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Posted on 03 November 2019 By Marjane Satrapi

I wasn't too impressed with the first Persepolis book and, sorry to say, but I am impressed with The Story of a Return even less. Unlike many readers, I like the cartoon-like art of Satrapi's books. I also enjoy her anecdotes. The writer is at her best when she infuses humor in her otherwise dark life story. What I thoroughly dislike is the author herself. It is very rarely that I find no compassion for book characters. I mean, I can find love for all kinds of vile people, but no luck here. I don't know if Satrapi realizes it, but she portrays herself in a very unflattering light as a self-centered, self-important and self-righteous person. Satrapi is judgmental and hypocritical. She likes to criticize people for the vices she indulges in herself. I still remember her accusing her friend of being a shallow traitor for obsessing over a lipstick and her walkman when she herself was just as obsessed about her Nikes and audiotapes a few chapters before. She is ungrateful and disrespectful. She calls her nun teacher a prostitute after she is reprimanded for having bad manners. She likes to blame her misfortunes on other people when she is the source of them 99% of the time. She leaves her apartment and lives on the streets for 3 months and then complains later she was mistreated. She puts an innocent man into a mortal danger when she accuses him of talking to her in an indecent way, just to conceal the fact that she is wearing lipstick. The list goes on and on. Satrapi is full of self-pity and completely lacks any kind of introspection. She never owns up to any of the bad things she has done or blames herself for her misfortunes. She prefers to write off her bad decisions to indulge in drugs, promiscuity and general self-destruction on

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her loneliness and her war memories But she fails to show these connections in any kind of sincere, meaningful way It is obvious that my dislike for the narrator totally overshadowed the good parts of the book I just think Satrapi was not and still is not a very self aware person However, I do see why her superficial, self pitying and insincere memoir is so well received It fits very well into a very popular nowadays trend to vilify Iranian or any fundamentalist regime by providing all kinds of disturbing details of Muslim life style for us all to indulge in. Instagram Twitter Facebook Pinterest

When I read the first volume of PERSEPOLIS, people told me that I had to explore this author s other work Luckily, I bought volumes one and two of PERSEPOLIS together, so I could immediately jump from one to the other While the first book primarily takes place in Iran during the Islamic Revolution and then, a few years later, during the Iraqi Invasion, the second book is about Marjane s coming of age in Austria the place her parents decided to send her, where she would be safer from the war. Marjane ends up in several places friends homes, a church although she was thrown out for talking back to the nuns , hostels, even homeless on the streets She writes about what it was like seeing a full grocery store after the scarcities in Iran, and the difficulty in living in a place where she didn t speak the language She also writes about some of the racism she experienced, and her first feelings of shame for being Iranian because everyone saw them as terrorists because of the news. I really enjoyed this book, because Marjane is so straightforward about her experiences I think in memoirs there is a tendency to portray yourself as selfless, but Marjane portrays herself as honestly as possible, even at the cost of likability One moment that particularly stuck out at me was when she accuses an innocent man of making lewd advances towards her in order to avoid getting in trouble with the Guardians for meeting a boy She and her boyfriend laugh over the story but when she tells it to her grandmother, she yells at her for the first time in her life and says she s shaming her uncle s memory the uncle who died for seditious activities that were against the Islamic Revolution It was a relatable moment, because I think we have all done things as teens that we thought were humorous or fun that ended up bringing us shame later because of how they disappointed our families. I

Delta of Venus

Metamorphoses

Lady Chatterley's Lover

Kushiel's Dart

Sappho's Leap

Claudius the God and
His Wife Messalina

A Princess of Mars

The English Patient

Robert Mapplethorpe
and the Classical
Tradition

Tropic of Cancer

The Piano Teacher

I, Claudius

Sex and the City

The Nude: A Study in
Ideal Form

Thy Neighbor's Wife

didn't cry while reading PERSEPOLIS 2, although I came close at the end of the book, when she talks about seeing her grandmother for the last time. However, that doesn't mean that PERSEPOLIS 2 is any less touching. I liked how she described living as an expatriate, her encounters with her friends and her enemies, and her experience with sex, intimacy, marriage, and divorce from both a Western and an Iranian perspective and how the two frequently came into conflict. At one point she says something like "To the Westerners, I was an Iranian but to the Iranians, I was a Westerner" which I thought was a great way to describe the feelings that many people with dual citizenship or people who are multiracial have of belonging to a group that is separate from those singular identities. This is such a great series. It's easy to see why it was made into a film: the style, the narration, the content—it's all so compelling. As I said in the first book, if you're interested in learning about Iran and enjoy memoirs written by interesting women, PERSEPOLIS is definitely a must-read. 4.5 stars.

