whose

bellies go up and down by their laughter. I recall my mom. What is she doing now? Where is the Ghazerieh girl? How could I come here? From the timely appearance of Ooss Rahim's Hassan and running the dogs away. The punctual emergence of the truck is, on one hand, a miracle and on the other hand normal. Oos Rahim's Hassan was already there, so obviously it wasn't odd. He had heard the barking of the dogs. The truck had no business with us. Its driving was just driving along the road. According to Mr. Partovi, what seems a very normal thing is like a miracle to us or not. What was that? Aha, many things which seem usual in our eyes, once we sit down and think deeply about them are miracles. For example this Ghazerieh girl. Isn't it enough of a miracle?"

### About the Author:



### *Mohammadreza Sharafi Khaboushan (1978-Tehran)*

*Mohammad Reza Sharafi Khaboushan* is one of the young talents of Iran's contemporary literature who has become relatively well-known among Iranian audiences by authoring fiction books that contain new initiatives in terms of the language they use. He is well-versed in poetry in addition to storytelling and has so far published two collections of poems. Beyond the two prestigious Jalal Ale Ahmad and National Book of the Year awards, *Sharafi* has managed to nab the Golden Pen Literary Award, the Shahid Habib Ghanipour Award and the Holy Defense Book of the Year Award in Iran.

#### **Some of his books:**

-Yahya and Yakarim. Tehran: Sooreh Mehr, 2012

-Your Hair is the Home of the Fish (Moohaye to Khaneh-e Mahi-hast). Tehran: Asre Dastan, 2013

-Van Gogh Love (Ashoghi Be Sabk-e Van Gogh). Tehran: Shahrestane Adab, 2014

-Booklessness (Bi Ketabi). Tehran: Shahrestane Adab, 2016

# Short Stories

## **Borderline**



*Author: Seyyed Hussein Musaviniyan*

*Year of Publishing: 2017*

*No. of Pages: 136*

*Size: 21× 14*

*ISBN: 97860068145141*

*\*English text is available.*

## About the Book

**Abstract:** A teenager has a burning desire to go to the frontline of the war (waterfront), but at some point, he gets cold feet (from one place onwards he loses his enthusiasm) and loses his interest in getting to the line. It seems that after hearing the noise of shooting and the explosives on the line coupled with seeing the bloody body of the martyrs and injured teenagers at a juvenile age, he wonders if he is really prepared for such consequences. He who has done a lot of exercises to dig the trench and ... when he faces the reality of jihad, he decides to retreat.

**Introduction:** The seven stories of this collection are dedicated to the war and the families involved in it, both during and after the Sacred Defense. The "Borderline" begins with the first story titled "A View" which narrates the story on the Iraqi front. "Once Upon a Time, Father" is the family life story of a devotee with nerve and psychiatric disorder. "Bloody Cans", "Gol-e Yakh", "Wandering Hands", and Qanaat "Aqueduct" narrate the other related events during the imposed war such as conquest of Khorramshahr, scuba diving martyrs, and "Karbala-ye Chahar" line breakers. The maturity and selection are the main motifs of "The Borderline". The author has created characters who must make decisions in the fateful nick of time. The book has tried to glance at the Sacred Defense to explore different spheres while taking a fresh look at this important event of contemporary history in the country.

**Book Expert:** The streets leading to Baharestan Sq. are packed with the crowd. When Palarzane, arrives at the Wooden Bridge

(Pol-eChoobi intersection) he glimpses both sides while holding his both hands on his waist. He thinks to himself: "It seems when people are somewhere high, jumping is the first thought that comes to their minds. "He leans downward (bends) slightly forward over the bridge... "

Also on the book's back cover is written: "They are coming to take the volunteers to the waterfront this evening." They did not mention the word "operations". That is how complicated and vague it was. I put away the blanket. I am feeling bad, feeling like a snake whenever it is peeling off its skin.

