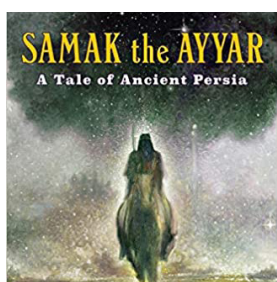
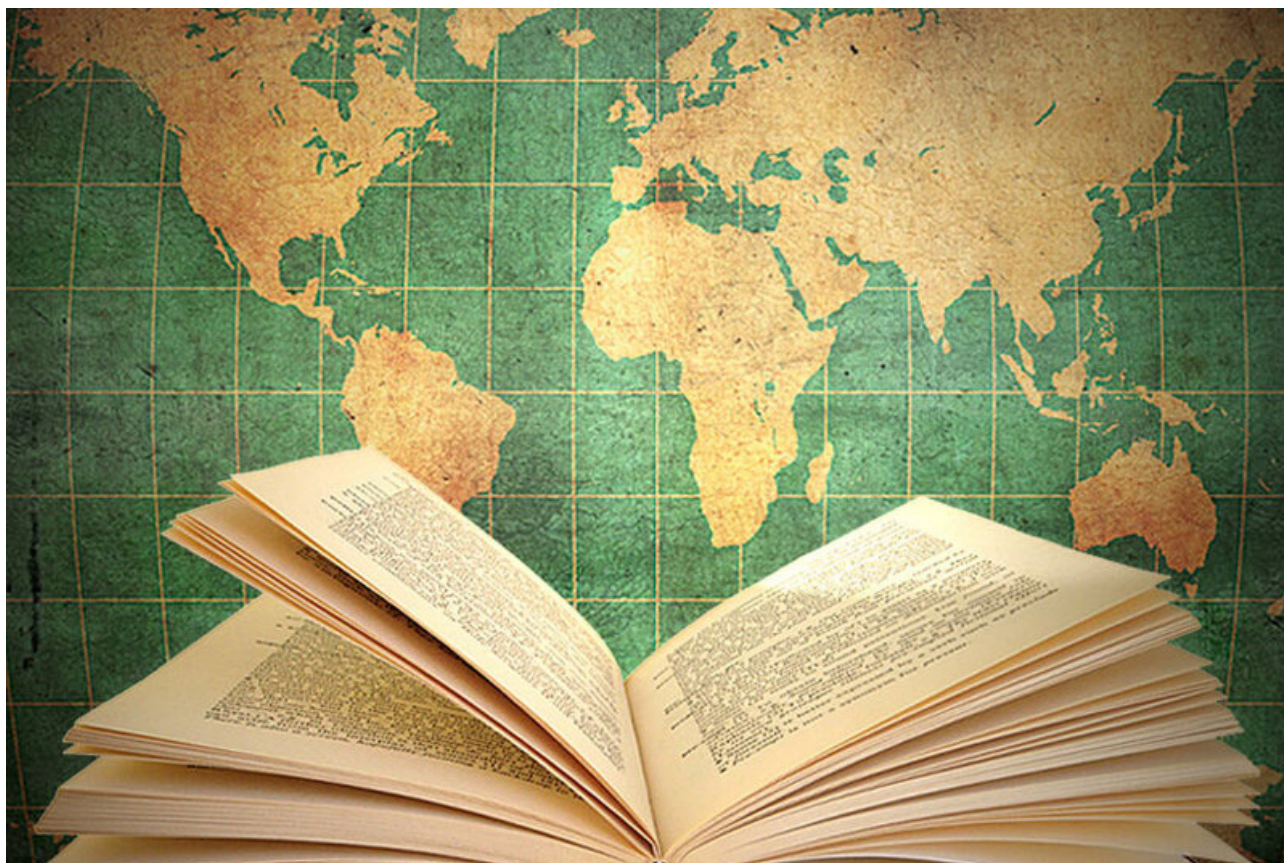


PUBLISHING IN IRAN MAGAZINE

A quarterly reporting on the operation and development of the Iranian book market and publishing industry



"Samak the Ayyar"
published in
English



**Why isn't Arab
literature popular in
Iran?**



**Serbia's Utopia
eager to publish more
books from modern
Persian literature**

**Iranian publishers
and literary
agencies at
6th Istanbul
publishing
fellowship**



**Some Essential Books by Iranian
Writers Published Abroad**

The List of Pol Literary Agency's Right Transaction

Winter-2021

Title: The Age of Forty

Author: Nahid Tabatabai

Licensee: Cheshme publications-Iran

Publisher: Safran Book-Ukraine

Language: Ukrainian

Title: FRIENDSHIP NET

Author: Somfai Anna

Licensee: Cerka Bella Bt. Hungary

Publisher: Ana Pol Pubs. Iran

Language: Persian

Title: Happy Family

Author: Méhes György

Licensee: Cerka Bella Bt. Hungary

Publisher: Ana Pol Pubs. Iran

Language: Persian

Title: Kambiri

Author: Lluís Prats

Licensee: IMC Literary Agency-Spain

Publisher: Ana Pol Pubs. Iran

Language: Persian

Title: Panda's Diary Series

Author: Yang Hongying

Licensee: Jiung Boyan Pubs. China

Publisher: Ana Pol Pubs. Iran

Language: Persian

Title: Underwater

Author: Marisa Reichardt

Licensee: Odelia Pubs. Argentina

Publisher: Ana Pol Pubs. Iran

Language: Persian

Title: No One at Home

Author: Elham Fallah

Licensee: Kooche Pubs. Iran

Publisher: Qanun Pubs-Azerbaijan

Language: Turkish

Title: White Crow

Author: Fraideh Jahandide

Licensee: Ana Pol Pubs. Iran

Publisher: Dolphin Pub. China

Language: Chinese

Title: No Flower Blooms Without Wavering

Author: Do Jang Hwan

Licensee: RHK Publication House South Korea

Publisher: Hezareh Ququn Pubs. Iran

Language: Persian



PUBLISHING IN IRAN MAGAZIN (Quarterly)

A Magazine Exclusively on the Book Publishing and
Book Market in Iran

Vol.07 / winter 2020

- 4** Iranian Titles in International Book Markets
- 12** Why isn't Arab literature popular in Iran?
- 14** Iranian publishers and literary agencies at
6th Istanbul publishing fellowship
- 15** Foreign authors top sellers with
literature-loving Tehran women
- 16** Iranian Bestseller Authors
- 18** Iranian Bestsellers Publishers
- 20** An Interview with Sara Khalili
(Iranian Translator)
- 22** Some Essential Books by Iranian
Writers Published Abroad
- 27** Recommending some Iranian titles
to translate and publish
- 33** publishing in iran news

Iran
Unit.8, No.80, Inghlab Squ., Tehran-
Iran,

Tel: +98 21 66480369-66478558-
66907693
Fax: +98 21 66480369

www.pol-ir.ir

polliteraryagency@gmail.com

Turkey
Unit.4, No.6, Taskend Str., Levent, Istanbul-
Turkey
Tel: +9054488039558



Advisory Board

Manager Director & Publisher:

Majid Jafari Aghdam

[\(polliteraryagency@gmail.com\)](mailto:polliteraryagency@gmail.com)

■ Editor-in-Chief:

Petter Salune

[\(polagency2005@gmail.com\)](mailto:polagency2005@gmail.com)

■ Translation:

Translation Department in Pol

Literary Agency

(Marjan seydi. Mohammadreza vazirzade)

■ Layout & Design:

Hamideh Khajavi Rad

[\(hamideh.khajavirad@gmail.com\)](mailto:hamideh.khajavirad@gmail.com)

■ Public Relations:

Fariba Hashemi

[\(farstrans@yahoo.com\)](mailto:farstrans@yahoo.com)

■ Printing:

Safir Ardehal Printing House

www.safirardehal.ir

■ Advertising:

Saman Karami pour

Samankarami13@gmail.com

Sources:

- IBNA News Agency
- www.aliance-editors.org
- www.icfi.ir
- www.tehrantimes.com
- www.cotp.ir
- lfp editorial staff
- lfb news
- financial Tribune

To receive the PUBLISHING IN IRAN MAGAZIN, please send your email address and name to us at: polliteraryagency@gmail.com

Iranian Titles in International Book Markets



Iranian children book 'Look at This Way' published in Turkey

The original Persian version of the book was released by the Center for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (CIDCYA) in 2018.

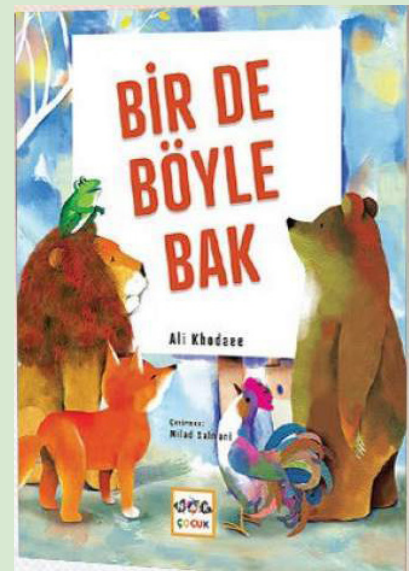
'Look at This Way' was translated into Turkish by Milad Salmani, the public and international department of CIDCYA in Tehran reported.

The English translation of the book by Siamak Mazlumi was also published in 2018.

The children story is about a group of animals, which find a bizarre picture in a jungle and discover their images in that. Reading the story, children join the animals and try to find the images of the animals in the picture.

Negotiations on purchasing the copyright of 'Look at This Way' was held during the 32nd Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) between Nar Publishing and CIDCYA, later, in September 2020 an agreement was signed and the right of the book was acquired by the Turkish publisher which has released the book recently.

Nar Publishing has translated and published numerous books in Turkish and has actively participated at international book fairs. Furthermore, by introducing the works of writers from other countries as co-Authors, it has paved the way for the translation and publication of many Turkish books in other languages of the world. So far, this publisher has released over 500 children books as well.



Book on modern Persian children's poetry published in Turkey

Melek Gedic, a research assistant at the Department of Persian Language and Literature of Ardahan University, is the author of "Contemporary Iranian Children's Poetry" (Çağdaş İran Çocuk Şiiri) released by Demavend Publications in Istanbul.

"It is remarkable that although children's poetry has an important place in children's literature in Iran, there has not been any study on this subject in our country," the author said after the release of the book.

"It is hoped that this study will improve the recognition of Iranian children's poetry in our country and understanding of the development process of contemporary Iranian poetry in post-revolution Iran," she remarked.

Demavend has previously published "Omar Khayyam: His Life, Thought, Works and Rubaiyat" (Omar Hayyam: Hayati, Düşüncesi, Eserleri ve Rubaileri).

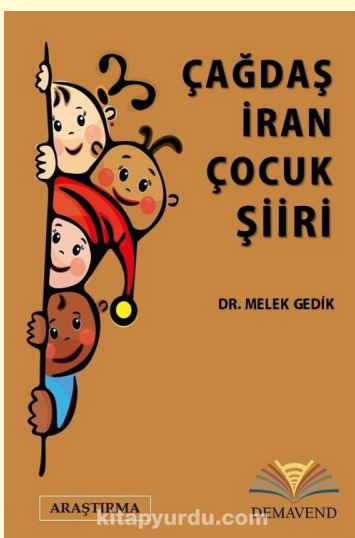
The book has been written by Professor of Persian literature Ali Güzelüz of Istanbul University.

The book contains over 250 poems by Khayyam translated into Turkish by Güzelüz.

Khayyam is chiefly known to English-speaking readers through a translation of a collection of his quatrains in the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam by the English writer Edward Fitzgerald. The publisher has also released the Safarnaméh ("Book of Travel"), the most-celebrated prose work of the Persian poet and mystic Abu Muin Naser-e Khusraw al-Marvazi al-Qubadiyani, known as Naser-e Khusraw who lived during the eleventh century.

It is a diary describing his seven-year journey through Syria and Palestine.

Books by numerous Iranian literati, including Sohrab Sepehri and Forugh Farrokhzad, are also among other books published by the publisher.



Springer Publishes 'Fungi in Fuel Biotechnology' by Iranian experts

International Springer Publications has released 'Fungi in Fuel Biotechnology', a book by three Iranian experts and academics Gholamreza Salehi Jouzani, Meisam Tabatabaei, and Mortaza Aghbashlo.

Due to the huge quantity and diverse nature of their metabolic pathways, fungi have great potential to be used for the production of different biofuels such as bioethanol, bio butanol, and biodiesel.

This book presents recent advances, as well as challenges and promises, of fungal applications in biofuel production, subsequently discussing plant pathogenic fungi for bioethanol and biodiesel production, including their mechanisms of action.

Additionally, this book reviews biofuel production using plant endophytic fungi, wood-rotting fungi, fungal biocontrol agents, and gut fungi, and it investigates highly efficient fungi for biofuel production and process design in fungal-based biofuel production systems. Finally, the life cycle assessment of fungal-based biofuel production systems is discussed in this volume.

Gholamreza Salehi Jouzani, Meisam Tabatabaei, and Mortaza Aghbashlo are the faculty members of the Iranian Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute.



Spanish translation of “My Uncle Soleimani” appears in Venezuela

A Spanish translation of “My Uncle Soleimani”, a book that reflects Martyr Qassem Soleimani’s affection for children, has recently been published in Venezuela.

Published by the El Faro International Publishing House, the book was introduced in capital Caracas during a ceremony attended by Mayor Erika Farias Pena, the head of the Capital District Government, Jacqueline Faria, and Iranian Ambassador Hojjatollah Ansari. The mayor read an excerpt from the book for the cultural figures and other people who attended the ceremony. Written by

Mohammad-Ali Jaber, the Persian version of the book has been published by Ketabak Publications.

The book contains 20 stories, which provide a truly deep insight into the character of Commander Soleimani and enjoin children to think of the personality as a role model. The book has been published both in Spanish and French and has been distributed in Venezuela, Ecuador, and Colombia by the publisher.



Persian writer Jalal Al-e Ahmad's stories published in Bangladesh

A book containing 10 stories by the renowned Iranian novelist and short story writer Jalal Al-e Ahmad has recently been published in the Bengali language in Bangladesh, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) has announced.

The book has been published by Pendulum Publications and has been translated by Muhammad Abdus Sabur Khan, who is a faculty member at the Department of Persian Language and Literature of the University of Dhaka.

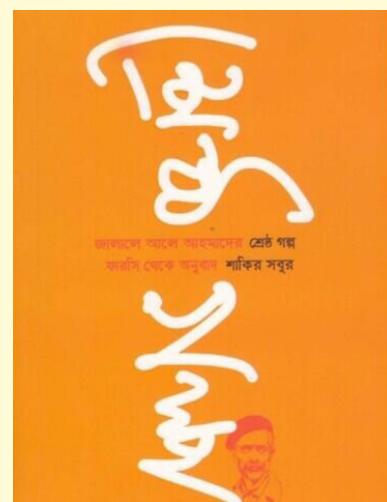
Born in 1923, Al-e-Ahmad was a prominent Iranian writer, scholar, and social and political critic.

Some of his works, including his most popular polemical essay “Plagued by the West” and his most popular novels “The School Principal”, “By the Pen” and “Lost in the Crowd”, have appeared in English translation.

An English translation of his story “A Stone on a Grave” by Azfar Moin was published by Mazda Publishing in the U.S. in 2008.

The book also contains an in-memoriam essay entitled “Jalal’s Sunset” by his wife, Simin Daneshvar, who was a prominent writer.

In this book, Al-e Ahmad investigates the recesses of his psyche to explore the roots of his identity as an Iranian male, his manhood. Consciously, he tries to uncover why having children to continue one’s name and legacy, not unlike one’s gravestone, should signify that he had existed.



Children's books by Persian writers published in Spanish

Three children's books by Iranian writers have been published in Spanish.

“Somos Exploradores” (“We Are Explorers”) by Shahrzad Shahrjerdi is one of the books that have been published by La Maleta, a publisher in the autonomous community of Asturias in northwest Spain.

