



FROM MINISKIRT TO HIJAB: A GIRL IN REVOLUTIONARY IRAN

BY JACQUELINE SAPER

A coming-of-age story of a half Iranian and half English Jewish girl paints a remarkable picture of the paradoxes of life in Iran before, during and after the Islamic Revolution.

TO LEARN MORE:

Concealed: Memoir of a Jewish-Iranian Daughter Caught Between the Chador and America

by Esther Amini *

A provocative coming-of-age saga, Esther Amini recounts her youth and early adulthood as a first-generation Iranian American Jewish woman in the 1950's and 1960's in Queens, New York and uncovers the story of her parents' early years in Mashhad, Iran's holiest Muslim city, the little-known history of Mashhad's underground Jews, the incident that steeled her mother's resolve to leave, and her parents' arduous journey to the U.S.

***Titan of Tehran: From Jewish Ghetto to Corporate Colossus to Firing Squad* by Shahrzad Elghanayan**

Shahrzad Elghanayan offers readers the story of the life and death of her extraordinary grandfather Habib Elghanian, the first civilian executed by Khomeini's regime in the early days of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

***Wedding Song: Memoirs of an Iranian Jewish Woman* by Farideh Goldin**

Farideh Goldin was born to her fifteen-year-old mother in 1953 and into a Jewish community living in an increasingly hostile Islamic state—prerevolutionary Iran. This memoir is Goldin's passionate and painful account of her childhood in a poor Jewish household and her emigration to the United States in 1975. **See also *Leaving Iran: Between Migration and Exile*.**

***Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran* by Roya Hakakian ***

An Iranian-American poet recounts her life as a daughter of Jewish parents growing up in Tehran, during which she witnessed the impact of the Ayatollah Khomeini's return to the nation and contemplated political asylum.

***Jews of Iran: A Photographic Chronicle* edited by Hassan Sarbakhshian and Parvaneh Vahidmanesh ***

Westerners often imagine Jews in Iran as a captive and oppressed community, alienated within their home nation yet restricted from leaving it. The reality is much more complex. *Jews of Iran* is a photographic journey through twenty-first-century Iran, providing a unique view of the country's Jewish community in situations typically unknown to the Western world. Featuring over one hundred full-color photos, contextualized with extensive annotations, and accompanied by a substantive introduction written by historian Lior B. Sternfeld.

***Esther's Children: A Portrait of Iranian Jews* edited by Houman Sarshar ***

A comprehensive history of the Jews of Iran from their earliest documented settlement in 722 B.C.E. through the end of the 20th century. Lavishly illustrated in full color with more than 500 images of monuments, manuscripts, objects, and individual and family portraits collected from private and public archives the world over, this unique book includes 25 articles by distinguished authors and scholars in the field of Judeo-Iranian studies.

The Jews of Iran: The History, Religion, and Culture of a Community in the Islamic World

by Houman M. Sarshar

Examining ancient texts, objects, and art from a wide range of times and places throughout Iranian history, *The Jews of Iran* offers in-depth analysis of the material and visual culture of this community. Additionally, an exploration of modern novels and accounts of Jewish-Iranian women's experiences sheds light on the social history and transformations of the Jews of Iran from the rule of Cyrus the Great (c. 600-530 BCE) to the Iranian Revolution of 1978-1979 and onto the present day.

FICTION:

***The Girl from the Garden* by Parnaz Foroutan ***

For all his wealth and success, Asher Malacouti--the head of a prosperous Jewish family living in the Iranian town of Kermanshah in the early twentieth century--cannot have the one thing he desires above all: a son. His young wife Rakhel, trapped in an oppressive marriage at a time when a woman's worth is measured by her fertility, is made desperate by her failure to conceive, and grows jealous and vindictive.

***Love and War in the Jewish Quarter* by Dora Levy Mossanen ***

A journey across Iran where war and superstition, jealousy and betrayal, and passion and loyalty rage behind the impenetrable walls of mansions and the crumbling houses of the Jewish Quarter. **See also:** *Scent of Butterflies, Harem, and Courtesan.*

***The Luminous Heart of Jonah S.* by Gina B. Nahai ***

The Soleyman, an Iranian Jewish family, are tormented for decades by Raphael's Son, a crafty and unscrupulous financier who has futilely claimed to be an heir to the family's fortune. Forty years later in contemporary Los Angeles, Raphael's Son has nearly achieved his goal--until he suddenly disappears, presumed by many to have been murdered. **See also:** *Caspian Rain, Cry of the Peacock, and Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith.*

***The Septembers of Shiraz* by Dalia Sofer**

Their serene villa life devastated by a wrongful imprisonment, the wife and children of Tehran gentleman Isaac Amin face potential betrayals within their own household and eventually plan a dangerous escape. See also the 2015 film adaptation starring Salma Hayek and Adrien Brody.

*** Available in the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center**

RACHEL KAMIN, DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING

NORTH SUBURBAN SYNAGOGUE BETH EL

RKAMIN@NSSBETHEL.ORG

JANUARY 2023