



My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes: Uncensored Iranian Voices
Zanganeh, Lila Azam (Editor)

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This timely little book offers a thoughtful, wide-ranging and captivating introduction to a dynamic country most Americans still regrettably associate with romantic-exotic or religious -fanatical stereotypes. Centering on questions of identity and subjectivity in and outside Iran's Islamic Republic, the 15 prominent indigenous and ex-pat voices showcased in this collection include bestselling authors Azar Nafisi (*Reading Lolita in Tehran*), Azadeh Moaveni (*Lipstick Jihad*) and Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*), as well as renowned filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, Oscar-nominated actress Shohreh Aghdashloo (*House of Sand and Fog*) and acclaimed visual artist Shirin Neshat. The brief, often breezy essays, reminiscences, reportage and interviews overturn the facile image of Iran as a single, homogenous entity, providing animated discussions of politics, sex, art, women's rights, racism, poetic culture, underground nightlife, Tehran's Jewish community, censorship, economic inequality and cross-cultural (mis)understanding under a regime that is highly oppressive but continually subverted. Arranged and framed with care by editor Zanganeh (and featuring original art by Satrapi), the book's contents resist an overarching, dogmatic point of view, presenting instead an open-ended invitation to dialogue. Readers will find this volume complex but accessible; it reveals the human stories behind the veil of the headlines.(Apr.)

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