



The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny

Shirin Ebadi

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For over fifty years the Shah Pahlavi dynasty ruled Iran until Ayatollah Khomeini's 1979 Islamic Revolution seized power and began its own reign of tyranny. The questions about the revolution shape *The Golden Cage* while the answers shed light on Islamic Iran's current events and tell us why it strives for nuclear energy, chants "Death to Israel," and claims to be the most powerful force in the Middle East and Muslim world.

History perhaps is best described through life stories we each can hold dearly. *The Golden Cage* is one such story about three brothers the author knew through their sister, Pari, a childhood friend. Each brother subscribes to a different political ideology that tears Iran and their lives apart. As Pari observes, her brothers live deluded lives in golden cages of ideology. These words mark the beginning of this story, illuminating the multifaceted, oppressive Iran of today and years past.

The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny Details

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Author : Shirin Ebadi

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Shirin Ebadi**

From Reader Review The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny for online ebook

Mariposa says

Il est de ces livres qui nous emmènent loin. Géographiquement. Qui nous permettent une plongée dans L Histoire et l'histoire contemporaines, dans ces épisodes que l'on connaît parfois mal. Et si en plus, ils sont superbement écrits, avec pudeur et tendresse, de la rage aussi parfois, c'est un plaisir à lire malgré les événements tragiques qui y sont décrits. À lire, évidemment.

Mikheil Samkharadze says

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<https://minilibraryblog.wordpress.com...>

“?? ?? ????????, ???? ???? ??????????????, ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ????”
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“??????????” – ??????? ???????, ??????????? ?????????? ??????? ?????? ?????? ??????? – “??????????”.

Mayda Garza Fernández says

"Si no podéis acabar con la injusticia, dedicaos a airearla por todo el mundo" Alí Shariati

Tamhouellebecq says

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Irukina says

La obra me ha gustado mucho y me ha tenido enganchada todo el tiempo. Sin embargo, he echado en falta un poco más de contexto para poder entender mejor la situación política de Irán y su historia.

Es cierto que el libro está más centrado en la historia de la familia de Simin pero las escenas pasan de un modo un poco deslavazado y si no se está familiarizado con la historia de Irán, algunos sucesos no acaba de entenderse (en especial, sus causas)

Aún así le pongo 5 estrellas porque se logra entender perfectamente el sufrimiento de esa familia y todo lo

que hay detrás. Una historia de dolor pero también de superación. Pero sobre todo de cómo el adoctrinamiento y las creencias ciegas acaban con todo, hasta con los vínculos familiares que parecían más fuertes.

Jackie says

This book could have done so much more. I was really disappointed in the writing and the time spent developing the stories--there was so much material to get to know the characters better, to describe their lives and their relationships. Instead, it was written like a bedtime story and for most of the book the connections felt perfunctory. Frankly, it felt lazy to me, like Ebadi or her editor wanted to produce a book quickly, or wanted something that more people would be willing to read because it's not too long. On one level I understand that sentiment but really felt that it took away from some really powerful stories. Ebadi also seemed unable to figure out how to strike a balance between allegory and autobiography. It was awkward to see her as a narrator of a story that takes a fictional tone but then suddenly have her real persona interject into the narrative.

I thought the story really picked up in the last hundred pages or so, saving it from the 2-star rating I was originally planning on giving it. But it's horribly sad. So sad that I almost didn't even feel outrage anymore, only depression and helplessness. Nonetheless, they were important stories and I am glad that they are being published, whatever my feelings about the style of delivery.

Merrie says

I met this author and read this book the week after meeting Tina Fey at a reading of her new book, "Bossypants."

Both authors, from amazingly different perspectives, talk about women's issues, work, family obligations, being a woman in a man's world.

Fey is a famous American comedian and Ebadi is a Nobel Peace Prize winner who no longer can return to her home in Iran. Fey's book talk was sold out in 12 minutes (\$40 per ticket), and I listened to Ebadi speak about the terror and repression of the Iran government through a translator around a conference room table with a handful of other journalists.

"Bossypants," is a hilarious book that is No. 1 in the country right now, and Ebadi's book isn't even on the NYT's list. It's a shame that Ebadi's story isn't getting more attention. She brilliantly uses the story of her childhood friends, three brothers, to illustrate the destructive path that her country has gone down in the last 50 years.