#### **About the Author:**



#### ***Seyyed Hussein Musaviniya***

***(1986-Rey)***

He has commenced writing since 2004 and has won awards at a range of festivals. The "Borderline" is his first book, but he has published stories in books such as "Memory of Zafar", "Arabic Perfume" and "Where Have You Elias?" before now. Musaviniya is currently writing research in the field of religious literature to be released in the book format.

# Non-Fiction

## Qaaf



*Author: Yasin Hejazi*

*Year of Publishing: 2016/8<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*No. of Pages: 1163*

*Size: 19.5× 20.5*

*ISBN: 97860068896658*

*\*English text is available.*

## About the Book

**Introduction:** This book is about the prophet' life and the result of reviewing three ancient Persian books the last of which was written eight centuries ago. These three books are “Syrat Rasoulallah”, “Sharafannabi”, and “Tafsir-e Surabadi”. The book starts with the history from two millennia BC when Joseph Ibn Jacob becomes the Ruler of Egypt and it ends in the midnight nightmare of the year 680. The present book can be considered a successful collage. The story has been written using images, a part of a letter or a part of some conversations and setting them together. Each of the small stories is a piece of the collage, and setting them together will lead to the core of the story (and understanding it) and the integrated collage can be seen. This work is provided as an orderly integrated linear narration in a defendable structure. Events and characters of this book are only excuses to pursue the prophet. Therefore, most events in which the prophet does not play a significant role have been omitted. Another issue is that only the dramatic elements consisting of dialogues and images have been used out of the entire texts of those three ancient books. Save the dialogues and images, all the explanations have been put away. Each image or a part of a conversation has been brought in a separate page and the paragraphs are chronologically presented according to the order and rhythms of the events related to each other .Thus the reader is responsible to personally set each of these pages (small tiles) next to each other to complete its great terminal design.

**Book Expert:** Halimeh said: “I woke up and I was stronger than the other women of Bani Sa’d. I could tolerate the burden better than them (I was stronger in being pregnant) and had so much milk in my breasts that I could not endure their weight, resembling two big jars as milk dropped from them like water from the (barrel).

The Bani Sa’d people were very poor and all those around me were starving, faces changed, and moaning was heard from each house from famine and pain as they moaned like sick people. They were so dehydrated that no tear dropped while crying. There was nothing on mountains and no blossomed tree on land. Arabs were near to death.

The women gathered around me. So much milk in my breasts was a source of amazement to them and said: “Vow! Oh, Halimeh! You look like a princess now. Yesterday you used to have a pale face and you were at hardship. What happened to you?”

I had nothing to say as while I was dreaming in my sleep I had been told: “Keep your mood secret!”

The women decided to go to Mecca and I accompanied them.

I had a female donkey whose body was just a skeleton from starvation. Others traveled fast but my vehicle was still (not moving). I had to travel at the speed of my donkey. It was so weak as if stuck in the mud.

### About the Author:



#### *Yassin Hejazi (1978-Tehran)*

Yassin Hejazi writes more about the religious and historical themes. His works are usually among the best-selling books in Iran. He is also active in the field of documentary film.

## **Translation & Publication Grant Program**

### **Introduction**

Aims at fostering the Iranian Publication Industry, and boosting the presence of Iranian books in global markets. The Cultural Deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance provides the supporting grant for the translation and publication of Persian books by foreign translators and publishers based on the following criteria.