Picking Up The Thread Where Her Debut Memoir In Comics Concluded, Persepolis: The Story Of A Return Details Marjane Satrapi's Experiences As A Young Iranian Woman Cast Abroad By Political Turmoil In Her Native Country. Older, If Not Exactly Wiser, Marjane Reconciles Her Upbringing In War-Shattered Tehran With New Surroundings And Friends In Austria. Whether Living In The Company Of Nuns Or As The Sole Female In A House Of Eight Gay Men, She Creates A Niche For Herself With Friends And Acquaintances Who Feel Equally Uneasy With Their Place In The World. After A Series Of Unfortunate Choices And Events Leave Her Literally Living In The Street For Three Months, Marjane Decides To Return To Her Native Iran. Here, She Is Reunited With Her Family, Whose Liberalism And Emphasis On Marjane's Personal Worth Exert As Strong An Influence As The Eye-Popping Wonders Of Europe. Having Grown Accustomed To Recreational Drugs, Partying, And Dating, Marjane Now Dons A Veil And Adjusts To A Society Officially Divided By Gender And Guided By Fundamentalism. Emboldened By The Example Of Her Feisty Grandmother, She Tests The Bounds Of The Morality Enforced On The Streets And In The Classrooms. With A New Appreciation For The Political And Spiritual Struggles Of Her Fellow Iranians, She Comes To Understand That One Person Leaving Her House

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Les Liaisons
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The Naked Woman: A
Study of the Female
Body

Atlas Shrugged

Justine, Philosophy in
the Bedroom, and Other
Writings

While Asking Herself, Is My Veil In Place No Longer Asks Herself Where Is My Freedom Of Speech Satrapi S Starkly Monochromatic Drawing Style And The Keenly Observed Facial Expressions Of Her Characters Provide The Ideal Graphic Environment From Which To Appeal To Our Sympathies Bereft Of Fine Detail, This Graphic Novel Guides The Reader S Attention Instead Toward A Narrative Rich With Empathy Don T Be Fooled By The Glowering Self Portrait Of The Author On The Back Flap It S Nearly Impossible To Read Persepolis Without Feeling Warmth Toward Marjane Satrapi

Ryan Boudinot Everyone needs to step off Geez This book is great It doesn t have that cute little panache of the first book because, duh, it s not about pre teen issues which are cute and naive it s about the world of impulsive effacement that drags a teenager to become a young adult She comes to be a part of the Western world she idealized and finds it colder, in a subtle, acute way, than the repressive regime she escapes in the first book Because as violent and absurd as the regime is, she still exists in a harbor of love She finds the West to be devoid of real faith in people Everyone is deceptive, all points are theoretical The criticism she has is of the dullness and hypocrisy of rebellion, arguing that the Europeans are selfish and mundane It s not as fiery as the first book, because it s a rehashing in a different context i would even say it s interesting than the first book, because of this Yet the cute little blips are still there, take for instance the panel where she goes through puberty in a month and showcases the bizarre morphings that her body goes through, going to her roommate s farm in the middle of the mountains and her mother has a moustache and her sister is Heidi there s not so much connection to the revolution and personal relationships effected by the regime Because this book is about her and her exile, the formations of characters killed by the autocracy are kept out So that indulgence of catharsis is staid from, besides her character But she feels so much In this tiny book, she grieves and is frustrated time and time again, and the pace with which she moves out of it it s compelling She doesn t form these heroic relationships, really at all, so to try to contrive them would be lame Though there is the point where she goes to chat with a legless soldier whom she knew from her childhood and the awkwardness is very thick, until he tells a joke about a maimed