Ghazal Fathollahi is the illustrator of the book, which shows fraternity, imagination, collaboration, and self-improvement against the pain of war.

This book, through the love between two brothers and their imagination, leads us to reflect on the hardships suffered by some people as a result of conflicts in their countries of origin that force them to leave their homes in search of something better.

Another book is “Un Bosque Para Todos” (“A Forest for All”) by Nazanin Abbasi. Graphic designer Alireza Alaeddini and photographer Behdad Shirmohammadi have created the illustrations of the book.

It is about a beautiful green forest that stands proud under the blue sky. Forest animals run from one side to the other, playing, eating, building their nests, and living in peace until

one day, a human-looking for a place to live arrives in the forest and begins to build his house. And everything changes afterward.

La Maleta has also published “Un Paraguas con Mariposas Blancas” (“An Umbrella with White Butterflies”) by Farhad Hassanzadeh.

Illustrations by Ghazaleh Bigdelou embellish the book, for which she received a nomination at the Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) in Slovakia in 2019.

This book introduces children to Noruz, the Iranian New Year celebration, and its beautiful traditions through three stories that end up interrelated.

Lawrence Schimel is the translator of the books originally published by Tuti Publications, the children's branch of the Tehran-based publisher Fatemi.

Earlier in August, Fatemi released a Persian translation of Spanish author Anna Llenas' book “The Color Monster: A Story about Emotions” by Sahar Tarhandeh.

Leader's book "Islamic Thought in the Quran" published in Urdu

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's book "An Outline of Islamic Thought in the Quran" has recently been published in Urdu in Pakistan.

The book has been released by the Karachi-based publishing house Dar al-Thaqalayn, which has earlier published books on Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

"An Outline of Islamic Thought in the Quran" is the distillation of a series of lectures delivered by Ayatollah Khamenei. In these lectures, the Leader presents faith, the oneness of Allah (tawhid), prophethood (nubuwwah), and guardianship (Wilayah) as major themes in the Quran.

His project is to disclose the ramifications of the conviction that there is only one God and Master in the universe and the belief in the divine prophets.

Ayatollah Khamenei rests his case with his final summation on Wilayah, asserting that a true Muslim should side with the godly powers in the eternal battle between the divine powers and the satanic forces.

An English translation of the book by H. Tehrani was released by the Islamic College for Advanced Studies in the UK in 2008.

The book arranged in 17 chapters gives a chronological account of the lives of Prophet Muhammad (S) and the Shia Imams (AS).



Abdolhossein Zarrinkub's book on Persian Sufism published in Russian

Prominent Iranian scholar Abdolhossein Zarrinkub's book on Persian Sufism has recently been published in Russian.

Translated into Russian by Nasim Mirzayev, "Research on Persian Sufism" has been introduced during a special ceremony at the National Academy Manas and Chingiz Aitmatov in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The book has been published with contributions from the Iranian Culture Center in the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

Zarrinkub, one of Iran's foremost historians and literary critics, was a professor of the Faculties of Theology and Letters of the University of Tehran.

His prolific publications include "History of Iran after Islam", "Two Centuries of Silence", "With a Caravan of Silk", "Literary Criticism", "An Evaluation of the Legacy of Sufism", "Poetry without Falsehood, Poetry without Mask" and "From the Street of the Debauched".

He is also the writer of the essay "Persian Sufism in Its Historical Perspective", which is based on a series of lectures he delivered at Princeton and the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1969-1970.



Sequel to Iranian graphic novel “Arshia” comes out in London

A sequel to Iranian writer Ashkan Rahgozar’s “Arshia” was released in London on Monday.

Published by Markosia, a leading UK publisher of graphic novels and comic books, “Arshia 2” is being offered by several international E-commerce companies, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

“Arshia 1” is the story of a mysterious character born completely out of the writer’s fiction. Nevertheless, the relation of this character with the Shahnameh (The Book of Kings) and ancient Iranian mythologies is quite notable as Arshia, along with the main characters, is one of the most influential and important characters in the graphic novel series “Jamshid” and the



animated movie “The Last Fiction”, both of which are loose adaptations of stories from the Shahnameh.

The young protagonist starts his life during the rule of Tahmures, father of Jamshid, and his life comes to a close during the reign of Afaridun with the defeat of Zahak. Throughout this collection of graphic novels, the mystery around Arshia’s long life is uncovered, and the number of secrets that have turned him into a mysterious character is revealed.

In “Arshia 2”, Arshia, after making a deal with Sawool, the giant of carnage, discloses the hideout of Ahriman to Tahmures.

However, the curse of the Sawool ensnares the people, and they expel Arshia from Taham Jam, blaming him for becoming complicit of the giants.

Arshia, who has acquired a great amount of knowledge from Sawool, decides to leave Taham Jam and find Tahmures.

Nonetheless, on this perilous journey, he comes face to face with Ahriman himself, a meeting that puts his life through tumults once again.

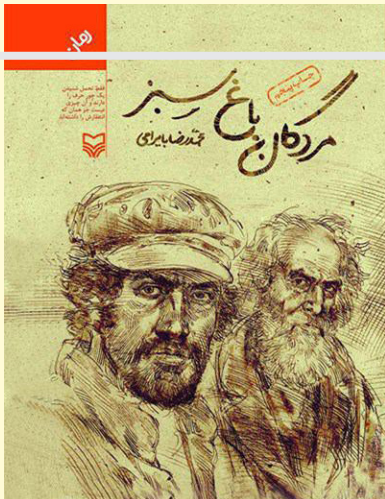
Markosia released “Arshia 1” in November. The original Persian version of the book series was published by Hoorakhsh Studio, an animation studio in Tehran that produced the acclaimed movie “The Last Fiction” directed by Rahgozar.

The Istanbul Turkish Translation of Our Story Became the Talk of the Town Was Published

The Istanbul Turkish translation of the 10-volume collection entitled *Our Story Became the Talk of the Town* written by Mohammad Mirkiani and translated by Ahmad Adiguzel was published by Mahna Publications in Turkey and presented to the publication market in that country.

The collection entitled *Our Story Became the Talk of the Town* written by Mohammad Mirkiani and illustrated by Mohammad Hossein Salavatian, was first published in 2005 by Behnashr Publications. To write this collection, sources such as *Masnavi Ma'navi*, *Golestan* and *Bustan* by Saadi, *Kelileh and Demneh*, *Marzbannameh*, *Asrarnameh*, *Amsal* –o– *Hekam* and *Elhinameh* have been used. The titles of some of the stories in this series include: *To Be the Thin End of the Wedge*, *A Beggar Can Never Be Bankrupt*, *Honey is Sweet but the Bee Stings*, *Cast Thy Bread Upon the Waters*, *for Thou Shalt Find It After Many Days*, *The Seven Labors of Rostam*, *Medival Times*, *He Had His Tail Between His Legs*, *Cutomer’s Resentment*, *Brown-Nosing*.





The Translation of the Novel the Dead of the Green Garden Written By Mohammad Reza Bayrami Was Published in the Republic of Azerbaijan

The novel *The Dead of the Green Garden* by Mohammad Reza Bayrami was first published by Sureh Mehr Publications and later editions were published by Ofoq Publications. It has been recently translated and published in the Republic of Azerbaijan in collaboration with Pol Literary & Translation Agency.

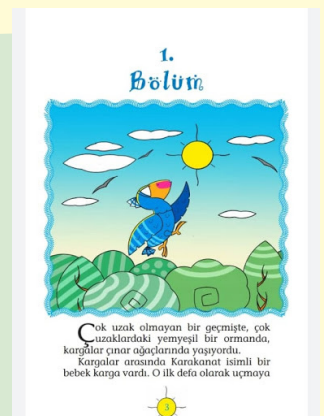
In this book, Bayrami narrates the strange life of a character named Balash, a street vendor, but because of his beautiful voice, the bird of fortune sits on his shoulder to become a sect's radio announcer at first and then an Azerbaijan Newspaper reporter. Nevertheless, he is not always lucky because the 15th parliamentary elections are underway, and although Azerbaijan has declared independence, the Ahmad Qavam administration has sent troops to Azerbaijan under the pretext of monitoring the elections.

Publication of an Iranian Story in Turkey

Zangin Publications published the story *White Crow*, written by Farideh Jahandideh, in the Turkish language in Turkey.

Zangin Publications in Turkey published the Turkish translation of the book *White Crow*, written by Farideh Jahandideh, in collaboration with Pol Literary & Translation Agency in Istanbul.

White Crow is the story of a baby crow named Black Feather that is wounded by a hunter on the first day of its flight. Black Feather falls on wheat bales on a farm where a boy named Nick works. Nick takes Black Feather to the vet. Black Feather regains consciousness after a few days and realizes that it can no longer fly and return to its mother. Nick suggests that it could stay with his four other birds, namely, a parrot, a canary, a dove, and a hen; but those birds show off their capabilities to Black Feather and do not accept its friendship . . .

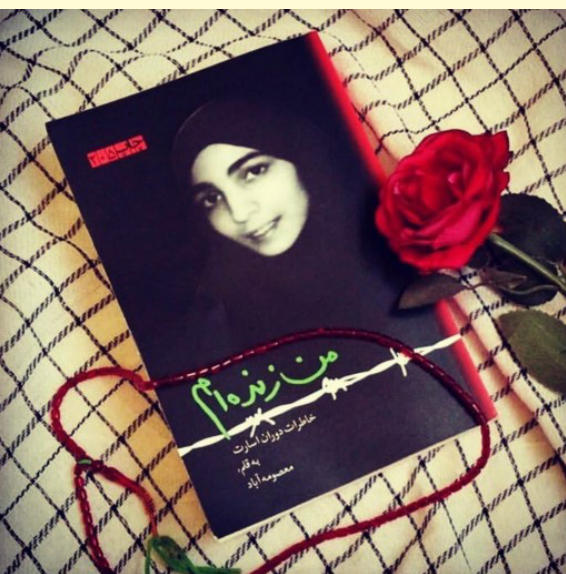


The Book the Bud on the Carpet Was Published in Turkey in Istanbul Turkish Language

The Istanbul Turkish version of the book *The Bud on The Carpet*, written by Ebrahim Hassan Beigi, in Turkey.

The copyright agreement of this book was concluded in 2020 between the book's author and Zangin Publications in Turkey mediated by Pol Literary & Translation Agency. The book was translated by Siamak Mazlumi. It is now published and has been presented to the Turkish book market for sale in that country.

The Bud on the Carpet is a story about a Turkmen girl and the process of weaving a rug with all her passion and effort. Safura, the Turkmen girl, realizes that since the flowers in the vase have withered, her father has become depressed, so, despite her mother's objections, she decides to weave a rug with a rosebud design to cheer up her father. The only problem is that there is no flower branch so she can use it as a weaving reference. Eventually, the father brings a flowering branch for Safura and the daughter begins to weave the rug. Finally, Safura works hard round the clock and weaves a floral rug, and gives it as a gift to her father to be used as a prayer rug.



Masumeh Abad's "I'm Alive" published in German

"I'm Alive", the memories of the young Iranian woman Masumeh Abad during her long captivity in Iraq in the 1980s has been published in German in Austria. The Iranian Cultural Center in Vienna affiliated with Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) is the publisher of the book translated into German by Abd al-Karim al-Sadiq and Ulrike al-Sadiq, the ICRO announced in a press release on Thursday.

Abad was 17 at the time she was captured by Iraqi forces in the early days of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. She was a social worker in a field hospital and medical clinics for the Iranian Red Crescent Society during the war.

The book has also been published in English, Russian, Arabic, and Urdu.

Translation of Iranian short stories into Arabic

9 short stories by Iranian authors translated by Abdolkarim Jaradat have been translated into Arabic and published in Jordan.

"Rooms Immersed in Darkness and Silence" is the title of a collection of nine short stories by Iranian authors, recently translated by Jordanian translator and researcher Abdul Karim Jaradat and published by Dar al-Khatut and Zalal in Jordan.

The translation of this collection is part of the project of scattered translations of Persian and Turkish cultures into Arabic to discover the political and social developments of the people of these neighboring lands during the last century, which is necessary to understand the impact of literature and culture of these two countries.

Selected stories by the translator include three stories by Ismail Fassih entitled "Maryam", "Love" and "Birth" and two stories by Jalal Al-Ahmad including "Children of the People" and "Many Women" and the story "My Tired Eyes" by Jamal Mirsadeghi "Accident" written by Simin Daneshvar, "Nightmare" by Forough Farrokhzad and the short story "Hatav" by Ali Ashraf Darvishian with a brief introduction of their authors.

Gallimard publishes collection of contemporary Persian short stories in France

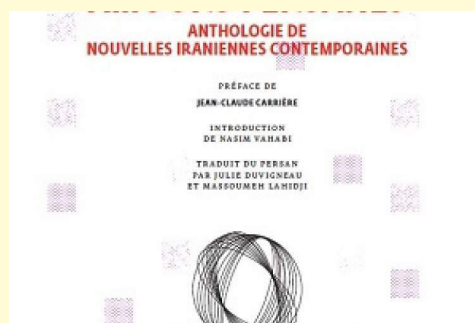
With a preface by Jean-Claude Carrière, an anthology of contemporary Persian literature featuring 17 short stories titled 'Amours Persanes' (Persian Loves) has recently been released by the French Gallimard Publishing.

Written by Iranian authors from three generations, these short stories, which are themed on love have been compiled by Nasim Vahabi and Ali-Reza Gholami and translated into French by Julie Duvigneau and Massoumeh Lahidji.

The editors of this anthology state that they were informed of the variety and a large number of works by Iranian authors, and naturally the collection is not comprehensive, as it could contain many other Persian short stories which are missed.

Except for four stories in the 'Amours Persanes' collection, no other stories had been published before. The book took three years to be compiled, translated, and published.

The stories are arranged based on the age, records, and background of the author and any story is accompanied by a brief introduction of the author.



Roozbeh's Migration, Written by Atoosa Salehi, in Turkey

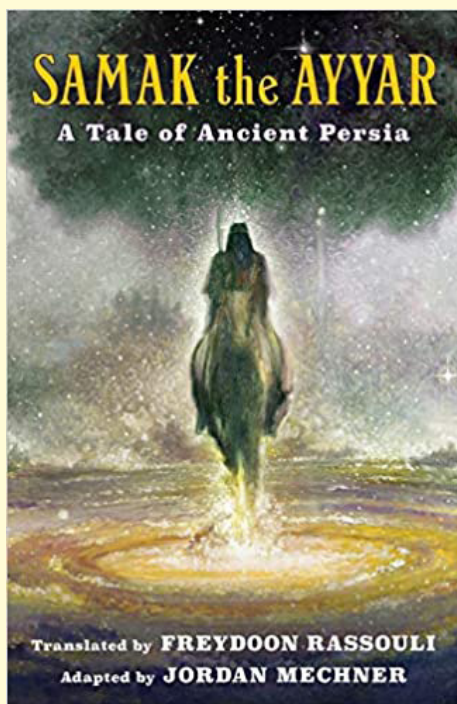
The book Roozbeh's Migration by Atoosa Salehi and published by Ofoq Publications was translated into Turkish by Siamak Mazlumi and published in Turkey by Zangin Publications.]

The copyright agreement for this book was signed by Pol Literary & Translation Agency between Ofoq Publications from Iran and Zangin Publications from Turkey in 2020. The Istanbul Turkish version of this book is now available in reputable Turkish bookstores.

Hessam Al-Din Tabatabai has illustrated and designed the story of this book. Roozbeh's Migration is an illustrated book by Ofoq Publications, in which the author and the illustrator equally work to present and convey the concept to the children, and the visual effects of the book have an important place in it. The children, who are the audience of this book, while reading it, become familiar with a character named Roozbeh who passes through mountains, valleys, and forests; and get acquainted with the nomadic migration.



