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# The Complete Persepolis



## Synopsis

Here, in one volume: Marjane Satrapi's best-selling, internationally acclaimed graphic memoir. *Persepolis* is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming--both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up. Edgy, searingly observant, and candid, often heartbreaking but threaded throughout with raw humor and hard-earned wisdom--*Persepolis* is a stunning work from one of the most highly regarded, singularly talented graphic artists at work today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A memoir of growing up as a girl in revolutionary Iran, *Persepolis* provides a unique glimpse into a nearly unknown and unreachable way of life... That Satrapi chose to tell her remarkable story as a gorgeous comic book makes it totally unique and indispensable."--Time

Marjane Satrapi was born in Rasht, Iran. She now lives in Paris, where she is a regular contributor

to magazines and newspapers throughout the world, including *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. She is the author of *Embroideries*, *Chicken with Plums*, and several children's books. She cowrote and codirected the animated feature film version of *Persepolis*.

This type of book is usually not my come of tea. However, when I heard some of the schools in the Chicago area were attempting to ban the book from their reading list, I decided to see what all the fuss was about. I discovered this book was a memoir from a woman who grew up in revolutionary Iran. This book was obviously designed for a younger group because it is in a comic book type of format, which actually made it an enjoyable read because of the illustrations on each page. *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi is a 341 pages long and the story begins in 1980 when the author was 10 years old. It tells about when the Islamic revolution took place in 1979 and how all women had to wear a veil. The story moves on to explain the many changes that occurred in Iran while she was growing up. The author relates how close she was to her family and how they did their best to protect her from the changes going on in Iran over the years. Her parents sent her to Austria to learn French and she also learned some German as well. This is basically an autobiography of the author and I think it is a book American youths should also read in order to understand the dangers of religious extremism. The author now lives in Paris, France and is still writing. In conclusion, even though I think this book will appeal to women more than men, I still think it was a good read. If you want to find out how women (and anyone else who did not follow every rule) were treated for breaking any of the very strict religious rules in Iran, you might want to read this book. Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: *Haiku Moments: How to read, write and enjoy haiku*)

*Persepolis 2* by Marjane Satrapi is a graphic memoir detailing her high school years away from Iran and her eventual return to the country of her birth. This book is a follow up to her *Persepolis* and pretty much starts off where the first book left off. Once again Satrapi uses the graphic style to tell her story and the visuals really add to her words and in a few places taking the place of words altogether giving weight to the phrase that a 'picture tells a thousand words.' In this part of her story Satrapi chronicles the isolation she felt while going to school in Austria. The uncertainty of never really fitting in to any one group and the search of trying to figure out just who she was. While in Austria she experienced so many freedoms that she never could have dreamed of while living in Iran. She also had to deal with peoples misperceptions of what it meant to be Iranian. In the end, once she graduated from high school she felt that the only way to learn who she was, was to return

to the country of her birth. Once back in Iran Satrapi faces a new struggle. The one of trying to fit back into a box that she no longer fit into. It was a hard reality for her to face when she realized that she had become so adjusted to the freedoms she had in Europe that she forgot what living in the repressive atmosphere in Iran was like. Satrapi had fled back to Iran looking for a place to belong and instead she found that even there she didn't have an identity. She was too westernised now to fit comfortably back into her old skin. Satrapi does a wonderful job of telling her story and in conveying all the emotions and the struggles that she faced both at school in Austria and back home in Iran. Her search to find out her identity was at times tragic and at others times amazingly beautiful. Her style of writing and drawing really conveyed all the emotions that she must have been feeling at the time. I thoroughly enjoyed this additional glimpse into Satrapi's life and will be on the look out for any additional works that she might come out with. What can I say....sometimes I'm a horrible voyeur! See my other reviews at [tickettoanywhere.blogspot.com](http://tickettoanywhere.blogspot.com)

I had never read a graphic novel before and wasn't sure if I would like it. I found that it was easy and very enjoyable. The story is very good and keeps your attention. I am old enough to remember the overthrow of the Shah of Iran, but this gives a new perspective. The story is from a little girl's perspective. Worth the read.

The author tells her story of growing up in Iran during tumultuous government changes. What drew me to this book was the author's choice of expression. This story is not comical and yet the author writes these comic strips of her story; Capturing her funny memories from her childhood and the violence her family endured. I think this should be a required reading.

Really fantastic. Couldn't put it down. If you like personal stories or have any interest in Iran and/or even the complexity of what's going on now in the Middle East, I highly recommend. It won't explain all the history, etc. to you per se, but it offers an inside account of being a child and young adult from a smart, endearing, politically aware family (and more, a family whose history is intertwined with Iranian politics) who's experiencing the effects of the Revolution throughout her childhood and young adult years. Also offers a super interesting account of young adult counterculture Vienna in the 80s. Graphics and writing are both great. Satrapi is a gifted story teller. Her parents (who are a big part of the story) must be very proud. Was sad when it ended....

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