



# To See and See Again: A Life in Iran and America

*Tara Bahrapour*

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## **To See and See Again: A Life in Iran and America** Tara Bahrampour

A compelling and intimate exploration of the complexity of a bicultural immigrant experience, *To See and See Again* traces three generations of an Iranian (and Iranian-American) family undergoing a century of change--from the author's grandfather, a feudal lord with two wives; to her father, a freespirted architect who marries an American pop singer; to Bahrampour herself, who grows up balanced precariously between two cultures and comes of age watching them clash on the nightly news.

## **To See and See Again: A Life in Iran and America Details**

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# **From Reader Review To See and See Again: A Life in Iran and America for online ebook**

## **Donovan says**

Met the author - wonderful book

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## **Michelle says**

Beautiful, thoughtful and poignant memoir of a young half-Iranian, half-American book. Bahrapour lived first in America, then several years in Iran, leaving in 1979, then returning sixteen years later for a visit and for reflection on her place--does she belong in Iran or America? Or neither place? She loves the family-centeredness, the rootedness of life in Iran, but is less sure about Islamic rules for women. She loves the freedom of America, but knows she is missing something her relatives that live in Iran still have. Exquisite.

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## **Kristen Dunder says**

Amazing, beautiful account of a young woman born to an Iranian father and American mother, who lives part of her life in both Iran and the US. Both countries, at different times, have felt to her like home and at others like a strange land, as in both her family feels welcome at times, and outsiders at others. This is a personal account of the Iranian Revolution, in which change in the country's leadership determined a dramatic shift in an entire culture and way of life.

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## **teresa says**

This is my favorite book. The imagery puts you in the time and place, and made me nostalgic for another time and place.

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## **Mariam says**

Of all the books written by the Iranian diaspora, this one is probably my favorite. (Well, this and Funny in Farsi.)

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## **Joanne Sperans says**

This was written by a friend's daughter. With an Iranian father and an American mother, she grew up in both countries. When the Shah fell, her family had to leave Iran and the idyllic childhood she had led there. Years later she went back as a young woman, and the story of her discoveries is beautiful and fascinating.

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## **da AL says**

Bahrapour offers a beautiful and very personal account of what it's like to be of two cultures, particularly when one of the countries is not so easy to visit. Between my parents, my husband, and me, there are four different countries -- this is no longer nearly as unusual as it was only a few years ago. This is an important and easily relatable story.

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## **S says**

Written by a woman that I went to high school with in Northern California. Funny that during high school, neither of us really talked or connected over the fact that we both shared this Iranian history but I just figured that she was another Iranian that was born here in the U.S and was not in touch with her Iranian roots, the way I was, having grown up in Iran. A well written and interesting book about how the author seeks to connect to her Iranian roots and culture. I very much connected to the author's cultural journey, which was very similar to the one I also took, coming right out of college.

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## **Rebecca Orton says**

I read the book, "To See and See Again: A Life in Iran and America" by Tara Bahrapour from April 29th to November 9th, 2017. I recognized one Farsi word, ta'arof, on page 274 in this book after learning about it from an Iranian friend less than a couple months before and reading some of the research paper, "Offers and Expressions of Thanks as Face Enhancing Acts: Ta'arof in Persian" by Sofia A. Koutlaki that can be found in the Journal of Pragmatics. It is a word meaning to give food and drink to guests when you are having the same food and drink for yourself. According to the research paper, Iranians are similar to Japanese people when saving face. It is rude to eat or drink something without offering it to your guests first. Page 274 did not really explain what ta'arof was but since I already knew what it meant, I was pretty excited to show my Iranian friend this page when he came to visit me. He was only aware of the Iranian author, Ms. Firoozeh Dumas, of the contemporary book, "Funny in Farsi," being sold in the United States, and so Ms. Tara Bahrapour was an unfamiliar Iranian author to him. In spite of my excitement with this book, this is the book that scared me with the horrors of the komiteh, which according to the author, went to the house she was in for a wedding reception. All the other women at the reception scrambled to put their Islamic chadors or hijabs on before the komiteh arrived at the front door. She had to hide alone in another room because she didn't have her hijab with her. It was locked up in another room upstairs in the house. It was a very tense situation. The tension was relieved after the host of the reception bribed the komiteh to overlook the house. After they left, the women threw off their chadors or hijabs and resumed the celebration. The komiteh is a policing committee that looks for violations of the Islamic dress code and other Islamic laws. If a member of the komiteh decided that a woman on the street was not dressed according to the Islamic dress code, then she might get thrown into jail or whipped. This concept was completely horrifying and felt inexplicable and wrong to me. Why spend the time, effort, and money on enforcing a dress code when there are hardened criminals committing acrimonious and atrocious crimes against humanity? In addition to this negative concept being expounded upon throughout the book's illuminating stories, the book also viewed the times with the Shah as very negative, in sharp contrast to Farah Pahlavi's book, "Enduring Love, My Life with the Shah: A Memoir." I couldn't reconcile the two accounts of the prevailing political climate prior to the 1979

Islamic revolution. It seemed that I was getting two contradictory viewpoints regarding how the people viewed the Shah and his political actions, including the land reforms. I did not realize until I read this book that a feudal society existed in Iran back then. The landlords lost their properties due to the land reforms and received little to no compensation for their value. The landlords went from being wealthy, benevolent overlords to impoverished citizens who were stripped of their lordship titles overnight. I remember how Farah's Pahlavi's book did not explain this critically important fact clearly when it discussed the land reforms in a more positive light. After all, the peasants were getting their own land and wasn't that a good thing? As a result, I gained a deeper understanding of Iran's political history. I highly recommend this book for American adults wishing to learn more about Iran from an author's personal perspective. I give this book five stars.

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### **Virginia says**

A beautiful memoir!!! Tara Bahrapour takes the reader into a unique world where her cultural lines aren't the only ones that begin to blur. The joys and trials of childhood and teenage angst, love and fear, family & destiny all play out against a cultural fabric so rich and colorful, that the reader is left feeling nothing less than blessed to have taken the journey.

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### **Zachary says**

it must have been terrifying to just have to leave your country for a strange country. And yet trying to deny the fact that you are stuck there possibly forever. i don't think i could of done that when i was twelve. however much i would of liked the traveling bit there would still be the fact that you could never go home again. and on top of that is the fact that her parents seem to be freaking out also and moving around to trying to deny something must have been crushing. The strong people who have always looked after you are scared of a realization is unthinkable to most people it is just mind-blowing and must have made Tara Bahrapour very strong to be able to go through that and come out in one piece.

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### **Grace says**

I have not read "Reading Lolita in Tehran" but I do know that Ms. Bahrapour writes a beautiful authentic story. I read it first and passed it onto my friend who lived his first 18 years in Iran. He said it is what life is like there.

This book does not focus on the oppression of women but of the beauty of the culture. It also paints a clear picture of what it is like for those who immigrate to the US.

Grace

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### **Zohra Star says**

I love Tara! The book is a great way to demystify the "Not Without My Daughter" type work out there. Its

the story of an Iranian man married to an American mother through the eyes of their beautiful daughter. Tara also writes for the Washington Post is a pretty kick ass woman.

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### **Liza Rosenberg says**

I love Tara Bahrapour's account of moving between the two societies. She's around my age, so all the American pop culture references resonate with me, and I've developed a great affinity for Persian culture since my husband is Persian. Her writing is excellent, and her attention to detail allows you to clearly envision the settings she describes.

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### **Yesha says**

Hands down the favorit book I was ever assigned to read for a class.

Thanks, Elmaz!

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