“Samak the Ayyar” published in English



“Samak the Ayyar: A Tale of Ancient Persia”, one of the old Iranian stories, has been published in English.

Translated from the original Persian by Freyduon Rasuli and adapted by “Prince of Persia” game creator Jordan Mechner, the book has been published by Columbia University Press, and the timeless masterwork can now be enjoyed by English-speaking readers.

The adventures of Samak, a trickster-warrior hero of Persia's thousand-year-old oral storytelling tradition, are beloved in Iran. Samak is an ayyar, a warrior who comes from the common people and embodies the ideals of loyalty, selflessness, and honor, a figure that recalls samurai, ronin, and knights yet are distinctive to Persian legend.

His exploits set against an epic background of palace intrigue, battlefield heroics, and star-crossed romance between a noble prince and princess are as deeply rooted in Persian culture as are the stories of Robin Hood and King Arthur in the West. However, this majestic tale has remained little known outside Iran.

A thrilling and suspenseful saga, Samak the Ayyar also offers a vivid portrait of Persia a thousand years ago. Within an epic quest narrative teeming with action and supernatural forces, it sheds light on the lives of ordinary people and their social worlds.

This is the first complete English-language version of a treasure of world culture. The translation is grounded in the twelfth-century Persian text while paying homage to the dynamic culture of storytelling from which it arose.

Why isn't Arab literature popular in Iran?



✍ By: Farnaz Seifi*



What do the numbers tell us?

Let's look at the data. According to my research using the bibliographic databases of Iran's National Library, in the past 10 years (2010–20), more than 35,000 works of fiction have been published or republished in Iran. Only about 200 are translations of modern Arab children's or adult literature. By comparison, 640 Turkish literary works were indexed during the same period. I also looked at all the books catalogued in Iran's FIPA system, which registers all works ready for publication prior to receiving official permission. The FIPA system provides an indication of the economy of attention in the Iranian publishing market, which is largely private. It reveals the topics the Iranian community of translators and publishers are interested in before going through the official censorship process.

Still, many of the 200 translated Arab works of fiction are different translations of the same text. The most recent example is Jokha al-Harhi's *Sayyidat al-Qamar*, for which the FIPA system shows eight different translations. All of these are from the second half of 2019 when al-Harhi won the International Booker Prize for her novel. The odds were not in favor of al-Harhi if she hadn't won a high-profile Western literary prize. The majority of nominees and winners of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, one of the most prestigious Arab literary awards, rarely catch the attention of Iran's intellectual community. However, an Arab novel that gains recognition in the West is deemed worthy of being translated in Iran.

The most popular works are the usual suspects: Naguib Mahfouz, Jurji Zaydan, Gibran Khalil Gibran, and Ghassan Kanafani, as well as Nizar Qabbani and Ghada al-Samman when it comes to poetry. There are at least 15 different translations of Gibran's *Prophet*, some of which have been republished more than 40 times in Iran. During the past decade, there has also been a surge in interest in the classic *One Thousand and One Nights* with at least 60 different versions registered for publication in the FIPA system. And

of course, there are some surprises as well, such as the 2019 translation of Moammar Gadhafi's "surreal gibberish" short stories, *Escape to Hell*, originally published in 1993. The fact that these works are translated and catalogued in Iran's bibliographic system doesn't mean that they are easily available in the market though. Shahr-e Ketab, Iran's leading bookstore chain, shows only 40 works of Arab fiction currently for sale.



Iran's publishing industry

For many years, Iran's private book industry has faced a steady decline in readership. According to a recent study, the average print run for a book is around 800 copies. Since the chances of making a profit are very slim for translators and publishers, investing in Arab literature is a risk not many are willing to take.

Why is there so little interest in translating and introducing contemporary Arab literary works in Iran? If you ask Iranian publishers, the most common answer is that there are few reliable and capable Arabic to Persian translators. There are even fewer editors who can read the translations and compare them with the original text. It is easier to translate the works of an Arab author who writes in English. The best example is Hisham Matar, the British-Libyan writer, whose three major works are all available in Persian. Oddly enough, publishers would prefer commissioning the translation of Arab fictional works not from the original language but the English translation. And one can easily imagine how meanings could get lost in the process. *Celestial Bodies* was the title chosen for al-Harhi's book in English. When translated from English to Persian the title became *Astronomical Objects*! However, the average Iranian reader could easily understand the meaning of the original Arabic title since the words are also used in Persian.

And yet teaching Arabic is a priority

It might come as a surprise then to learn that the Iranian regime is obsessed with teaching Arabic to its children and citizens. Article 16 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic

*-Farnaz Seifi is an independent essayist and consultant who has worked at the juncture of gender and media with several international organizations and stakeholders in Iran, Europe, and the United States.

of Iran mandates that Arabic must be taught to students of all grades and disciplines who finish elementary school. Even though anyone with a high school diploma in Iran has taken Arabic courses for at least six years in their life, very few of them would be able to carry on a basic conversation in Arabic or even understand a simple text written for children. It is an open secret that students dislike learning Arabic and that the education system has miserably failed them by wasting their time. Furthermore, the method of teaching is antiquated, is obsessed with an old seminary pedagogy of grammar instruction — *Sarf and Nahw* — and is highly ideological: it teaches a form of Arabic solely intended for reading religious texts.

This ideological approach has also had a negative impact on higher education. More than 100 universities and higher education institutes in Iran offer bachelor's degrees in Arabic literature and Arabic translation. Together, they have the capacity for more than 5,000 students per year. Since Iran has a very competitive university entrance exam, many applicants cannot study in their desired field and must instead pursue what their score allows them to. In the case of Arabic, however, one can effortlessly gain admission to a school offering Arabic degrees. Despite this fact, applicants are few and many seats are left empty. By comparison, every year many students apply to study languages such as English, German, French, and in recent years Spanish, but due to the high number of applicants, many are rejected. Finally, one needs a strong passion for pursuing an Arabic degree in university because the prospects of finding a job and earning an adequate salary are not promising. The performance of peer-reviewed journals is relatively better. During the last decade, five academic journals on Arab literature — three housed in major universities in the capital, Tehran, and two in the cities of Yazd and Mashhad — began publication. The topics of articles in these journals range from classic studies of Arabic syntax to modern feminist critiques of contemporary authors.

Only if it fits with the political narrative

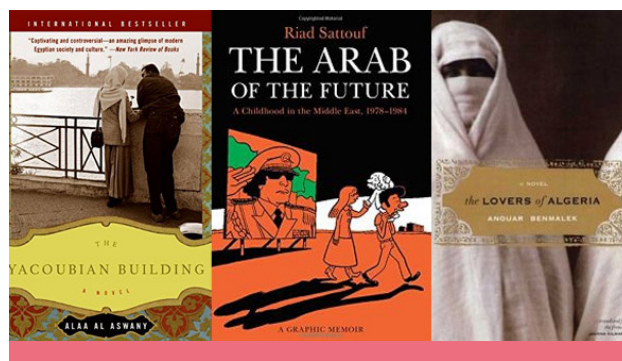
The Iranian government insists on teaching its citizens Arabic, but it has seldom cared about introducing contemporary Arab literature to them. And when it does, it is for the sake of promoting what fits with its political narrative. Beginning in the 1980s, Hozeh Honari, the art department of Iran's Islamic Development Organization — a large entity under the supervision of the supreme leader tasked with propagating and promoting religious culture — occasionally translated what it called “the literature of resistance” from the Arab world, especially works on Palestine. In 2002, Hozeh Honari established a special bureau for Persian–Arabic literary exchange. The bureau has occasionally supported the translation of a seemingly random assortment of Arabic contemporary works, including a recent anthology of Omani

poets and writers, but its main focus is on translating works of Iranian authors who fit the regime's ideological standards. For example, *One Woman's War: Da*, a famous war memoir by an Iranian female that tells the story of Khorramshahr's occupation by Iraqi forces and its eventual liberation, has been chosen for translation into Arabic.

The Iranian regime's obsession with instilling in its citizens knowledge of religious Arabic has certainly forced many disgruntled generations to live with the constant use of clerical Arabic terminology in schools, on the streets, and in the media. Associating Arabic with the political system has dissuaded many Iranians from developing an independent interest in learning about Arab societies and their cultural production.

It's important to note that there are also more deeply rooted cultural assumptions and stereotypes that hold Iranian intellectuals back from approaching Arab literature. Like their Arab peers, their compass is geared toward the West. As one Arabic literature translator put it: “The third- and fourth-rate works of American and European authors easily get translated while the most prominent Arab writers remain unknown. ... People usually say there is nothing worthy in Arab literature! Shouldn't they first read and then judge?” Iranian translators of Arab literary works do not shy away from pointing out and criticizing their society's attitude. “Our intellectuals should set aside their ethnic prejudice and their historical animosity and update their knowledge about their [Arab] neighbors,” another translator stated.

Iranians know little about how the Iraqis experienced the eight-year war of the 1980s. Such an understanding is not possible through official narratives and sanctioned memories of the war, which, by the way, are strikingly similar in both countries. Rather, it can be gained from reading genuine and creative works by authors like Hassan Blasim and Ismail Fahd Ismail. One usually takes refuge in fiction to escape the horrors of real life. But for Iran and its Arab neighbors, fiction could serve as a bridge and help to bring about positive political solutions to their conflicts. Literature opens a window into people's hearts and minds, their aspirations, anxieties, and vision for the present and the future. And this window has yet to be opened widely. ■■■



Iranian publishers and literary agencies at 6th Istanbul publishing fellowship



The Istanbul Publishing Fellowship Program, organized by the Turkish Press and Publishers Copyright & Licensing Society with the support of the Culture and Tourism Ministry, was set to convene professionals worldwide in Istanbul between March 9–11.

The sixth Istanbul Publishing Fellowship brought the biggest publishers from around the world together between March 9 and 11 this year. The Istanbul organization was attended by 300 publishers, including 170 foreign and 130 local professionals.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was planned to be held in both online and physical formats with a limited number of participants in compliance with the coronavirus measures. This year's program is to tackle the latest developments in the publishing world, the course of publishing during the pandemic, digital publishing, and online book sales models.

Some 869 publishers from 121 countries and 153 publishers from Turkey applied to attend the program. Ninety foreign publishers joined face-to-face meetings, while 80 others attended online meetings. The publishers discussed the spread of Turkish literature around the world, new copyrights in world literature and their value in international markets, as well as online experiences of the canceled book fairs.

In the scope of the "focus country" theme, which is a

first for the meeting, Azerbaijani publishing was chosen to promote the deep-rooted Turkish language and raise international attention.

The meeting announced prizes for copyrights for the first time this year. The Istanbul Copyright Awards was given to institutions that are considered influential in the publishing world.

The awards were presented under the auspices of the Istanbul Governorate to contribute to the development, cultural cooperation, and promotion of the sector by encouraging the exchange of copyrights from Turkish to foreign languages, encouraging copyright works, and honoring achievements.

Also supported by the Publishers Association, Istanbul Governorate, and the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, this year's program was to tackle the latest developments in the publishing world, the course of publishing during the pandemic, digital publishing, and online book sales models. Pol Literary Agency participated in this important international publishing event for the sixth time and was able to meet with more than 50 publishers from Turkey and other foreign publishers who participated in this program. Pol could reach initial agreements for the Right transaction of dozens of books.

Blue Circle Literary Agency and Tuti Publications were other Iranian participants in the 6th Istanbul Fellowship. ■■■



Foreign authors top sellers with literature-loving Tehran women

By: Ahmad Parvizi

Many Western best selling books are quickly translated and made available in Iran, where they are snatched up by a largely female readership, according to several Tehran publishers

French authors Albert Camus and Simone de Beauvoir rub shoulders with the likes of Jewish diarist Anne Frank and Russian poet Osip Mandelstam in Tehran bookstores where the largely female readership lap up foreign writers.

"Iranian women read more, translate more, and write more. In general, they are more present in the book market than men," said Narges Mossavat, editorial director of Sales publishers.

"Books are a necessity for me, it's the only refuge, which sometimes makes me angry," said the 36-year-old author, without dwelling on the limitations to cultural life in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As a publisher, "I choose books that speak to our society today", she said, pointing to work by Mandelstam, who died in a Gulag, or the novel "Minor Apocalypse" by a Polish dissident writer Tadeusz Konwicki.

It's an "excellent book that recounts a social and political experience similar to ours", she said.

"They tell us that other people have also gone through bitterness, hardship, and survived."

Reza Bahrami, 32, manages the main bookstore of another publisher, Cheshmeh, which means "source", and said their "readership is 70 percent female".

"There is a lot of buzz and anticipation around new publications and this drives sales," he said, surrounded by books at the Cheshmeh store on Karim Khan street.

If censorship is present in Iranian publishing, it affects mainly content deemed licentious, and many Western best-sellers are quickly translated and made available in Iran, where copyright is not recognized.

Karim Khan, along with Enqelab (Revolution) street, is one of two roads in central Tehran that readers flock to, known for being chockablock with bookshops.

– 'Freedom of expression' –

Women readers are looking first for "romantic" books or thrillers, Bahrami said, such as those by Americans Sidney Sheldon and Mary Higgins Clark or prolific British crime writer Agatha Christie. But their interests go well beyond these genres, according to one browser at the Cheshmeh shop.

Wearing a body-enveloping chador, the woman in her 30s said she had just earned her doctorate with "a thesis on female writers' writing and had recently devoured de Beauvoir's seminal "The Second Sex".

A 58-year-old university professor was hunting for books to help him answer questions from his students on the murder of French secondary school teacher Samuel Paty, who was decapitated by an Islamist extremist at a school outside Paris in October after showing his pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

"One of my main concerns is the issue of freedom, and in particular

freedom of expression," the professor said.

Featured on many display tables in the Iranian capital is "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" by Israeli academic Yuval Noah Harari, translated into Persian.

Mary Trump's tell-all "Too Much and Never Enough" published in July on her uncle US President Donald Trump has hit the shelves as well, where one can also find "The Book of Gutsy Women" by Hillary and Chelsea Clinton and former US first lady Michelle Obama's memoir.

– 'Verge of collapse' –

Not all the best-selling foreign books are recent releases, however. Cheshmeh in November saw its sales topped with 1939's "Ask the Dust" by American writer John Fante and "Troubled Sleep", published in 1949 by Jean-Paul Sartre.

Also flying off the shelves were "The Suicide Shop" by French writer Jean Teule and Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami's "Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage", published in 2013. But even if Tehran's bookstores are stocked with abundant and diverse titles, "printing has slowed" since the Islamic revolution of 1979, said a 51-year-old bookseller, who asked not to be named.

"There are multiple reasons, ranging from the economic situation to censorship and brain drain," he said. The price of books has made them increasingly prohibitive for some.

In a country where some ultraconservative leaders regularly deny the reality of the Holocaust, Javad Rahimi, the salesman at the Sales bookstore, noted the recent success of the "Tattooist of Auschwitz", by New Zealand writer Heather Morris, and "The Diary of Anne Frank", by the young Jewish girl from Amsterdam who died in a Nazi concentration camp in 1945.

According to Rahimi, "The Plague" by Camus and "All Men Are Mortal" by de Beauvoir "rose to the top of sales during the pandemic".

Like in other countries, the outbreak of Covid-19 forced booksellers to adapt, particularly during periods when all non-essential businesses were closed by authorities to combat the virus's spread. In the spring, bookshops were "on the verge of collapse, (but) since the summer sales have been satisfactory", said Bahrami at Cheshmeh.

With the novel "coronavirus, we are mainly selling our books via Instagram or websites we created" especially, he added, noting that the pandemic "led us to take online sales more seriously". ■■■



* – ap/mj/sw/jkb/dwo

Iranian Bestseller Authors



Mohammadreza Shams was studying in an art school when he became acquainted with a theater troupe, which caused him to opt for acting and playwriting. Besides theater, he composed poetry and after the Islamic Revolution in Iran, his poems and stories were published in renowned Iranian children's and young adult magazines. Shams is particularly skilled in creatively rewriting legends. Using the techniques of Iranian curiosity texts, he has tried to write very short fantasy stories for children. In these stories, inanimate objects become alive and obtain personalities, with their relationships forming the story. Shams has also written scientific stories. Some of his works have been translated into English, Mandarin, Turkish, and Thai.



