
Iran Awakening by Shirin Ebadi

Posted by mazzy - 2006/10/22 13:47

A Memoir of Revolution and Hope

Summary from book jacket:

Throughout an extraordinary career as a lawyer, writer, activist, and dissident, Shirin Ebadi has spoken out clearly and strongly for her native Iran-- and her voice has resonated far beyond that country's borders. As a dedicated human rights advocate and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Ebadi has almost single-handedly given both Iran and the world reason to hope for a better future.

Now, in this unforgettable memoir, Ebadi provides an eyewitness account of one woman's courageous stand at the crossroads of history. Best known as a lawyer who defends women and children in politically charged cases that most in her profession refuse to touch, Ebadi recounts her public career and reveals her private self: her faith, her experiences, and her desire to lead a traditional life even while serving as a rebellious voice in a land where such voices are muted or brutally silenced.

Ebadi describes her girlhood in a modest Tehran household, her education, and her early professional success in the mid-1970's as Iran's most accomplished female jurist. She speaks eloquently about the ideals of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and of her deep disillusionment with the direction Iran has since taken under the guidance of the hard-line clerics. She recounts the ignominy of her demotion to clerk in the courtroom over which she once presided, when the religious authorities declared women unfit to serve as judges. She speaks out against the oppressive patriarchy of Iran, where conservative rulers have stripped women of their basic rights and all citizens of their political freedom.

In reading Shirin Ebadi's story, however, we come to see not a larger-than-life presence but a devoted daughter, wife, and mother, a down-to-earth woman who would never consider leaving on a lecture tour (or doing a stretch in prison) without first preparing enough meals for her husband and two daughters to last the duration of her absence. Ebadi is an everywoman, albeit one who has braved imprisonment, harassment, assassination attempts, and her family's humiliation, all for the dream of a better Iran for her daughters and for generations to come. She has watched countless friends and relatives fleeing in the years since the Revolution, never to return. Yet despite immense pressures, Ebadi remains resolute. She refuses to give up on Iran, unwilling to surrender the glories of its past and the promise of its future. For her bravery and selflessness, she has been embraced as a national hero and as a key player in helping to forge Iran's destiny, whatever it may be.

Written with modesty, passion, and humanity, *Iran Awakening* is a unique memoir that blends equal parts sorrow and joy, nostalgia and hope. This is the inspiring story of a remarkable woman and her battle for the soul of a nation that is uneasily poised at the center of Middle Eastern and global events.

I just started reading this book... will let you all know my opinion... sounded interesting... especially with all the turmoil going on in the world.

Post edited by: mazzy, at: 2006/10/22 13:56

Post edited by: mazzy, at: 2006/10/22 14:03

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Re:Iran Awakening by Shirin Ebadi

Posted by mazzy - 2006/10/24 20:51

This book was a very interesting read... I have always been proud to be an American, and have enjoyed our freedoms as a given.

The book talks about the struggle for freedom and human rights... the belief in a positive interpretation of Islam, and the power of that belief to aid Iranians who aspire to peacefully transform their country. I hope I see it in my lifetime...

I remember seeing a film years ago that took place in Iran... Not Without My Daughter... starring Sally Fields. I have a new appreciation for the film... a lot of what I remember in the film was talked about in this book.

Again... very interesting read.

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Re:Iran Awakening by Shirin Ebadi

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/25 11:53

This book sounds fascinating. I will certainly put it on my list. I am obligated right now to read a book on health issues called "Think Like a Pancreas." It was recommended by other Type I diabetics to deal with insulin management. I don't think many people on this board would be interested in it though.

I do remember the movie with Sally Field. It was so good. I was sitting on the edge of my seat during that movie.

I represent both mothers and fathers from that part of the world in custody battles. It is a very scary thing.

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Re:Iran Awakening by Shirin Ebadi

Posted by mazzy - 2006/10/25 19:06

Debby wrote:

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I'm on a health kick these days... please share your thoughts on "Think Like a Pancreas."

I remember at the end of the movie Not Without My Daughter it was mentioned that there were a lot of women in the position of losing their children because of the cruel laws in Iran. It must be very rewarding to be involved with cases like this when you are able to do good.

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Re:Iran Awakening by Shirin Ebadi

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/10/26 20:50

Yeah, Debby.....I was recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, would the info still be of interest to someone like me?? I also love medical info of any kind too.

Wow.....custody issues.....it truly is so sad!! I don't think I have the self-control to be around the evil parent though....I think I'd end up knockin' them around!!!! :ohmy: ;) :blush: :S :evil:

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