soldier trying to get married and the passive exchange, the white elephant, is lifted Suddenly, they can talk like souls If this book has anything to say independently of the first book, it is in the contrast of the West to the East, a cold and free menagerie versus a familiar zone of horror And still she dances through it, like Roberto Benigni in Life is Beautiful Another thing I wanted to mention is this is a great documentation of supportive parents that I feel should be warranted The liberal values and hospitality towards adolescence they exhibit are warm and I feel like the novel is based on that, that structural support of family which is the basis for her ability to grow out of both sides, her punk European facade and the seemingly inescapable plague of fundamentalism So hurrah for Satrapi's folks, eh Persepolis the First was touching Persepolis the Second was not The teen-aged Marjane is sent to Vienna where she is bounced from place to place by both circumstance and her own big mouth Marjane, abandoned and isolated, turns to drugs and questionable friends and lovers to get through this time Though she is apparently bright, she barely gets through school After she catches her boyfriend cheating on her, she spends three months on the street and then returns to Iran Once in Iran, it really gets jolly and fun Marjane is depressed She attempts suicide There are some ups, but a lot of downs I won't list them all and spoil it for everyone else, but REALLY All of this bad, sad, and terrible stuff is going on, and I didn't feel anything Nothing Maybe it's because a lot of the sadness was caused by her own actions It should be noted that I generally have a low tolerance for stupid teenagers Maybe it's because it was told in a detached way Maybe it's because I'm heartless In any case, it didn't feel personal It didn't feel as though the events in the book happened to the author I didn't relate to Marjane, and I didn't sympathize with her Also, the graphic element in this book didn't really add anything for me I don't know This book just left me cold. A couple things did work for me, though Marjane turns to reading at lonely times in her life, and remarks that one must educate oneself True True One other item rang true to me when Marjane gets to Austria, one of her first purchases was scented laundry detergent It wasn't available in war-torn Iran She mentions that even today she keeps a dozen or so boxes of scented detergent in her house. I wish there had been a few

of those personal moments in the book. This is the continuing story of Marjane when her parents send her away to Austria where she has to live in a bunch of different places and doesn't understand a lot of what's going on. It's still a really sad story. I watched this DVD and my friend's link will show some of the GIFs from the movie. It's a sad book and movie. Anne's Review: I think what ultimately made this novel fall flat for me is that I was prepared for something along the lines of thought-provoking and eye-opening and instead finished this feeling rather disappointingly underwhelmed. I thought the author's idea of writing her autobiography in the form of a comic, to be an intriguing and fun premise, but also, perhaps a problematic one as well. While certainly being innovative, I just don't think that there was enough strength and potency, in either the words or the pictures, which was unfortunate because the author had a real chance to really impact the reader with graphics that could speak a thousand words in thunderous volumes. I found the overall tone of the narration to be along the lines of fanciful whimsical with an added touch of self-pity, and at times I could not take Satrapi seriously, much less identify with her or even sympathize. It's important for me to feel connected with the characters I read, even so in an autobiography that serves as a political memoir, but the circumstances for Satrapi were filled with so much teenage stupidity and imprudence, and seemed to be so distant and faraway from the hardships and trials that the people of Iran were suffering from, leaving me far flung from the issues as well. In all honesty, there was just not enough meaningful moments for this to leave any real impact on me, and I find this memoir to be ironically unmemorable. 1.5/5 stars rounded down. Well, it has been awhile since a book made me so angry. This was such a drastic change from *Persepolis 1*, I couldn't believe I was reading about the same person. I really, really loved *Persepolis 1*. It was poignant, heartbreaking and educational. It had a smart, intelligent and strong heroine, who asked the right questions and had a heart in the right place. I don't know where that person went in *Persepolis 2*, for instead there was a girl who lost all of her morals and kept making horrible life decisions. Again, and again and again. And it would have been fine, we all are humans, but the thing is in the book I didn't feel like she learned or took anything from her hardships.