Mohammadreza Shams

1957–Tehran

Selected Works:

- The Lunatic and the Well (2001), Hannaneh Pubs.
Crazy Girl (2001), Hannaneh Pubs.
The Balloon and the Hippo (2006), Ofoq Pubs.
Me, My Step-Mom, and Dad's Nose (2010), Ofoq Pubs.
■ A Distance That Got Old (2010), Peydayesh Pubs.
■ Breakfast of the Imagination (2010), Cheshmeh Pubs.
■ The Thief Who Became a Butterfly (2010), Cheshmeh Pubs.
■ Backwards Stories (2013), Kanoon Pubs.
■ Telling Two Stories (2014), Soroush Pubs.
■ The Bald Apple (2015), Peydayesh Pubs.

Selected Awards and Recognitions:

- Listed in the International Library of Munich (White Ravens),
- IBBY Honor Diploma,
- Best Book Award from the Book Festival of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon),
- Best Book Award from the Children's Book Council of Iran,
- Best Book Award from the Cultural Society of Children's Publishers

Introducing Some Titles:

If you are interested in any of the titles, please contact at polliteraryagency@gmail.com.

Title: The Playful El

Publisher: Ofoq Pubs
ISBN: 9786003531079
Size: 23.5 × 16
Pages: 24

About the Book:

The Playful L is the first in a series of illustrated books for children. In this series, many prominent Iranian authors and illustrators have come together to create fun books for children, which are educational and recreational at the same time. Mohammad Reza Shams, who is among very well-known Iranian authors for children in his latest title, has masterfully played with different words which start with L. he intertwines his narrative with frivolous sentences and memorable characters. This is a series for bringing the children into the world of the story, and the adults, into the world of children.



Title: The Old Bench

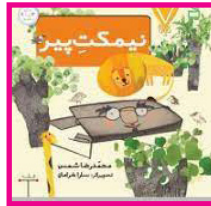
Publisher: Madrese Pubs.

No. of Pages: 16

Size: 19×19

ISBN: 9789640812578

About the Book: It was the time of retirement for the class-old bench. One day, the school servant told it that he had to take it to a jungle. When it reached the jungle, the trees welcomed it so warmly and celebrated it. After passing some days, the old bench missed the school and desired to go back to the class. So, the trees helped it to change the jungle to a school. This book enjoys a short text, beautiful illustrations, and an attractive story.



Title: The Legends of Three Girls (3 Vols.)

Illustrated by: Sahar Khorasani

Publisher: Ofoq

Publication Date: 2017

Pages (respectively): 80, 78, 70

Publisher: Ofoq Pubs

Size: 14.5 x 18.5

ISBN: 978-600-353-214-4, 978-600-353-213-7, 978-600-353-212-0

About the Books:

This series is amongst the kind of titles that not only is fit for younger adults but also the adults can relate to the stories as well as children. A mixture of world-renowned fables brilliantly oven into old Persian legends. That the stories are based on humane feelings of love, loss, betrayal, loyalty, honesty, and as such, has added a tremendous superiority to it, for a person no matter how young, will encounter such dilemmas sooner or later. Shams has this rare ability to mingle stories and create a brand new essence, which becomes the reason why his titles are so well received by the readers. In this series, we read of lives of three girls, whose stories may seem repetitive, but the twists and turns they gain is like no other fable we have read. For instance, we all have heard, read, or even seen the story of Cinderella and her cruel stepmother or The Sleeping Beauty or Rapunzel and the Witch, but combining it with ancient Iranian myths spicing it up with princes and spells would prove a new experience.



Title: One Single Nut

Publisher: Mehrab-e Ghalam Pubs.

No. of Pages: 24

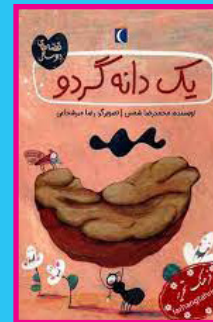
Size: 19×19

ISBN:

9786004133456

About the Book:

One of the short tales from the "Friendship Series", promoting friendship



as a fortunate accident that makes the world more beautiful. This collection, written for preschool children, consists of 15 stories, of which nine have been published. All the stories are thematically based on friendship and sympathy. The amusing tales and interesting illustrations are created by Iranian expert writers and skillful illustrators under the direction of the renowned author, Majid Rasti, executive director of Mehrab-e Ghalam's Board of Children's literature. The artistic director of the board is Hoda Haddadi, an internationally acclaimed artist.

Title: Tales for Children

Publisher: Mehrab-e Ghalam Pubs.

No. of Pages: 48 (each vol.)

Size: 18×14

ISBN:

9786004130486

About the Book:

Iranian Tales for Children is a collection of folkloric tales from



all over Iran. The tales in this collection are based on a wide repertoire of Iranian fairy tales. The collection consists of five volumes each containing 7 to 9 tales skillfully rewritten and illustrated for children. This collection, published alongside other fairy tale collections from all over the world, is specifically allocated to Iranian traditional tales.



Hezare Quqnoos Publications

Name of the Publishing House: Hezare Qoqnoos
Add. No.1, Ramsar Str. Inghelab Ave. Tehran – Iran
nashr_1000@yahoo.com
Director: Reza Hajabadi

www.nashrehezare.ir

Hezarehe Quqnoos Publications was established in 2004. From that time until the present, it has published more than 600 titles in different fields. One of the goals of this institute is to support new and beginner authors in literature especially poems and stories. It has managed to step forward into international book markets via translating books into the English language as well

Fields of published books include:

- Fiction (Drama, poems, novels, short stories...)
- Non-Fiction

Accomplishments:

- The book "Green Pomegranate Red Olive" Selected Volume 5 First Step Award
- The book "Minority" Selected in Volume 25 of the Book of Iran

If you are interested in any of the titles, please contact at polliteraryagency@gmail.com

Introducing Some Titles:

A kilo of moon



Written by: Razieh Mehdizadeh,
Subject:
Fiction (Novel)
272 pages
Size: 21x14
ISBN: 978-600-286-124-5
About the Book:

This book discovers the bond between a single mother and her son. She has lost her husband in war but she never believed this trauma so that she was living with the hope to see her husband again. Until the day that she saw her husband and ...

About the Author: Razieh Mehdizadeh was born in 1984 in Iran. She is studying creative writing in New York City and explores merging novel writing ideas with her experience of living in Iran. She was honored with MFA in cinema studies and attained her undergraduate degree in philosophy.

Train 57



Written by: Reza Raeesi
Subject: Fiction
(Novel)
576 pages
Size: 21x14
ISBN: 978-600-286-001-9
About the Book:

The story of the novel that has been written on the subject of the Islamic Revolution is a story about a group which despite its role in the revolution, gradually are being deviated from it. The story continues with a meeting by some left underground groups, and the attack is started by SAVAK. The main SAVAK target was "Ghamat" as the chairman of the group.

About the Author: Reza Rayesi, born in 1960 is a writer, filmmaker, journalist, and researcher. He is the author of several novels and books.

I do not want to be president

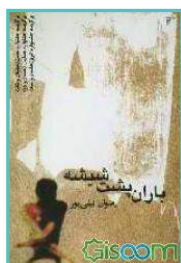


Written by: Marziyeh Golabgir
Subject: Fiction
(Novel)
120 pages
Size: 21x14
ISBN: 978-600-5657-48-7
About the Book:

This is a long story about the relationship among the members of Iranian families, which has been associated with the social issues of Iranian society in recent decades. The narrator of this book is a girl named Goli who loves a boy named Mohsen. The story often focuses on the issues of children and their place in families and their relationship with parents.

About the Author: Marzieh Golabgir Isfahani was born in 1973. She is the only daughter of the Isfahani family who, unlike her desire, completed his university studies in biology. The love of the arts and literature forced her to learn painting and fiction at the same time as studying at the university.

The rain behind the window



Written by: Rezvan Nilipour
Subject: Fiction (short story)
112 pages
Size: 21x14
ISBN: 978-964-8792-54-6

About the Book:

The subject of this book is social. This book is a collection of 21 short stories that won several literary awards.

The book was elected by Hemmat Award in 2003 and elected by the Hedayat Award in 2004 and Tabriz Award in 2004. The theme of the stories is all about social issues and the book has a sincere tone.

About the Author:

Rezvan Nilipour is born in 1948 in Isfahan. She began writing stories from 1998 onwards. Her first collection, "The rain behind the window", was published in 2005. The Hezarehe Ghoghnoos Publication has published several other books, including "Let it Memorize," "The rain behind the window," and "When Turtles Swim in the Air."

Liberal lilies



Written by: Dr. Seyyed Abdulhamid Ziaei
Subject: Literary Fiction
publish Date: 2018
108 pages
Size: 20x12
ISBN: 978-600-286-109-2

About the Book:

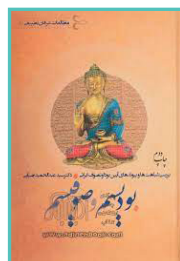
It is a small book encompassing diverse questions (mostly modern ones), which pertain to the prevailing classic concept of "love". Being a controversial issue, love is considered to be at the core of all interpretations in literature all over the world. In this book, the author has delineated the nature of love itself, explicating and illustrating

plenty of examples. Recoursing to the various perspectives and views including Sociology, anthropology, psychology, and philosophy. The author has broached the subject of love proposing different intrinsic and basic questions on the nature of "love" itself. Is there any relation between erotic love and real love? Is terrestrial love against the "salvation"? Does it avoid salvation? Does love exist at all? Or we only might gain a kind of situation/ condition for love rather than love itself? This book has been published by Hezareh Ghoghnoos publication.

About the Author:

Dr. Seyyed Abdulhamid Ziaei was born in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari in 1975. He is a Ph.D. graduate student at the Sorbonne University in France. He is a poet and has a lot of works in the fields of comparative mysticism, analytic philosophy, and Persian literature.

Buddhism and Sufism



Written by: Dr. Seyyed Abdulhamid Ziaei
Subject: Philosophy
410 pages
Size: 21x14
ISBN: 978-600-286-092-7

About the Book:

This book belongs to the category of the Sufism (Islamic mysticism) comparative studies in which the author has attempted to display and explicate the affinities and congruities between "Buddhism" and Iranian "Sufism". The author has focused on the notion of "human suffering" and the ways to be released from those sufferings rather than the philosophical theories in this regard. "Buddhism's significant impact and impressions on the Iranian "Sufis" who were from Khorasan is accentuated in this book through overlapping the specific features, stuff and rituals encompassing the "Rosaries, Monasteries, fasting, roaming, wandering and imploring, and similar concepts such as "Sympathy, tolerance, reverence to the other religious sects and cults, etc.

About the Author:

Dr. Seyyed Abdulhamid Ziaei was born in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari in 1975. He is a Ph.D. graduate student at the Sorbonne University in France. He is a poet and has a lot of works in the fields of comparative mysticism, analytic philosophy, and Persian literature.

Vagrancy in Divinity



Written by: Dr. Seyyed Abdulhamid Ziaei
Subject: Psychology
148 pages
Size: 20x12
ISBN: 978-600-286-216-7

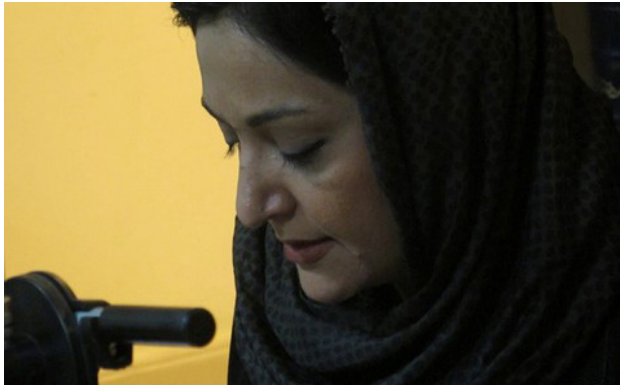
About the Book:


This book is A new Genre in Persian literature. An ironic introduction to the private sphere of mystics, philosophers, psychotherapists, and theologians that are fighting with each other; Much Ado About Not! Dr. Abdolhamid Ziaei, Author of this book is the teacher of philosophy and mysticism and simultaneously he is a poet...
About the Author:
Dr. Seyyed Abdulhamid Ziaei was born in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari in 1975. He is a Ph.D. graduate student at the Sorbonne University in France. He is a poet and has a lot of works in the fields of comparative mysticism, analytic philosophy, and Persian literature.



An Interview with Sara Khalili

(Iranian Translator)



 By: Poupeh Missaghi

Sara Khalili is one of a handful of translators bringing contemporary Persian literature to English readers today. Her translations include works by Shahriar Mandanipour and Goli Taraghi, among others. After several years of reading her translations and communicating with her via email, I finally met her a few months ago at a PEN World Voices event in which she was interpreting for Hossein Abkenar, another Iranian author she translates. Meeting Sara was, for me, like meeting a kindred spirit; she has a calming presence and, as with many literary translators, one can feel how this is a labor of love for her. Following the publication of *Moon Brow*, a novel by Mandanipour that came out with Restless Books in April 2018, we conducted this interview. She speaks to us about the peculiarities of working with Mandanipour and the larger context of her work as a translator from Persian.

Poupeh Missaghi (PM): Will you share with our readers the story of how you became a translator? And what has been the biggest reward for you as a translator?

Sara Khalili (SK): Most literary translators will tell you that their work is a labor of love. It is the same for me. I get great satisfaction from working on literature. And being deeply proud of my heritage and culture, I find it gratifying and rewarding that in my own small way I am helping introduce the literary art of Iran to an English reading audience.

By trade and training, I am a financial journalist and have worked in my field for many years. I only thought about translation on occasions when the late Karim Emami would tell me that I was wasting my time, that I should just quit my job and translate literature, that I had a flair for it. Karim, a dear friend, and a close relative were one of the most eminent Persian literary translators, as well as a renowned editor and literary critic. Our back and forth banter went on for several years until in 2004 he called to tell me that PEN was publishing an anthology of contemporary Iranian literature and that I should work with him on the short story he had been asked to translate. As we worked on that story, Karim guided me and educated me on the art of literary translation. I was hooked.

Several weeks later, the editor of the anthology, Nahid Mozaffari, asked if I would translate a few more stories on my own. Of course, I would!

By the way, among them was “Shatter the Stone Tooth” by Shahriar Mandanipour. It was the first time his work was published in English.

PM: Shahriar Mandanipour’s most recent book *Moon Brow* is a book of multiple layers and points of view. What was your biggest challenge in translating the work?

SK: Shahriar’s prose is always a challenge to translate. In *Moon Brow*, several elements made this challenge even greater. The inner reflections of the protagonist (Amir) were particularly difficult as they are the shattered and chaotic thoughts and memories coursing through the often-fevered mind of a shellshock victim, and in many instances, Shahriar has written these as poetry in prose or complicated plays on words and language. Capturing their essence and retaining the nuance, structure, and meter of Shahriar’s compositions in English was difficult. One example of this is the novel’s two-part prologue, which needed to be unraveled, translated, and then re-raveled into its original form.

Another twist was that the novel has two narrators—the angel scribes on Amir’s right and left shoulders—each of whom has their distinct personality and manner of speech. One is refined and poetic, the other bold and brash. It is their tone and language that sets them apart, and this had to come through in the translation clearly and seamlessly.

PM: How was translating this new work differently, or not, from translating Shahriar’s previous work, *Censoring an Iranian Love Story*? Now that you have had a longer-term author-translator relationship and thus come to know his style better, how did you two work on the translation? Can you speak a bit about the specifics and benefits of such long-term collaboration?

