

# Booklist

ONLINE

**My Sister, Guard Your Veil;  
My Brother, Guard Your Eyes:  
Uncensored Iranian Voices.**

Zanganeh, Lila Azam (editor).

Apr. 2006. 160p. Beacon, paperback, \$14 (0-8070-0463-4). 305.40955.

REVIEW. First published April 1, 2006 (Booklist).

A seemingly devout cleaning lady sweeps a client's living room while pornography plays on the TV. A comp-lit class analyzes Milan Kundera's *Identity* (1998) in a translation deleting two major components, sex and gender equality. Women's clothing mannequins gradually lose their femininity, including their faces, replaced by cardboard disks, and their hands, replaced by cylinders. Of such is life in Iran's capital, Tehran, home, at least originally, of most of the artists and intellectuals contributing to this collection. Together, they raise the flag of hope for a freer culture, though the only basis they show for that hope is their and their peers' talent and integrity. Reza Aslan, author of *No god but God* (2005), ruefully acknowledges that, despite Tehranians' disdain for the mullahs—a taxi is as likely to run one down as pick him up, he says—many more Iranians want the "mullahcracy." Other imaginative and provocative voices herein include filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, Oscar-nominated actress Shohbeh Aghdashloo, and graphic novelist Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*, 2003).

— Ray Olson