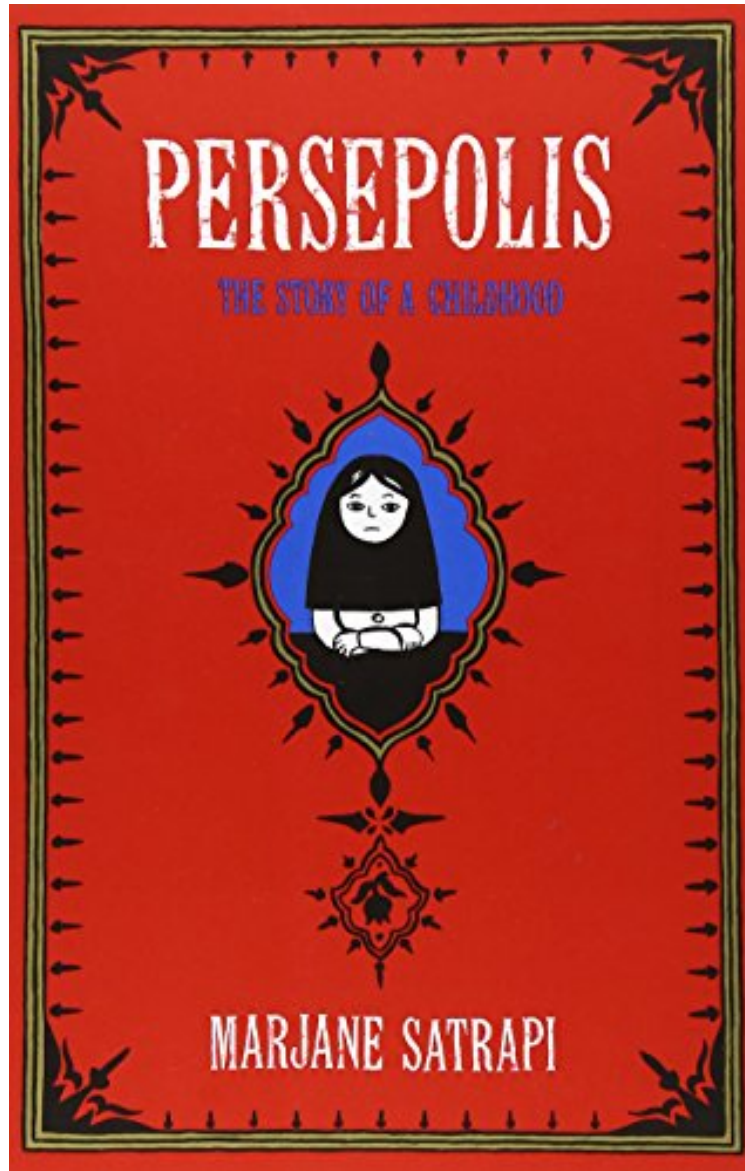


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Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood (Pantheon Graphic Novels)

Marjane Satrapi

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Marjane Satrapi : Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood (Pantheon Graphic Novels) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood (Pantheon Graphic Novels):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The artwork itself was an amazing representation of her progression and self discovery in such ...By JacobThe story itself, an autobiography in a very artistic form, is very fascinating and

deep. The story follows this girl's journey in discovering herself and life, the ways of the world. The perspective of the journey is only intensified by the fact she was being raised in middle of revolutions and wars. The terrifying aspect of this was watching as she was convinced, re-convinced then corrected by adults on how to think, and believe. The artwork itself was an amazing representation of her progression and self discovery in such dark times and horrible experiences. The artwork in time, especially nearing the end started to lighten up, however the constant overall tone is darkness, a twisted perception I believe is likely the result of living and growing up with war, oppression and death a constant companion. The art style is completely unique to me, someone who reads lots of comics, manga and watches many forms of cinema. This dark style really drives the emotional, political, religious and human aspects of this person life experiences deep into my mind. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great story in a beautiful package By Parmathule I have the original hardcover versions of these books, and purchased this set for a friend. It's an attractive package with the box, which makes the softcover versions look a little spiffier. I'm not a huge fan of the graphic novel, but *Persepolis* and its sequel, *Persepolis 2*, I can recommend wholeheartedly. The illustrations are a stark black and white which set the perfect tone for this story of one woman's experience of the Islamic revolution in Iran. Satrapi's account of how the new theocracy affected her family and changed the course of her life is depressing, but fascinating. Many memorable characters (including herself!) are brought vividly to life despite the constraints of the graphic novel format, and Satrapi brings a wonderful wit and humor to this tale of woe that keep it from becoming too grim. The first volume focuses on Satrapi's rebellious childhood and the integrity and courage of the extended family members who inspired her. One can only hope that Iran has many more girls like her who will ultimately be the downfall of the current misogynistic regime. The second volume in Satrapi's coming of age tale begins with her family sending her to Europe to continue her education. Being away from her family for the first time, adjusting to a new culture, and struggling with the universal adolescent identity crisis are the focus here. There are painful moments, poignant moments and hilarious moments. Over the course of the two volumes of *Persepolis*, Satrapi shows us her metamorphosis from rebellious child to crazy, mixed-up youth, to strong cosmopolitan woman. It's a great story in a beautiful package. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mesmerizing By Dana Pellegrino This book was completely mesmerizing. I just wanted to keep reading it until I finished. Satrapi's black and white illustrations really draw you in, and something about their simplicity works well with the story. Other reviews describe this a bit better than I do. I only wish I understood politics a bit more, as that part of the story was a bit harder for me to comprehend. If you're in that same boat, I would recommend reading up a bit on Iran's political history to help with that.