SK: Shahriar and I worked in tandem on both *Censoring an Iranian Love Story* and *Moon Brow*. I translated as he wrote. It certainly was not the conventional way of going about it. But despite its complications, the feeling of being in the trenches together created a much greater sense of collaboration between us.

The most palpable difference in my experience with *Moon Brow* was that by then we knew each other much better and I felt more confident in my understanding and interpretation of his style, his language, and the underlying intent in his prose. I was also less daunted by his intricate constructs. Peeling away the layers and disentangling the webs he weaves had become somewhat easier.

For me, the most valuable gift of my long-term working relationship with Shahriar is the trust that has developed between us. In our case, this trust is even more imperative because neither *Censoring* nor *Moon Brow* has ever been published in their original Persian, and all translations into other languages are based on my English rendition. This makes the



stakes much higher for Shahriar as the writer, and the weight of the responsibility much greater for me as the translator. I think today as Shahriar writes, he is less worried whether I can recreate his work in English. And I translate feeling less anxious about whether I am doing his work justice. Of course, we still have our long discussions and occasional arguments, but each in our way, we have more confidence and faith in the other's work, in the choices and decisions that the other makes.

PM: You have also translated other works of fiction by Iranian authors, including Goli Taraghi and Yaghoub Yadali, as well as poetry by Forough Farrokhzad, Simin Behbahani, and others. Can you tell us about your relationship to the translation of prose versus poetry? Which one do you feel more at home with? What are some of the joys of doing each for you?

SK: I am, without a doubt, more drawn to prose. The last volume of poetry I translated was in 2009. To be honest, I can't explain why or what it is about prose that appeals to me more. And anything I say would simply be for the sake of having said something.

I just love a good story, written well.

PM: You have also worked as an editor curating special features on Iranian literature in different journals. What are some of the main characteristics of contemporary Iranian literature that you find engaging?

SK: There are some very talented young Iranian writers producing wonderful works of literature. The revolution and the weight of the eight-year war with Iraq have changed the way they observe the world around them. In recent years, there has been a detachment from traditional beliefs and ideological literature and greater interest in experimenting with form and language.

This generation of writers delves into new social issues and revisits old ones that were often not openly examined. New

genres have emerged. One of the more interesting ones, for instance, is the new style of short story writing that has come to be known as "apartment stories". The common thread is that they occur in the confines of apartments or apartment buildings, perhaps shielded from the topics, themes, and elements beyond those walls that might subject the story and the writer to scrutiny and censorship.

One of the greatest changes in today's literature is the way women's images are being redefined and rethought. Of course, much of this has to do with the growing presence of young women writers on the literary scene, with a great deal of variety in the genres and themes of their works. One striking feature in their writing is the representation of domesticity and how they observe themselves in the settings of the home, the society, and the country.

PM: What kind of challenges have you faced in bringing works by Iranian authors to an English-language readership? Do you consider the task of a translator from Persian to be of more significance these days because of the socio-political conditions of our times?

SK: Unlike the art of the cinema that has managed to survive and thrive in Iran since the revolution, literature has been more exposed to, and a victim of, the socio-political dynamics inside the country. Writers continue to struggle with arbitrary censorship, repression, and intimidation. Yet, they continue to defy the system and create vibrant, exciting works. Unfortunately, very little of what they produce is available in translation and even fewer of these reach mainstream audiences in the West.

As a translator, my greatest challenge is finding interested publishers. A very small percentage of books published in the US are works of literature in translation. And a majority of these are by established European and Latin American writers. This leaves very little room for as-yet-unknown writers from countries such as Iran. Compounding this is the scarcity of skilled literary translators of Persian fiction and poetry.

That said, I don't find my role, or that of any other translator from Persian, to be any more or less significant today than it was ten or twenty or thirty years ago. The unfavorable socio-political conditions, inside and outside Iran, have been present for four decades. They just tend to ebb and flow, from bad to worse and back. ■■■



Some Essential Books by Iranian Writers Published Abroad



✍ By Niloufar Talebi

Graphic Novels and Nonfiction

Abolqassem Ferdowsi

Shahnameh: The Epic of the Persian Kings by Abolqassem Ferdowsi, illustrated by Hamid Rahmanian, and translated from the Persian by Ahmad Sadri (Liveright; Illustrated and Slipcased edition, 2017)

The *Shahnameh*, completed in 1010 CE by Hakim Abolqassem Ferdowsi, is a classic poem in 50,000 couplets, part myth, part history beginning with the creation story of the Persian peoples and their tumultuous history up to the 7th-century Arab invasion of Persia. It is the story of magical birds, superhuman heroes, and centuries-long battles. Ahmad Sadri's translation and adaptation retells the tales in prose. The 500+ full-color illustrations in this edition were created from elements culled from thousands of manuscripts, lithographs, and miniatures dating from the thirteenth through the nineteenth centuries, with each panel becoming a new work of art, an exquisite collage of traditional forms. Rahmanian and Simon Arizp are the creators of the full-color pop-up book, *Zahhak: The Legend Of The Serpent King* (Fantagraphics Books, 2018), winner of the 2018 Meggendorfer Prize for a best pop-up book. The retelling of the myth from the *Shahnameh* of the misguided Prince Zahhak who is easily swayed by the devil to murder his father and usurp the throne springs to life in this ingeniously crafted pop-up book that will delight readers young and old. Rahmanian also created a shadow theater stage production based on a storyline in the *Shahnameh*, called *Feathers of Fire*, as well as an immersive audiobook version with an introduction by Frances Ford Coppola.

Naz Deravian

Bottom of the Pot: Persian Recipes and Stories by Naz Deravian (Flatiron Books, 2018)

In her debut book, Naz Deravian weaves together 100 recipes with essays that make the political personal and turns "recipes trickled down through cultural and familial osmosis" into exacting ones. *Bottom of the Pot* won the IACP 2019 First Book Award presented by The Julia Child Foundation.

Samin Nosrat

Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat: Mastering the Elements of Good Cooking by Samin Nosrat and illustrator Wendy MacNaughton (Simon and Schuster, 2017)

This rich, illustrated cookbook evolved from an essential guide for home chefs into a highly popular Netflix docu-series. Rather than just providing recipes to follow, Nosrat breaks down the elements of cooking to give readers the basics of cooking science. Nosrat is a regular "eat" columnist for the *New York Times Magazine*, and actively promotes the work of other chefs. Nosrat and MacNaughton are at work on a second book called, *What to Cook*.

Yasmin Khan

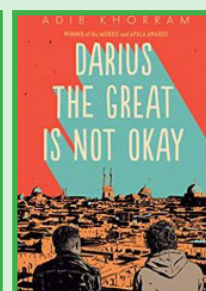
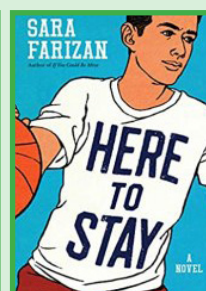
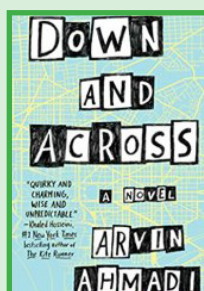
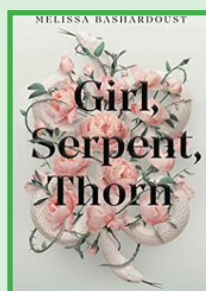
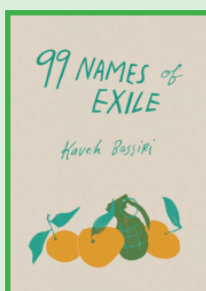
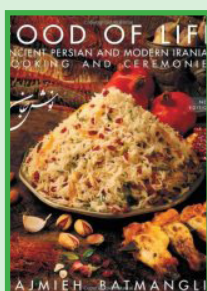
The Saffron Tales: Recipes From the Persian Kitchen by Yasmin Khan (Bloomsbury USA, 2016)

A lawyer, human rights activist, and journalist, Yasmin Khan brings all her reporting skills to this book. She travels across Iran, from the markets of Tabriz to the cafes of Tehran, to unearth a variety of dishes and stories. She received the M.F.K Fisher Award for Excellence in Culinary Writing from Les Dames d'Escoffier, and her book was recognized as a *New York Times* Best Cookbooks of the Year, *Wall Street Journal* Best Cookbooks of the Year, and *BBC Food Programme* Best Cookbooks of the Year.

Najmieh Batmanglij

Food of Life: Ancient Persian and Modern Iranian Cooking and Ceremonies by Najmieh Batmanglij (Mage Publishers; 25th Anniversary Edition edition, 2011)

This book is a mini cultural tour of Iran that includes literary excerpts. It provides 330 classical and regional Iranian recipes as well as an introduction to Persian art, history, and culture, and is an immersive cultural experience for those seeking to understand this ancient and timeless cuisine. Batmanglij is the author of numerous other titles including *Joon*, *A Taste of Persia: An Introduction to Persian Cooking*, *Silk Road Cooking: A Vegetarian Journey*, and *Happy Nowruz: Cooking with Children to Celebrate the Persian New Year*. Ottolenghi calls her "The goddess of Iranian cooking." This 25th-anniversary edition is a more user-friendly edition of the award-winning and critically acclaimed cookbook series which began in 1986.



Children's and Young Adult Literature

Melissa Bashardoust

Girl, Serpent, Thorn by Melissa Bashardoust (Flatiron, 2020) *Girl, Serpent, Thorn* is “an alluring feminist fairy tale” (Kirkus Reviews) about a girl cursed to be poisonous to the touch and who discovers what power might lie in such a curse. As the day of her twin brother’s wedding approaches, Soraya must decide if she’s willing to step outside of the shadows for the first time. Below in the dungeon is a demon who holds the answer to her freedom. And above is a young man who isn’t afraid of her. Soraya thought she knew her place in the world, but when her choices lead to consequences she never imagined, she begins to question who she is and who she is becoming. Human or demon. Princess or monster. Bashardoust is also the author of *Girls Made of Snow and Glass*.

Arvin Ahmadi

Down and Across by Arvin Ahmadi (Penguin Books; Reprint edition, 2019)

Scott Ferdowsi is at a pivotal moment in his life when he runs away to seek guidance from a famous psychologist who claims to know the secret to success and meets a woman whose life ambition is to write crossword puzzles, which sets him on adventures he could never have dreamed of.

Sara Farizan

Here to Stay by Sara Farizan (Algonquin Young Readers, 2019)

A Booklist Top 10 Sports Book for Youth. Bijan Majidi gets pulled off the bench to make the winning basket in a varsity playoff but then a school cyberbully sends an anonymous photo making him look like a terrorist. Sara Farizan’s debut novel, *If You Could Be Mine* (a Rolling Stone’s 40 Best YA Novel), tells the story of a young girl in Iran who falls deeply in love with her best friend. In her second novel, *Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel*, the main character struggles to fit in as an immigrant and as a queer teen. Farizan won the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Children’s/Young Adult fiction.

Adib Khorram

Darius the Great Is Not Okay by Adib Khorram (Penguin Book, Reprint Edition, 2019)

Named one of TIME magazine’s 10 Best Young Adult and Children’s Books of the Year, this book about grappling with mental illness, identity, and one’s place in the world is for

anyone who’s ever felt not good enough but meets a friend who makes them feel so much better.

Abdi Nazemian

Like a Love Story by Abdi Nazemian (Balzer + Bray, 2019)

This book about friendship and the courage of coming out is called “a love letter to queerness.” In 1989, Reza is a teenager in New York. He knows he’s gay, but all he knows of gay life are the media’s images of men dying of AIDS. He starts dating Judy, but struggles to find a way out of his deception that won’t break Judy’s heart—and destroy the most meaningful friendship he’s ever known. Nazemian is also the author of *The Walk-In Closet*, which won the Lambda Literary Award for LGBT Debut Fiction, and *The Authentics*.

Samad Behrangi

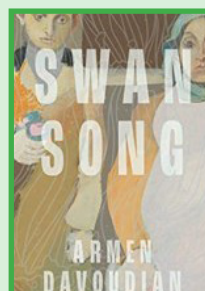
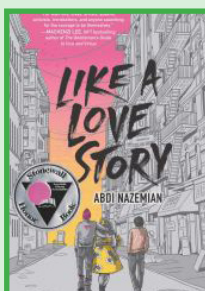
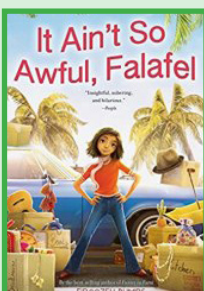
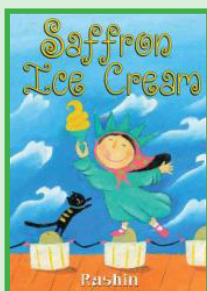
The Little Black Fish by Samad Behrangi, translated from the Persian by Azita Rassi, illustrations by Farshid Mesghali (Tiny Owl Publishing; Translation Edition, 2019)

Samad Behrangi was a teacher, folklorist, translator, and short story writer of Iranian–Azerbaijani origin who taught in the rural areas of Azerbaijan, familiarizing villagers and children with books. He wrote pedagogical essays and collected Azerbaijani oral literature. Behrangi’s other stories include the Ulduz stories, *Talkhoon*, and *One Peach, One Thousand Peaches*. He is most well-known for his 1968 work, *The Little Black Fish*, a story for all ages, recognized as an allegory for children to explore the world and discover truths for themselves. What happens when you swim against the current? That’s the question at the heart of this book, which follows the little blackfish on a journey from his stream to the sea. The story is made more poignant by the fact that it was written in the 1960s as an allegory for daring to hold different political views by an author whose early death was laid at the door of the regime. *The Little Black Fish* has been translated into several other languages. This edition contains the illustrations of its original illustrator, Farshid Mesghali, who won several awards for them including the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 1974.

Rashin Kheiriyeh

Saffron Ice Cream by Rashin Kheiriyeh (Scholastic Inc., 2018)

With 80 published books under her belt, as well as a scroll of other achievements, Rashin Kheiriyeh reveals a snippet of her own life in *Saffron Ice Cream*. Through bright oil and acrylic paints on handmade paper, she tells two stories of a day at the beach: In the American tale, the young girl overcomes her



sadness of not finding saffron ice cream and learns to embrace chocolate crunch. Kheiriyeh has won the Sendak Fellowship Award and was the character artist of the most popular Iranian animation series called Sugarland/Shekarestan for national TV in Iran.

Firoozeh Dumas

It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas (Clarion Books, 2017)

Zomorod Yousefzadeh is the new kid on the block...for the fourth time. She's determined to shuck her brainy loner persona and start afresh with a new Brady Bunch name—Cindy. It's the late 1970s, and fitting in becomes more difficult as Iran makes U.S. headlines with protests, revolution, and finally the taking of American hostages. A poignant yet lighthearted middle-grade debut from the author of the best-selling Funny in Farsi. Accolades for this book include A California Library Association's John and Patricia Beatty Award Winner, a Florida Sunshine State Young Readers Award (Grades 6–8), a New-York Historical Society's New Americans Book Prize Winner, a Middle East Book Award for Youth Literature, Honorable Mention, and a Booklist 50 Best Middle-Grade Novels of the 21st Century.

Poetry

Armen Davoudian

Swan Song by Armen Davoudian (Chapbook) (Bull City Press, October 2020)

A swan song is a song of departure: after a lifetime of silence, the legend goes, the mute swan breaks into song just before leaving this world for good. Armen Davoudian's Swan Song chronicles what it's like to take leave of a home, a country, a past life. In their search for a home in language, these poems combine the formal resources of English and Persian poetry, turning the immigrant's permanent sense of loss and rootlessness, the gay person's sense of alienation, into artistic assets—positions of outsiderhood from which to witness and record. Swan Song won the 2020 Frost Place Chapbook Competition.