at all. If I wanted to see people making bad choices and becoming vegetables due to their drug addictions, I'd just watch TV. I can definitely applaud Marjane for her honesty, and for putting all of her flaws out there, but I also don't understand the point of it. What lesson was she trying to teach? *Persepolis* 1 contained history I learned so much about Iranian people, the revolution, the oppression. But in this book, there was very little of that. It was mostly about her growing up and trying to fit in, which for her meant to do everything that everybody else did. And I just couldn't comprehend how a girl, who was raised to be so smart and educated, could make any of those decisions. On the back cover of the book, there's a praise that says: "Every revolution needs a chronicler like Satrapi." Well, if chronicling a revolution means describing how many drugs she used, how many cigarettes she smoked, how many parties she went to, and how everybody else around her was horribly unfair to her and how she, and only she, was the victim, then I don't want to know about that kind of revolution. What made me the most angry was how she portrayed herself as a victim every single time. Sure, her life wasn't easy, or pretty, but it was because of her own bad decisions. She wanted everybody to pity her for her life, while she was the one of the few who escaped the war. She was sent to Europe to better her life, but instead she buried it. I also couldn't stand how demeaning she was to other people she criticized everybody, some she called fat behind their back. The first time she saw her new landlord she called her fat and a horse face, just because the woman was unattractive. Sure, the woman turned out to be mean, but it doesn't give you the right to judge and laugh at one's appearances, some she judged because of their lack of intelligence, some she judged because of their looks. And the worst part came, when she purposely lied and condemned that poor man on the street to save herself. I've never read about a most selfish person. Also, remarks like "if there were fun things to do, I'd never have read as many books as I did" and "the first marriage is just a rehearsal before the second one" just didn't sit well with me. If you are writing a book, then don't say that books are the last resort, only if you have nothing else better to do. No self-respecting bookworm will agree with you. And just because your marriage didn't work, doesn't mean that you have the right to come up with generalized statements like that. Being

progressive in one's thoughts doesn't mean that you have the right to be demeaning to other people's thoughts. There were few things that I liked. I liked some of her views on the world and how she explained some of the ridiculous customs and rules that were, and still to this day burden the women of Iran. I should have downloaded it, I know, but it was slow at work and it was the only book I had with me so I just kept plowing through it. I still absolutely recommend *Persepolis 1*, but this second part didn't teach me anything. My WEBSITE My INSTAGRAM My WORDPRESS BLOG This 2nd volume of Satrapi's autobiography is a bit personal. It covers her failure to adjust to life in Austria and her return to Iran, her struggle to readjust, her short marriage and it finishes with her decision to return to Europe, this time to France where she will remain. *Persepolis* is the Greek name for the ancient city of Parsa, located seventy miles northeast of Shiraz in present-day Iran because I had been wondering about that. Alright, the second half of this story 3/4 is less about the revolution, and about a young woman growing up, and discovering herself along the way. Yes, it's a fish-out-of-water story, but most stories are when you're talking about that period of time between teenager and adult. Satrapi has an extra layer of awkwardness, because she's alone in a foreign country during this time. Plus, the upheaval that happened in her country during her childhood gave her a different outlook on things than most of the children/teenagers in her boarding school. Bottom line, though: Everyone wants to fit in at that age. So, she does what we all did during that time of our life. She experiments, she rebels, falls in love, gets her heart broken, gets her pride crushed, loses herself, and then makes her way home. Unfortunately, Iran wasn't exactly the kind of country that made it particularly easy to explore who you are or find yourself. The blending of religious values with laws made it hard for her, and other young adults, to do the normal things that most of us take for granted as rites of passage. And I'm not saying the men in her country had it easy, but being a woman in such a repressed society. Wow. It's hard to believe that there are still places like this in the world. Ok, while this was a really good story, it didn't quite move me as much as the first book. Still, it's definitely worth reading. And there were several things that surprised me about this one. The biggest shock was that this was not a sad story. I thought it would end

with bloodshed or something Nope There s no Happily Ever After, but it leaves you satisfied.Also, Marjane s parents were pretty awesome I don t want to spoil anything for those of you who haven t read this, but when I grow up, I want to be like those guys I hope I have the guts to let my kids be themselves and make their own mistakes I don t think you need to be a woman to get this book, either I think anyone can read this and find something of themselves in Satrapi s story, because it s about finding out who you are, and then being true to yourself.Even when it s not easy.