### **Objectives:**

Introducing Persian literature and culture to other countries

Facilitating cultural diplomacy and international ties through literary and cultural relationships

Fostering the Iranian Publication Industry

Preparing the ground for private publishers and cultural institutes to cooperate with their foreign counterparts

### **Priorities**

This grant could be allocated to the translation and publication of all Iranian books having ISBN numbers issued by the Ministry of Culture in any theme and subject; however, the priority is given to the following topics:

Contemporary Literature (Fiction / Non-Fiction)

Arts

Islamic /Iranian Studies

## Books on topics for Children & Young Adults

### **Grant Receivers (Who Can Apply):**

All natural and legal persons who own/buy the copyrights of the Persian books from their Iranian right holders can apply for this grant. These include:

Private Publishers

### **The Grant Is Provided For:**

Translation costs (fully/partly)

Publication costs (fully/partly)

### **The Amount of the Grant**

The financial value of this grant will be as follows:

**As for the books for children and young adults (mostly illustrated): up to 1000 US dollars for each title**

**As for the books for adults: up to 3000 US dollars for each title**

### **Evaluation Criteria**

- The Quality of the translation into a foreign language; including accuracy, fluency, cohesion, coherence, etc.
- The publisher's plan and potentiality for distributing the book in the target country
- The time span for fulfilling the task (maximum 2 years)

### **Allocation Procedure**

- 25% of the total fund will be paid after signing a copyright contract with the Iranian publisher or author, and submitting other requirements to the secretariat.
- The remaining amount (75%) will be paid after finalizing the publishing procedure and submitting the printed copy of the book to the secretariat.

### **How to Submit Requests**

Send the application in printed or electronic form (available at: [www.bookgrant.ir](http://www.bookgrant.ir) )

Send the full CV (resume) of the translator or/and publisher, with the revealing documents attached.

Send the legal copyright contract with the Iranian publisher

Provide a copy of the Persian book which is going to be translated and published by the publisher

Provide a sample of the translation (10 pages)

Note: All of the documents mentioned above could be uploaded and submitted to the secretariat via the official website of the project.

### **Contact Information**

**Email address:** [info@bookgrant.ir](mailto:info@bookgrant.ir)

**Website:** [www.bookgrant.ir](http://www.bookgrant.ir)

**Tel-fax:** 0098(0)2188318655

**Postal Address:** No. 7, Fajr Building, Fajr St., Ghaem Magham Ave., Tehran, Iran. Postal Code: 1589746511

## ***Pol Literary & Translation Agency***

*Founded in 2005, POL is a full-service agent that translates Iranian books and represents Persian language publishers, authors and illustrators through the world.*

*POL try to make publicity of Iranian books through the introduction and presentation in major international cultural events such as book fairs to sell their rights as well as identifying and introducing useful books from other countries to translate and publish in Iran.*

***Pol main programs are:***

- 1 - Children and Young adults*
- 2 - Fiction (Novels and short stories)*
- 3 - Non-Fiction*

***POL services and editorial developments are:***

*-Publicity of Iranian books through introduction and presentation of books in major international book fairs, catalogues and brochures, websites, literary and cultural seminars and through contacts and negotiation with literary agencies and publishers throughout the world.*

*-Handling Iranian authors and illustrators in foreign countries to sell their rights of books to publishers.*

*-Handling the publishers and authors from other countries in Iran to sell their rights to Iranian publishers.*

*-Holding and managing stands in different international book fairs for publishers.*

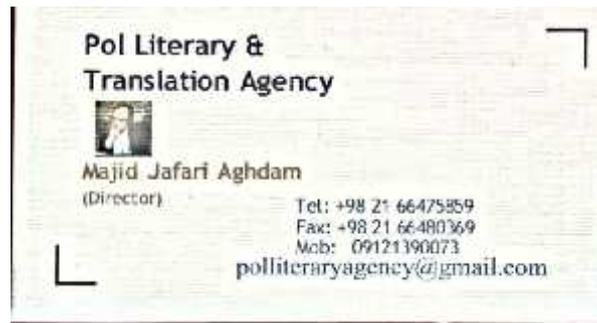
*- Making easy for authors and illustrators to participate in different international cultural events.*

*-Translation and editing books from Persian (Farsi) into other languages and vice versa.*

*-International distribution of Iranian books in other countries*

*-Co-publishing books with publishers in other countries.*

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