Garous Abdolmalekian

Lean Against This Late Hour by Garous Abdolmalekian (Penguin Books)

A bilingual edition translated from the Persian by Ahmad Nadalizadeh and Idra Novey. The first selection of poems by renowned Iranian poet Garous Abdolmalekian to appear in English, Abdolmalekian conjures, in spare lines, surreal, cinematic images that pan wide as deftly as they narrow into intimate focus. Time is a thread come unspooled: pain arrives before the wound and the dead wait for sunrise. Abdolmalekian's work has been translated into Arabic, French, German, Kurdish, and Spanish.

Kaveh Bassiri

99 Names of Exile by Kaveh Bassiri (Chapbook) (Newfound, 2019)

"The poems of '99 Names of Exile' translate distance and exercise range masterfully. Kaveh Bassiri deepens a literacy of memory by navigating the storied risks and labyrinthine recovery of return" (Geffrey Davis). Winner of the 2018 Anzaldua Poetry Prize and a 2019 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Translation Fellowship, Bassiri is the author of the chapbook, Elementary English (Ahinga Press, November 2020) and of articles on Iranian theater, books, and literature.

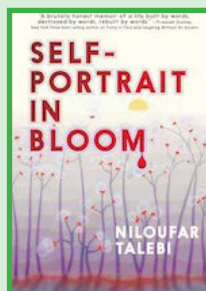
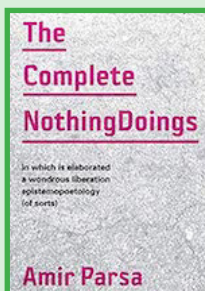
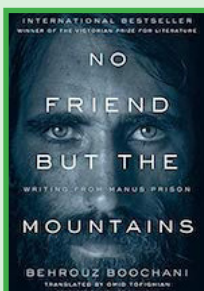
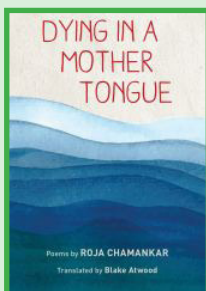
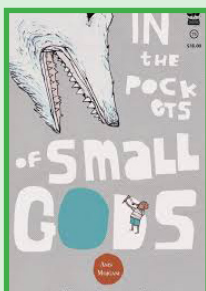
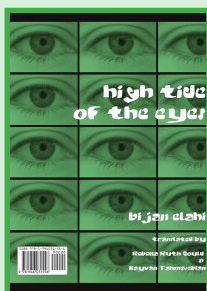
Bijan Elahi

High Tide of the Eyes by Bijan Elahi, translated from the Persian by Kayvan Tahmasebian and Rebecca Ruth Gould (Operating System Glossarium: Unsilenced Texts, 2019) Often called the preeminent hermit-poet of Persian modernism, Bijan Elahi was the founder of the leading avant-garde movement within Persian modernism. A true recluse, he retreated into his Tehran home for the last 30 years of his life. This collection brings Elahi's most important poems, as gathered together in two posthumously published volumes, Vision (2014) and Youths (2015), into English for the first time.

Anis Mojgani

In the Pockets of Small Gods by Anis Mojgani (Write Bloody Publishing, 2018)

In the Pockets of Small Gods explores what we do with grief, long after the initial sadness has faded: how we learn to carry it without holding it, how our joy and our pain touch, and at times need one another. Mojgani's latest collection of poetry touches on many kinds of sorrow, from the suicide of a best friend to a broken marriage to the current political climate. A book of leaves and petals as opposed to a book of stones, In



the Pockets of Small Gods encapsulates the human experience in a way that is both deeply personal and astoundingly universal. In April 2020, Anis Mojgani was appointed as the 10th Oregon Poet Laureate. World-renowned performer, two-time National Slam Poetry Champion, Pushcart Prize Nominee, winner of the World Cup Poetry Slam, and TEDx Speaker, Mojgani is also the author of *The Feather Room* (National Book Award nominee), *Songs From Under the River*, *Over the Anvil We Stretch*, *Junkyard Ghost Revival*, and *The Pocketknife Bible: The Poems and Art of Anis Mojgani*, a fully illustrated and heartbreakingly beautiful poetry memoir that builds the bridge between a grown-up book for children and a children's picture book for adults, seeking to answer questions through the author's poems and pictures.

Roja Chamankar

Dying in a Mother Tongue by Roja Chamankar, translated from the Persian by Blake Atwood (Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin, 2018)

This collection introduces English-speaking readers to one of the most accomplished and well-loved poets of her generation. Chamankar's work blends surrealism and the southern coastal landscape of the poet's upbringing with everyday experiences in a rapidly urbanizing Tehran. While locating herself in the modernist tradition of Iranian poets like Forugh Farrokhzad and Ahmad Shamlu through form and imagery, Chamankar infuses this tradition with concerns unique to a generation that grew up in post-revolutionary Iran and endured the effects of the Iran-Iraq war. Seascapes, love and eroticism, the disconnection of modern life, and myths and fairytales figure prominently in these vivid, lyrical poems. Sometimes abstract, other times surreal—Chamankar's unique poetic voice, like the sea she returns to again and again, combines and sweeps these experiences to shore with strength, and beauty.

Fiction

Behrouz Boochani

No Friend but the Mountains: Writing from Manus Prison by Behrouz Boochani, translated from the Persian by Omid Tofighian (Anansi International, 2019)

The winner of the Victorian Premier's Prize for Literature, Australia's richest literary prize, *No Friend But the Mountains* is a vivid portrait of five years of incarceration, and a portrayal of the horrors the many stateless and imprisoned refugees

and migrants around the world experience. In 2013, Kurdish-Iranian journalist Behrouz Boochani was illegally detained on Manus Island, a refugee detention center off the coast of Australia. This first-hand account was laboriously typed in fragments on a mobile phone, later edited and translated from Persian into English. At the juncture of activism, journalism, autobiography, academic discourse, essay, testimony, psychoanalytic inquiry, philosophical and political commentary, it sheds light on the horrors of the border industrial complex. The translator's preface chronicles the interactive, collaborative, and multidisciplinary approach to composing the manuscript of *No Friend but the Mountains*.

Amir Parsa

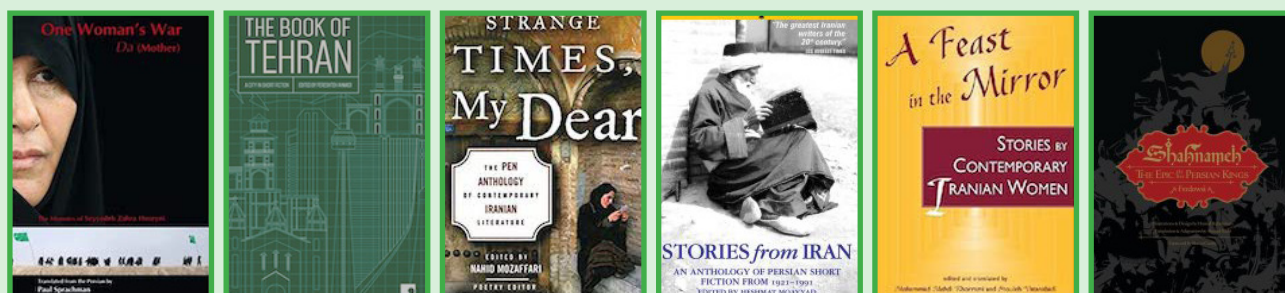
The Complete NothingDoings: in which is elaborated a wondrous liberation epistemopoetology (of sorts) by Amir Parsa (Upset Press, 2019)

The *NothingDoings* of Amir Parsa constitute a radical shift away from the production of objects AND from the curation of non-object-centered experiences. Parsa is an author, translator, performative lecturer, and conceptual artist with an uncategorizable body of work which has been exhibited in museums and galleries internationally. His literary oeuvre is written in English, French, and Persian, and include *Tractatūus Philosophikā-Poeticūus*, *Drive by Cannibalism in the Baroque Tradition* (all by Upset Press), *Erre*, *Divan*, *Feu l'encre*, the multilingual *L'opéra minora*, and the ongoing open epic (*Open Epic*, as rendered by the Elastic Circus of the Revolution). Each of his books interweaves various literary genres to create new ones, employs various registers of textuality, and explores possibilities unique to each language.

Niloufar Talebi

Self-Portrait in Bloom by Niloufar Talebi (l'Aleph, 2019)

This book is at the intersection of autobiography, lyric essay, biography, cultural meditation, photo essay, and includes a bio-portrait and book-length selection of Nobel-Prize nominated Iranian poet Ahmad Shamlou's (1925–2000) work in Talebi's translation. *Self-Portrait in Bloom* could be read as the literary companion to *Abraham in Flames* (2019), Talebi's opera with composer Aleksandra Vrebalov, inspired by her coming of age around Shamlou, and trials by fire in the search for truth, a metaphor often used by Shamlou (also spelled Shamlu). Talebi is also the translator of Vis



& I, a novel by Farideh Razi, and the editor/translator of *Belonging: New Poetry by Iranians Around the World* (North Atlantic Books, 2008), a bilingual edition of contemporary poems that expand the canon of significant writing in the Persian language. Talebi and collaborators dramatized a selection of these poems as a theatrical performance called ICARUS/RISE.

Seyyedeh Zahra Hoseyni

One Woman's War: Da (Mother) The Memoirs of Seyyedeh Zahra Hosseini, translated from the Persian by Paul Sprachman (Mazda Publishers, 2014)

This best-selling memoir about the Iran-Iraq war has been reprinted several times and is a cultural phenomenon in Iran. Da is part autobiography and part oral history of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-88). The first of three parts highlights Hoseyni's childhood in Iraq and their struggles adapting to life in the Persian Gulf after her family was expelled from their native Iraq. The second chronicles Hoseyni's experiences during the first three weeks of the Iran-Iraq war, including her activities as a collector of body parts and washer of corpses, her role as a nurse to wounded civilians and soldiers. The final part is devoted to Hoseyni's recovery from shrapnel wounds and to her married life, spent in two homes. This book was born from over one thousand hours of interviews, and part of a larger project to record the oral histories of Iranian women who took part in the war. Readers see Da as an epic of grief and suffering that evokes the formative event in Shi'ism: the martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn, his family, and a small band of followers at Karbala in 680 A.D. reenacted each year through a multi-day passion pageant called, ta'zieh. Hosseini's accounts of the martyrdom of her father and brother are so remarkable that they rival the most moving eulogies commemorating the suffering at Karbala. The interviewer's collaboration functions like the traditional dirges of ta'zieh performed during the month of Moharram. Da, in effect, brings the archetypal Shi'a narrative of martyrdom from the seventh century into the present, and thereby contemporizes the slaughter at Karbala in the context of the Iran-Iraq War. Paul Sprachman is also the translator of *Two Centuries of Silence* by Abdolhossein Zarrinkoub, and *Erotic Persian*, a general survey in Persian poetry and prose of the classical to the modern period of metaphoric language and images that arouse sexual desire, both published by Mazda Publishers.

Fereshteh Ahmadi

The Book of Tehran: A City in Short Fiction (Reading the City), edited by Fereshteh Ahmadi, various translators (Comma Press, 2019)

This collection of ten short stories by ten Iranian writers all set in Tehran reveals the diversity of lives, family feuds, judgemental neighbors, unexpected sexual tensions, and all manner of relationships in a big city like many other big cities.

Nahid Mozaffari

Strange Times, My Dear: The Pen Anthology of

Contemporary Iranian Literature, edited by Nahid Mozaffari, various translators (Arcade Publishing, 2005) When Arcade Publishing originally contracted this extraordinary collection of poetry and literature, the Department of the Treasury was attempting to censor the publication of works from countries on America's "enemies list." Arcade, along with the PEN American Center, and other organizations, filed a lawsuit in federal court against the United States government. Their landmark case forced the Office of Foreign Assets Control to change their regulations regarding editing and publishing literature in translation. This anthology features numerous writers and translators in various genres.

Heshmat Moayyad

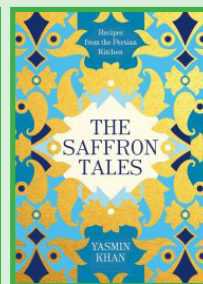
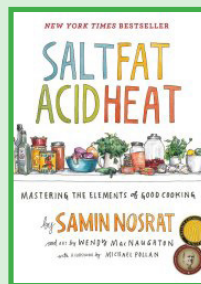
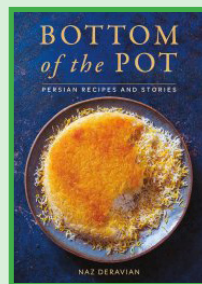
Stories from Iran: An Anthology of Persian Short Fiction From 1921-1991, edited by Heshmat Moayyad, various translators (Mage Publishers, 2002)

This collection of thirty-five short stories by twenty-six of Iran's best-known 20th-century writers, including Sadegh Chubak, M. A. Jamalzadeh, Jalal-e Al Ahmad, Esma'il Fassihi, Golamhossein Sa'edi, Nassim Khaksar, and Hushang Golshiri, gives voice to the concerns and visions of their generation. Ranging from the dark to the humorous, elegant to the poetic, these stories depict aspects of both traditional and modern life in Iran with its many religious, political, cultural, and class tensions. Arranged in chronological order, these stories span a period in Iranian history from the Constitutional Revolution (1906-11) through the long reign of the Pahlavis (1925-79), the upheavals of the 1950s, the 1979 Islamic Revolution, to 1991.

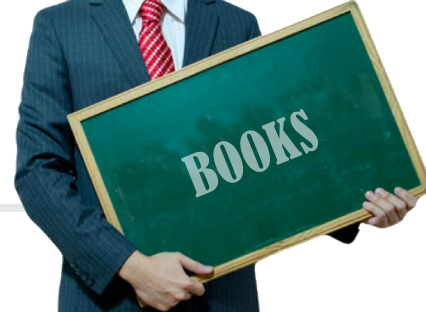
Mohammad Mehdi Khorrami and Shouleh Vatanabadi

A Feast in the Mirror: Stories by Contemporary Iranian Women, edited by Mohammad Mehdi Khorrami and Shouleh Vatanabadi (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2000)

The authors of these stories explore new literary styles and forms. *A Feast in the Mirror* captures the diverse voices of contemporary Iranian women and reflects their powerful contribution to the literary landscape in the golden era of Iranian fiction, offering glimpses into women's lives and the labyrinths of Iranian society today. Khorrami and Vatanabadi provide a contextual introduction to the collection, a short introduction to each story, and biographical notes on each author. ■■■



Recommending some Iranian titles to translate and publish



If you are interested in any of the titles, please contact at polliteraryagency@gmail.com.

*** IRANIAN GRANT PROGRAM WILL OFFER SUPPORT OF UP TO 3.000.00 EURO
FOR TRANSLATION OR PRINTING.**

Vampires (5 vols.)

Tehran, Ghosts' Alley
Meeting the Vampire
The Ghost of Death
The Cloud Forest
The Hunting Night
Written by: Siamak Golshiri
Publisher: Ofoq
Publication Date: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2013
Age Group: +12
Size: 14.5 cm x 18.5 cm
Pages: 112, 120, 144, 176, 144
ISBN: 9789643695149

About the Book:

Siamak Golshiri has created an exciting world, in which vampires and humans, their lives, and their stories are entangled. He has masterfully narrated the intertwined stories of vampires, their struggles, their reputation as killers, and the misperceptions we humans have of them. In this series of five books, the readers are presented with the occurrence of suspicious murders and the links they have with the unknown vampires in Tehran. The familiarity of situations, locations, timings, names, and the overall atmosphere has made this series a brilliant all Iranian horror story.

In the first book, the author is mentioned as Dracula. You read it right, the same famous legendary Dracula, is willingly telling his side of the story.