A New York Times Notable Book A Time Magazine Best Comix of the Year A San Francisco Chronicle and Los Angeles Times Best-seller Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapi's graphic memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shahs regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country. *Persepolis* paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Marjane's child's-eye view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression. It shows how we carry on, with laughter and tears, in the face of absurdity. And, finally, it introduces us to an irresistible little girl with whom we cannot help but fall in love.

From Publishers Weekly Satrapi's autobiography is a timely and timeless story of a young girl's life under the Islamic Revolution. Descended from the last Emperor of Iran, Satrapi is nine when fundamentalist rebels overthrow the Shah. While Satrapi's radical parents and their community initially welcome the ouster, they soon learn a new brand of totalitarianism is taking over. Satrapi's art is minimal and stark yet often charming and humorous as it depicts the madness around her. She idolizes those who were imprisoned by the Shah, fascinated by their tales of torture, and bonds with her Uncle Anoosh, only to see the new regime imprison and eventually kill him. Thanks to the Iran-Iraq war, neighbors' homes are bombed, playmates are killed and parties are forbidden. Satrapi's parents, who once lived in luxury despite their politics, struggle to educate their daughter. Her father briefly considers fleeing to America, only to realize the price would be too great. "I can become a taxi driver and you a cleaning lady?" he asks his wife. Iron Maiden, Nikes and Michael Jackson become precious symbols of freedom, and eventually Satrapi's rebellious streak puts her in danger, as even educated women are threatened with beatings for improper attire. Despite the grimness, Satrapi never lapses into sensationalism or sentimentality. Skillfully presenting a child's view of war and her own shifting ideals, she also shows quotidian life in Tehran and her family's pride and love for their country despite the tumultuous times. Powerfully understated, this work joins other memoirs-Spiegelman's *Maus* and Sacco's *Safe Area Goradze*-that use comics to make the unthinkable familiar. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From

School Library Journal Adult/High School-Marji tells of her life in Iran from the age of 10, when the Islamic revolution of 1979 reintroduced a religious state, through the age of 14 when the Iran-Iraq war forced her parents to send her to Europe for safety. This story, told in graphic format with simple, but expressive, black-and-white illustrations, combines the normal rebelliousness of an intelligent adolescent with the horrors of war and totalitarianism. Marji's parents, especially her freethinking mother, modeled a strong belief in freedom and equality, while her French education gave her a strong faith in God. Her Marxist-inclined family initially favored the overthrow of the Shah, but soon realized that the new regime was more restrictive and unfair than the last. The girl's independence, which made her parents both proud and fearful, caused them to send her to Austria. With bold lines and deceptively uncomplicated scenes, Satrapi conveys her story. From it, teens will learn much of the history of this important area and will identify with young Marji and her friends. This is a graphic novel of immense power and importance for Westerners of all ages. It will speak to the same audience as Art Spiegelman's *Maus* (Pantheon, 1993). Susan H. Woodcock, Fairfax County Public Library, Chantilly, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Satrapi's great-grandfather was Iran's last emperor, the one overthrown by the father of the shah overthrown in the 1979 Islamic revolution. Doubtless their pedigree of former greatness somewhat shielded her leftist family from the Ayatollah Khomeini's authoritarian regime, and her extraordinary autobiography in comics, which reflects her perspective from ages 10 to 14, probably understates the violence that swirled around her, cresting in the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war. At first, the revolution freed an uncle who idolized her and some of her parents' friends from prison, but soon the tide turned, and the former prisoners had to flee (at least one was killed before he could). Her father and uncle explained modern Iran's past to her, all but dispelling her childish religiosity, and she joined her parents at political demonstrations. When an Iraqi missile destroyed Jewish neighbors, however, her parents determined to use their upper-middle-class means to get out. Satrapi's cursive, geometrical drawing style, reminiscent of the great children's author-artist Wanda Gag's, eloquently conveys her ingenuousness and fervor as a child. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved