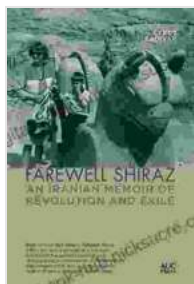


A Memoir of Revolution and Exile: A Daughter's Journey from Iran to America



Farewell Shiraz: An Iranian Memoir of Revolution and Exile by Benjamin Franklin

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4854 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 441 pages
Recaps : Included

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By Fatemeh Keshavarz



I was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1979, the year of the Iranian Revolution. My parents were both teachers, and they raised me to be a proud and independent woman. I grew up in a loving home, surrounded by books and music. I loved to read and write, and I dreamed of becoming a journalist. But my world was turned upside down in 1980, when Iraq invaded Iran and the Iran-Iraq War began. My father was drafted into the army, and my mother and I were forced to flee to a small village in the countryside. We lived in a crowded house with several other families, and we often had to go without food or water. I remember being so scared and confused. I didn't understand why we had to leave our home, and I didn't know when we would be able to go back.

After two years of war, my father was finally able to come home. But he was a changed man. He had seen too much death and destruction, and he

was no longer the same happy and loving father I remembered. He was often angry and withdrawn, and he sometimes drank too much. My mother tried to be strong for us, but I could see that she was also struggling.

In 1985, my family decided to leave Iran and seek asylum in the United States. We were fortunate to be granted political asylum, and we settled in a small town in California. I was eleven years old at the time, and I didn't speak any English. I had to start over in a new country, with a new language, and a new culture. It was a difficult transition, but I was determined to make a better life for myself and my family.

I enrolled in school and quickly learned English. I made new friends, and I started to feel more at home in America. But I never forgot my roots. I missed my homeland, and I longed to see my family and friends again.

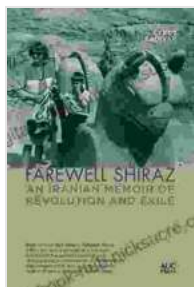
In 2001, I traveled back to Iran for the first time since I was eleven years old. It was a bittersweet experience. I was thrilled to see my family and friends again, but I was also shocked by how much had changed. The country was still recovering from the war, and there was a lot of poverty and oppression. I realized that I had been lucky to escape Iran, and I was grateful for the opportunities I had been given in America.

I have now lived in the United States for over thirty years, and I consider myself an American. But I am also proud of my Iranian heritage, and I never want to forget my roots. My memoir is a story of revolution and exile, but it is also a story of hope and resilience. I hope that my story will inspire others who have been forced to leave their homeland, and that it will help to build bridges between cultures.

Epilogue

In 2018, I published my memoir, *Jasmine and Stars: Reading and Writing Women's Lives in the Middle East*. The book was a critical and commercial success, and it has been translated into several languages. I have been invited to speak about my work at universities, conferences, and festivals

around the world. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my story with others, and I hope that my work will continue to inspire and empower women around the globe.

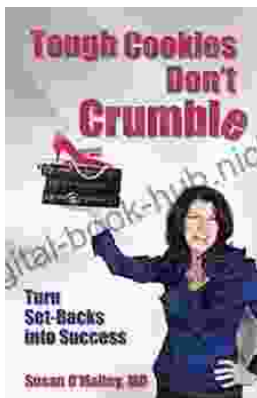


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