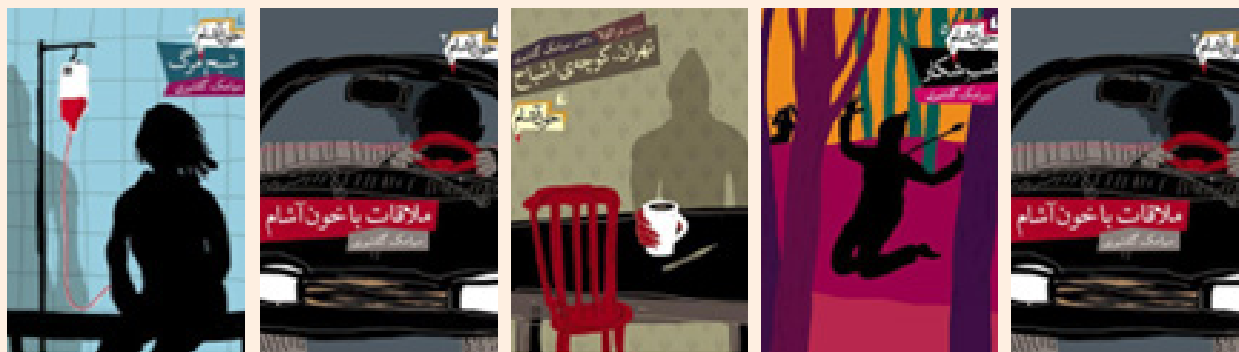
In the second book, the author is reliving a story and

unknowingly, has stepped foot in a world he previously thought of as fantasy. He goes to a place Dracula had described in the first book and suddenly feels a cold breeze over his shoulder. Then all he hears is this: "it's now my home too." said the Lord Dracula.

In the third book, the author's curiosity is intrigued, when the corpse of Arash Bahrami, a journalist, is found in the eastern part of Tehran. The author found himself searching through the journalist's stuff at his home and finally realized he had a fiancé, called Rita. The author visits Rita and passes the point of no return. He has entered a world, he has heard a story, and he has met people and creatures, from which he can no longer escape.

In the fourth book, the author previously familiar with the vampires of Tehran is searching to find Arash Bahrami. In the process, he meets a strange and estranged woman, with even a stranger past. She tells him about the experience she had in the cloud forest: an experience that has been haunting her for good.

In the fifth book, the author becomes the target for the vampires, after he has mistakenly revealed and unfolded their secret. The author is convinced by other people who are now involved in the story, that the best defense strategy is to attack. This group of men, each one with a different goal in mind, comes together and starts the hunt for the vampires. But nothing is pure good nor evil. The author must face his ultimate fear to be able to realize the truth; a truth so different from what he has in mind. He eventually learns that the clichés and the stories about vampires have nothing to do with the intentions they have in heart.



The Russian Songs

Author: Ahmad Modghagh
Publisher: Shahrestan-e Adab
Year of Publishing: 2017
No. of Pages: 240
Size: 13 × 20
ISBN: 9786008145394
■ Sample English text is available.

About the Book:

Ya'ghoub is from a noble family who came to Kabul because he conflicted 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.

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 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.

About the Author:

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 the teenage story, May 94
- Second place in Balkh Literary Award, Afghanistan, 2015
- The First Place in The Fine Arts Festival, M2015



No One Is Home (15 Stories by Women in Today's Iran)

Author: Group of Authors

Editor and Compiler: Elham Fallah

Publisher: Kooche Pubs.

Subject: Fiction (short stories)

Year of Publication: 2019/First edition

No. of Pages: 82

Size: 21×14/Paperback

ISBN: 978960008753797

■ Sample English text is available.

About the Book:

The book contains fourteen short stories about topics relating to the focus of women in Iranian society. Women who – in the struggle between tradition and religion, and the rampant modernization of society – have been plagued by multiple identities and complex problems to accept their multiple roles. The book perfectly mirrors all the diverse strata of Iranian women and the dilemmas and difficulties they countenance. Each story opens a new window to the world of an Iranian woman in today's Iran. The story of a woman whose wooden leg has been eaten by termites; a woman who is in conflict with the female myth of Penelope, a woman who had sought an occasion to abandon a man inches away from death, a man who had endured her during his lifetime; a woman who is addicted to play a mental game of killing other women in the subway station; a woman who has killed her husband's sister and the murder has forced her to wandering and homelessness; a woman who uses magic and sorcery to take revenge of her loneliness of women who are loved by their men; a woman who at the zero point border, to escape ethnic and family prejudices, is trapped in a pit as prey to wolves; a woman who, after years of abstaining from relying on her gender aspects for career advancements, is back to square one and regrets that; a woman who sees other women in her life as monsters that have nibbled on her life; a woman who rescues a man from destruction with her gold and possessions; a woman who daydreams about getting away from her life and save herself from the boredom of being a housewife, while still dependent on her spouse and children; a woman who considers her man's debauchery and sexual promiscuity a malignant tumor that must be tolerated; a woman who is no longer alive, but is still watching her mother and father and identifies with their sick relationship and feels its impact on herself; the

story of a woman who knowingly establishes a relationship with a married woman to cure her loneliness.

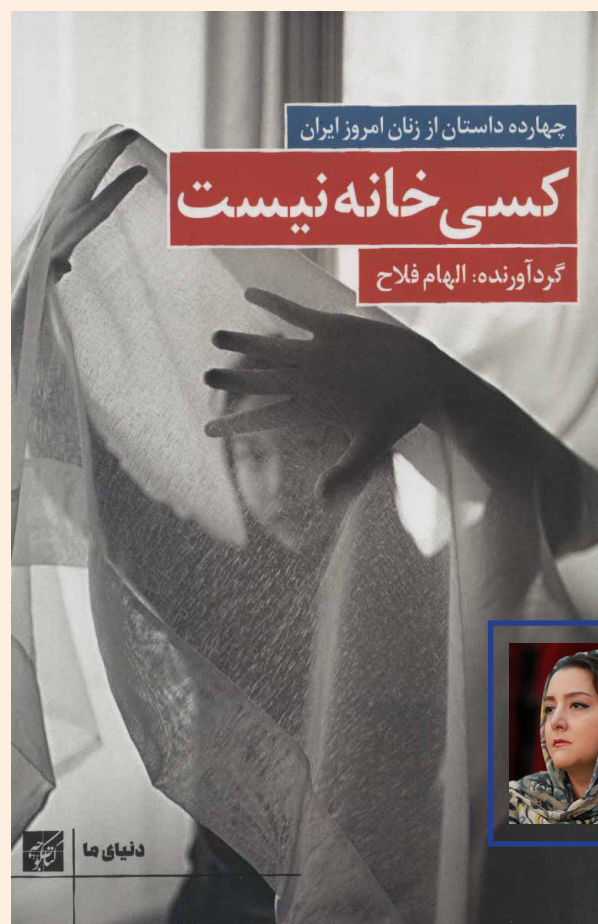
The present book is a collection of 14 short stories written with different styles by 14 most prominent and most honorable contemporary Iranian female authors. The editor of the collection presents a brief introduction of the author and her story at the preface of each story.

About the Author:

Elham Fallah, one Iranian awarded novelist, has been working in the fields of novel writing, literary criticism, and journalism for over ten years. She has published two story collections, six adult novels, and three adolescent novels so far. She is a columnist in the fiction magazine Kargadan, Iran newspaper, Hamshahri Fiction, Arman, etc. She is also a virtual lecturer of story criticism base at the Fiction and Poetry Literature Foundation.

Some of her honors are:

Her Ecchymosis novel won the 7th round of Parvin Etesami Literary Prize and the people's votes section at 11th round of Jalal Al-Ahmad Prize and has been nominated for Ghanipor Award.



The Gate of Dead Trilogy (3 Vols.)

Author: Hamid Reza Shahabadi

Publisher: Ofoq Publication House

Year of Publication: 2018–20

- Sample English text is available.
- Winner of Book of the Year, 2020
- Silver Medallist of The Flying Turtle, 2020
- Selected by the International Youth Library for The White Ravens Catalogue, 2019

About the Books:

Book 1: The Vertical Graveyard, ISBN: 978-600-353-387-5, Pages: 240

Book 2: Night of the Rampart, ISBN: 978-600-353-487-2, Pages: 240

Book 3: The Well of Darkness, ISBN: 978-600-353-886-3, Pages: 224

Hamidreza Shahabadi has yet again created a world of mystery and horror and intricate plot and complex characters. This work is the first volume of a trilogy to be and it revolves around three layers of entangled stories. It has two narrators, decades apart in time with each other. One is a boy (Majid) who lives with his father and sister and his mother died a few years ago. The other (Reza Qoli), is a poor boy from the Qajar Era. He was taken from his family and sent to work as a slave for a cruel master who enslaved young boys in a haunted, feared house. Their paths cross in ways neither could imagine. As Expected from Shahabadi, author of Lullaby for the Dead Girl, social issues and historical events are woven into his storyline. He has brilliant dominance over his prose and how prominent each character should be. The details are

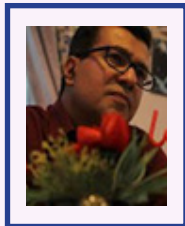
well-processed and the characters are relatable, especially Reza, who was a rebel and finally fled his master's claw. The rumor had it that he buried his enemies and unruly servants vertically between the walls of his mansion. But the mystery started with a rumor, about people disappearing in a pool at that house. He lost his friend, who fell into the pool and came back a changed boy, unlike himself and any other living one. Reza ran away and took shelter with a wise man, struggling with problems to keep his school and fight illiteracy and superstition and ignorance and negligence. They formed a candid friendship and Majid reads about their adventures to stay alive in a diary accidentally fallen into his father's possession. Majid commenced a quest to find Reza's school and to fact-check, his story of the dead whose body never reached the surface of the pool. Friendship, loyalty, history, death, and truth are the main theme of the work. The dead may be gone, their presence lingers over the living and their death is not the end. Majid has lost his mother and Reza, his best friend, Shakoore. They both experienced loneliness and their stories intertwine, with a taste of horror and history.

The children of the mansion didn't believe Shakoore's comeback. They kept their distance from him and me as if we are infected with a fatal sickness. I couldn't leave him alone, he was my best friend who has come back from the dead.

This is where the world of stories meets history, human feelings, impossible choices, and relatable characters. Hamid Reza Shahabadi has done his magic once more: he entangles human fears with hopes and presents to the reader a rollercoaster of adventures, excitements, twists, and a final huge surprise. In The Well of Darkness, each loose end is tied up so perfectly that all of a sudden, his narrative world makes more sense. Characters finally find



their due representation. It has all the elements of a good story, which haunts not only the readers' minds but also their hearts and for a long time after finishing it, their memory. This is a great example of an Iranian horror story, which is narrated at alternating times. The protagonist is not just one persona; there are at least two. The book picks up what book two left off, however as the author has mentioned, it can be read as an independent historical horror story. We know that Shakour is not the only one who comes to the world of the living; Razi is one of those lost souls who cannot find solace anywhere. He is up to something and here is where Reza's role becomes bolder. At present, the other protagonist needs answers, if he wants to save the life of an innocent man. Hamid Reza Shahabadi has put a lot of effort into creating an everlasting work of literature that is appealing to both Iranian children as well as young avid readers from around the world. The Vertical Graveyard has been published in Egypt too.



About the Author

Hamid Reza Shahabadi, an Iranian talented researcher and writer, is educated in history. His main concern is retelling some social incidents of his country's contemporary history in the form of a story. He began his profession as a writer by writing stories for children and adolescents. Hamid Reza Shahabadi in the thirty years of his writing created about 20 works that have been praised and appreciated in many cultural and literary festivals and circles in Iran.

Some Books:

- Dayere Zangi, short story, Kaman publisher, 2001.
- Gothe Street Cafe, novel, Ofoq publisher, 2005.
- Dilmaj (translator), novel, Ofoq publisher, 2006.
- Sleeping song for a dead girl, Ofoq publisher, 2007.
- Slaves' confession, adolescent novel, Kanoon publisher, 2009.
- When the Eyelashes lost, adolescent novel, Kanoon publisher, 2012.
- No one dares that, adolescent novel, Kanoon publisher, 2013.

The book Telo Garden (Bagh-e-Telo)

Author: Majid Gheisari
 Publisher: Kooche Pubs.
 Subject: Fiction (Novel)
 Year of Publication: 2019/
 First edition
 No. of Pages:154
 Size:21×14/Paperback
 ISBN:97896006974668
 ■Winner of Mehregan Award as the best novel in 2006

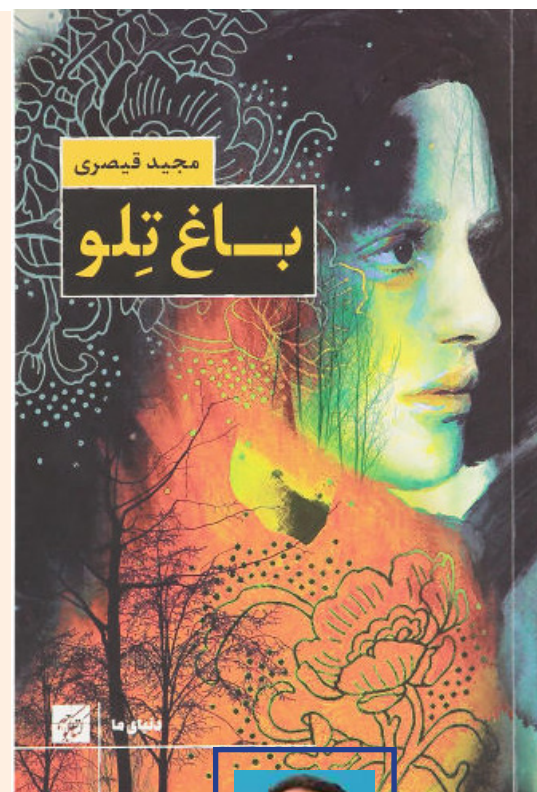
About the Book:

Telo Garden is the tragedy of a girl who goes from a desirable perfection to an unfavorable situation. In tragedy, the fictional character is first shown to be superior to other human beings.

The book Telo Garden is a realism-style story with a memoir narrative. The reader is provided with perspectives on sociology, anthropology, social and ideological issues. The story has a circulatory style. The circulation of time shows that it is a modern work. In this book, a teenager whose older sister is going to the frontline tells the story. A sister who takes care of the lives of the poor and helps the farmers with the harvest. The departure of sister and lack of information about her has consequences for the family, one of which is the relocation of the family to another place and living in secret in a new neighborhood, and the other is disputes and conflicts between family members, which are intensified by people's word of mouth and rumors . . .

About the Author:

Majid Gheysari (1967-Tehran) is one of the most capable writers in the field of literature and while adhering to modern narrative styles and norms, has created brilliant works in this field relying on his own experience and personal perceptions. He is also one of the few writers who has excelled in various genres like short stories, novels, and long novels and has created prestigious works in each of these genres. He has won the International Eurasia Award from Russia for the premiere novel in 2018. Majid Gheisari has been a referee at various literary festivals in Iran.



Daughter of Shina

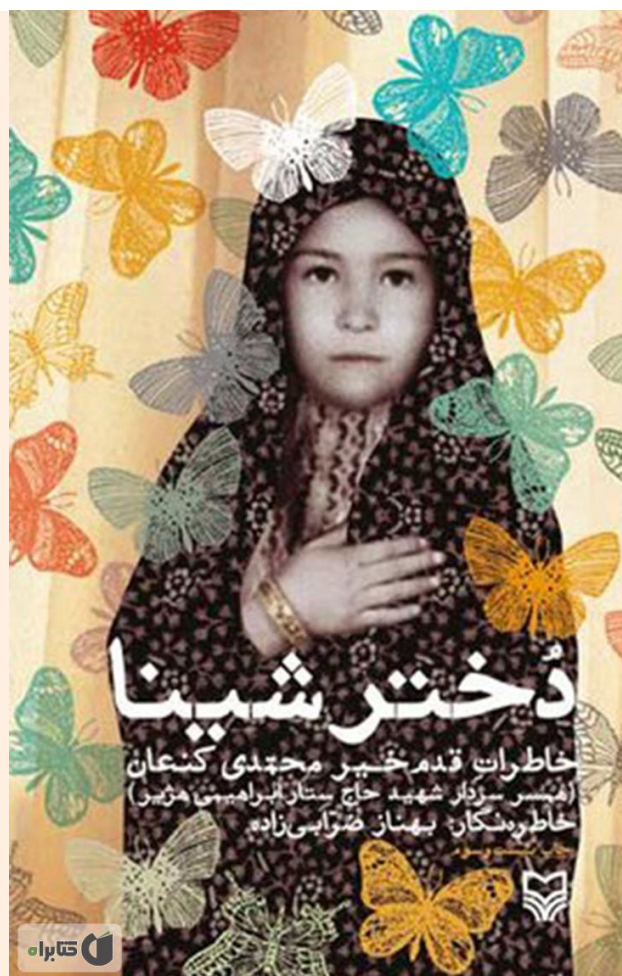
Author: Behnaz Zarrabizadeh
Publisher: Soore-ye Mehr Pubs.
Year of Publishing: 2017/16th Edition
Subject: Fiction (Memory)
No. of Pages: 264/Paperback
Size: 14 × 22
ISBN: 9786001752629
■English text is available.

About the Book:

At the beginning of the story, the narrator's childhood days are narrated in her village. She was named "Ghadam Kheir" because she brought luckiness, and she was deeply concerned by her parents, Haji Agha and Shirin Jan, and she is more interested in her father than everybody. This interest made her not willing to get married and she was trying to get rid of marriage anyway. But the presence of Samad and his proposal to "Ghadam Kheir" and the mediation of the neighborhood elders suddenly bring this favorite teen girl to a much deeper and wider world than her children's home. Before marrying Samad (whose original name is "Sattar"), Ghadam Kheir flees, again and again, his look, as if from the very beginning, separation and desolation have been destined in their fate. Samad joined military service. After marrying, he traveled from the village to Tehran for working but returned for a few days. Shortly thereafter, the Revolution of 1979 and the uprising of the people distanced between them. Then the war began and eventually the martyrdom separated them until Ghadam Kheir's death. As if from the very beginning of her marriage, Ghadam Kheir had gone to her solitude home. In the various parts of the book, we observe her worry and impatience. However, she seems she has accepted her fate, accepted Samad's absences and bad promises in the critical moments of her life, including the births of her children, although sometimes the life pressure comes out of her bearing, but for the sake of her children, she is resistant and firm and takes her life steering in the stormy ocean of the fate. The book "Daughter of Shina" is the memories of Ghadam Kheir Muhammadi, the wife of Martyr Sattar Ebrahimi. This book is the story of the love life of a rural girl living in the days of the war, and despite belonging to the literature of resistance and war, it is a work that narrates life with all its hardships and pleasures.

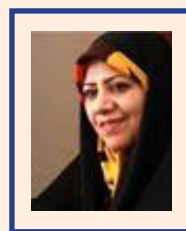
About the Author:

Behnaz Zarabizadeh (1968–Hamedan) is one of the most talented and active Iranian women writers who have



been able to create valuable works, especially in writing diaries about the events of the Iran–Iraq war. Welcomed by Iranian readers and literary circles. In addition to the book's compilation, Zarrabizadeh has worked closely with the cultural institutions active in the field of sacred defense literature. So

far, more than 250 literary works and stories have been published in periodicals including magazines and other publications, and dozens of titles have been published, among which are the followings: Girl of Shina (Shina's daughter), Sooreh Mehre, The Eleventh Rosary, Sooreh Mehre, Haji's District, Sooreh Mehre, Shell Bird (Shell's chicken), Sooreh Mehre, Snowman, O'rooj Publishing House, It was Tuesday, Sarir Publishing House. Behnaz Zarrabizadeh has won numerous honors and awards from literary festivals including: The first place in the reader's and adolescent story, Admired in two rounds of Isfahan Literary Award, Admired in the ninth and tenth courses of the Holy Defense Writers Festival,....





Book on Iran published in Dhaka

Kakoli, a leading publisher based in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, has recently published a book on Iranian studies.

The book carries the latest studies on the geography of Iran as well as tourist attractions and ancient sites.

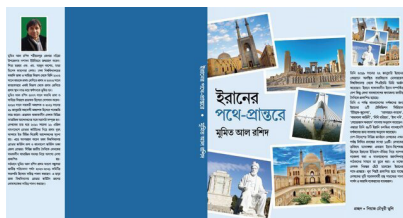
A chapter in the book has been dedicated to the religious sites of Zoroastrians, Christians, Muslims and followers of other monotheistic religions.

The book also contains a brief history of the country, whose civilization dates back several millennia.

Traditional rituals, Persian satires, Iranian cinema, traditional games, Persian music, women's status in Iran, Iranian cuisine and many other topics on the country are discussed in the book.

In addition, the book also has prefaces by Ebrahim Khodayar of Tarbiat Modares University and Nematollah Iranzadeh, the dean of the Faculty of Persian Literature & Foreign Languages at Allameh Tabatabai University.

"What our world of today needs is to love humanity, regardless of differences, and to promote an affectionate dialog to live gracefully and avoid wars and violence; the very same glorious heritage our ancestors left for us in the common civilization from Bosnia to Bengal," Khodayar wrote his introduction.



Iran nominates Zahra Amini for the workshop at Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava

Iran has nominated Zahra Amini for a workshop at the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB), the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) announced on Monday.

The BIB-UNESCO Workshop of Albín Brunovský, which is organized on the sidelines of the biennial for young illustrators from developing countries, will be held from October 17 to 23.

The IIDCYA selected Amini for the workshop in collaboration with the Iranian Association of Children's Book Illustrators and the Children's Book Council of Iran.

Participants in the workshop will be selected from among the illustrators nominated by countries from across the world.

Amini, 25, is a graduate of visual communication from the Sepehr Art University in Isfahan. Her illustrations have decorated numerous books, including "A Daisy Flower", "Javad Loves Cooking", "Call Me Weary" and "Thorns".

Iranian illustrator and writer Hassan Musavi won the grand prize of the biennial for his book "The Boxer" in 2019. Iranian illustrator Ali Buzari was a member of the BIB jury.

Published by the Fatemi publishing house, "The Boxer" narrates the story of the hectic life of a champion who is struggling between kindness and violence, the more he boxes, the smaller his surrounding world becomes.



80 foreign publishers to attend Tehran Intl. Book Fair

80 foreign publishers were attended the Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), held online from January 20 to 25.

The publishers were from different countries including Spain, Indonesia, Columbia, and Senegal, some of which attended the Tehran Book Fair for the first time.

The international section was one of the main sections of the fair that helped establish international relations in the book and publications arena.

Easier access to the fair where publishers could easily upload their latest productions was one of the reasons behind the warm welcomed of the foreign publishers, while about 30 different international programs with 180 experts attended the webinars organized on the margins of the fair was another reason for the participation of the publishers.

Last year, the 33rd edition of Iran's most important cultural event was scheduled to be held in April, and Turkey was slated to be the guest of honor, however, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance canceled the fair due to a massive rise in the death toll from coronavirus in the country.



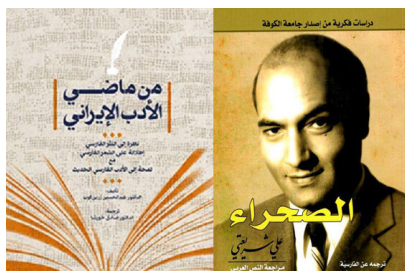
Translations from Persian literature honored at Sheikh Hamad awards

Several translations from Persian literature have been honored at the Sixth Sheikh Hamad Awards for Translation and International Understanding (SHATIU) in Doha, Qatar.

In the category of translation from Persian into Arabic, "The Desert" ("Al-Sahra") by Hasan al-Sarraf received first prize. The book features articles by Iranian scholar Ali Shariati, the organizers announced on Tuesday.

"The Zaydiya in Iran" ("Al-Zaydiyyah fi Iran") translated by Mustafa Ahmad al-Bakkur. The original book has been authored by Muhammad Kazim Rahmati. The Zaydiyya are a branch of Shia Islam, often termed "moderate" or even "the practical group of the Shia," that diverged from other Shia factions in the course of the dispute over the succession to the imamate that followed the death of the fourth Imam, Hazrat Ali Zayn al-Abidin (AS) in 713. The third prize went to "A History of Persian Literature" ("Tarikh al-Adab al-Farisi") translated by Basil Ahmad Adnawi. Authored by Ahmad Tamimdari, the book gives a comprehensive image of the tender subtleties and rich scope of Persian literature. It zooms in on the intellectual and philosophical: peripatetic, illuminative, mystical, theological, and combinative philosophy, and the five literary period schools. It also briefly introduces various Persian poetic styles including Khorasani, the middle, Vuqul, Indian, restoration, and contemporary styles.

"From the History of Iranian Literature," ("Min Madi al-Adab al-Irani") translated by Sadiq Khursha won third prize.

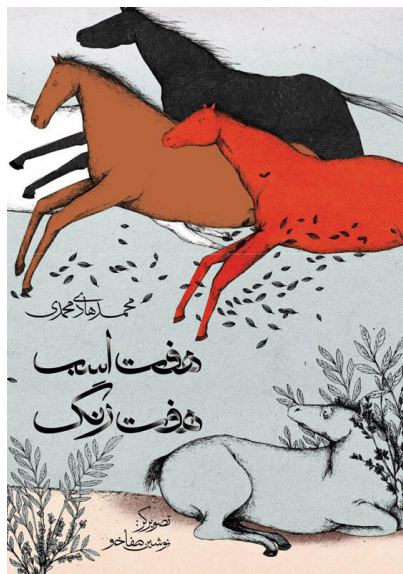


More books by Iranian writers picked for IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) has selected two more books by Iranian writers for its 2021 Collection for Young People with Disabilities, the Children's Book Council of Iran has announced.

The books are "There Is Something Here" by Samaneh Naderi and "Seven Horses, Seven Colors" by Mohammad-Hadi Mohammadi.

"There Is Something Here" is based on "The Elephant in the Dark" from the Masnavi-ye Manavi by the Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi. "Seven Horses, Seven Colors" illustrated by Nushin Safakhu is a fantasy about a little girl who is not able to walk. In her imagination, she begins running in a field with a number of colorful horses, each of which has its place, color, characteristics, and imagination except for one of them. The horses decided to share all they possess with the disadvantaged horse so that this horse can share these characteristics with the little girl. She then calls upon all of them to do the story of "Seven Nights, Seven Moons", in which the horses become eternal.



Serbia's Utopia eager to publish more books from modern Persian literature

Serbian publisher Srdan Markovic says that he has plans to publish additional books from modern Persian literature for Serbian readers.

He made the remarks in an international webinar held on the margins of the virtual edition of the Tehran Book Fair on Friday. Srdan Markovic from the Serbian Publishing House Utopia, Iranian cultural attaché in Serbia Mehdi Shirazi, and translator Aleksandar Dragovic were among the experts participating in the webinar to discuss Iranian books and the translation into Persian of books in Serbia. Dragovic is the translator of a selection from Iranian children's book writer Hushang Moradi Kermani's bestseller "The Stories of Majid", which was unveiled at the 64th Belgrade International Book Fair in 2019.

"I visited Iran in 2009, and a year later I began to work on book publication. When I went to the United States I brought several Persian books back with me. I also got several books from Iran's cultural office in Serbia and I later translated the couplets of Persian poet Omar Khayyam," Markovic said. "I usually publish five to six books every year and I usually look for books for translation that will have more influence on ordinary readers in Serbia," he added.

Markovic called himself a lover of Iran and said, "I have traveled to Iran twice and several times to India, Pakistan, and Tajikistan. And I have tried to publish books from these neighboring countries."



Poet Abdolmalekian a finalist for 2021 PEN America Literary Awards

Iranian poet Garous Abdolmalekian was named a finalist for the 2021 PEN America Literary Awards for a book-length translation of poetry from any language into English with his 'Lean Against This Late Hour'

Judges read over 1,850 books this cycle in their commitment to recognizing literary excellence in their contemporaries and the nominees in various other categories were announced.

This spring, the 2021 PEN America Literary Awards will confer over \$380,000 to writers and translators across all stages of their careers. Spanning fiction, nonfiction, poetry, biography, essay, science writing, translation, and more, these Finalists' books are dynamic, imaginative, and thought-provoking examples of literary excellence published in the 2020 calendar year. Winners will be celebrated at the virtual Literary Awards Ceremony on April 8, 2021.



17 Iranian books picked for Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava 2021

Seventeen books by Iranian illustrators have been selected for the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB), which will be held in the capital of Slovakia from October 15, 2021, to January 9, 2022.

17 Iranian books picked for Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava 2021. A jury composed of Fashid Mesqali, Sahar Tarhandeh, Alireza Golduzian, Kamal Tabatabai, and Ali Buzari has picked the Iranian entries to the exhibition, the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) announced on Saturday.

A highlight of the collection is "You Are an Explorer" (also translated as "We Are Explorers") by Ghazal Fathollahi. The book written by Shahrzad Shahrjerdi has also been published by La Maleta, a publisher in the autonomous community of Asturias in northwest Spain. The book shows fraternity, imagination, collaboration, and self-improvement against the pain of war. This book, through the love between two brothers and their imagination, leads us to reflect on the hardships suffered by some people as a result of conflicts in their countries of origin that force them to leave their homes in search of something better. "Lili, Where Are You?" written and illustrated by Taravat Jalali is another major book of the collection. The book aims to help children cope with loss and loneliness, as well as strengthen their skills of observation and problem-solving.



Iran attends virtual New Delhi World Book Fair 2021

Iran's Book and Literature House Institute has attended the virtual New Delhi World Book Fair 2021.

Representing our country, the institute introduces 70 winning books in different domestic book awards such as Iran's Book of the Year Award, Jalal Al-e Ahmad Book Award as well as books in Digital Right Center of the 1st Tehran Virtual Book Fair, public relations department of Iran's Book and Literature House reported. Moreover, the institute introduces the best Iranian authors of children and young adults books in a catalog as well as works in the field of children and young adults books in English. The books whose publishers are eager to sell their rights are also being showcased.

The first-ever virtual book fair New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) will run by March 9. This edition has been organized by the National Book Trust (NBT) in association with the International Trade Organization of India (IPPO). Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, this year, the fair will be completely virtual and free for all. The theme of the book fair this year will be National Education Policy 2020.



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

At present POL handles the rights of more than 60 Iranian authors and publishers' titles to sell their rights. As for buying right, we present the rights of many publishers from the different countries to buy their Persian Language right to Iranian publishers.

Services and Editorial Developments:

- Publicity of Iranian books through introduction and presentation of books in major international book fairs and through contacts and negotiation with literary agencies and publishers throughout the world.
- Handling the rights of more than 60 Iranian authors and publishers' titles to sell their rights.
- Representing the rights of many publishers from the different countries to buy their Persian Language right to the Iranian publishers.
- Translation and editing books from Persian (Farsi) into other languages and vice versa.
- Co-publishing and co-editions books with publishers in other countries.

Main Programs

- Children books: Chapter books, Picture books,
- Young Adults: Novels, short stories,
- Fiction: Literary, popular fiction, war, historical, short stories,
- Non-fiction: Memoirs, narrative, science, cultural affairs, biographies, diaries, religious,
- Awarded books,

Iran

Unit.8, No.80, Inghlab Squ., Tehran-Iran,

Tel: +98 21 66480369-66478558-66907693

Fax: +98 21 66480369

Turkey

Unit.4, No.6, Taskend Str., Levent, Istanbul- Turkey

Tel: +9054488039558



Pol Literary & Translation Agency

POL Publishes and distributes the quarterly titled "PUBLISHING IN IRN MAGAZINE" to report on the operation and development of the Iranian book market and publishing industry every season.



Pol Literary & Translation Agency

Contact Person: Majid

polliteraryagency@gmail.com

www.pol-ir.ir

polliteraryagency@gmail.com