The book very much helped me understand the history and what Iran is like now and want to learn more. Ebadi is a talented writer and I hope her story gains many, many more readers and that soon, Ebadi will be able to safely return home.

Farrah Azadi says

Must read! Provides great insight into Iran before and after the revolution through simple story telling...very engaging and informative.

Karine Sarhadian says

A very deep and poignant book that takes you on a virtual journey in history. Each page turned, each chapter is filled with humor, pain, sorrow, hope, tradition, love, all of which heighten the senses and strike your bodily chords. A tear-jerker. Reminds one of humanly capacity of endurance and steadfast hope. This book deserves a spot in all libraries. It is a treasure!

Catherine Gillespie says

After reading Iran Awakening, I also picked up Ebadi's more recent book The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny. As in Iran Awakening, this book is narrated in Ebadi's voice, but is primarily about the three brothers of one of her family friends. The three brothers apparently (I am still unclear how much of this book is straight truth and how much is semi-fiction or condensing multiple characters into one) each adopted one of the major ideologies of modern Iran (supporting the Shah, being a secular or Marxist revolutionary, and being a fundamentalist Muslim revolutionary) and essentially, as their sister says, locked themselves in cages of ideology that blinded them and ultimately became each man's undoing.

Although the book mainly tells the story of modern Iranian history through the story of the brothers, Ebadi used herself as a narrator, injecting scenes from her own life and sometimes confusingly jumping around in narrative type. For example, she includes sections written as though she saw them first hand, when we know she did not, and sections written as if by an omniscient narrator who could be inside other people's heads, which of course Ebadi cannot. By using herself as a narrator but breaking conventions of narrative type, Ebadi not only casts doubt on the veracity of some of the events, but also removes a lot of the impact of these stories. Although I'm sad to say so since I really respect Shirin Ebadi's work, I wouldn't recommend The Golden Cage unless you have a really strong interest in Iran. Definitely read Iran Awakening instead.

{Read my full review [here](#)}

Bruce McDonald says

I wanted to like this book more than I did. The history that it tells is important, and complex, and vastly misunderstood by so many of us in the west. I actually taught a few Iranian Air Force pilots when we were on best-buddy terms with the Shah, and I remember what happened with all that. Learning later about the Cold War intrigues that had propped up the relationship and made it so toxic left me with the sad knowledge that the US was responsible for so much of what happened there, in our zeal to fight Communism at all costs. Most of my contemporaries also remember the Iran hostage crisis and have a vague notion that Iranians are dangerous and that their government is dangerous or worse, erratic and unpredictable. Many people I know confuse Iran and Iraq, thinking of them interchangeably as religious zealots who think of us as Satan and

who mistreat women. All of these blanket impressions and misunderstandings fade in the light of the stories of real people. Ebadi's story, though couched in terms so stark that they seem to be caricatures, is dripping with unpleasant reality.

As important as the story was, and as powerful and brave as the message was, the writing seemed rushed and the dialogue wooden, as if it were a fable for children. That and the rather disorganized first part of the book got me going toward an unfavorable opinion, say three stars. I have to appreciate how hard it must have been for Ebadi to relive this true story (I think it's true), though, in telling it. It was told in such stark terms that we could understand it, and that made me glad to have read it. The book was educational at the least, and at its best it was a monument to the pain and loss caused by extremism of all kinds.

Kate Z says

I would probably give this book 3.5 stars. Read this book for "The Street" book club selection in June 2012. This book was recommended to my mom and I by the guy at the Information Desk at Barnes and Noble. He had the book displayed on the Info Booth and he raved about it. Both my mom and I were immediately hooked. The night before at our book club we had been discussing The Cellist of Sarajevo and the discussion turned to how little, historically, we (collectively) knew about the circumstances of that war. That turned into a conversation about war refugees and our generally isolated sense of the world outside American shores. One member brought up a mom that she knew from her children's school who is from Persia and from there the conversation flowed to Iran and circled back to how little we really knew and understood about that country (and, truth be told, most of the so-called Middle East). So when, on the following day, The Golden Cage was right there at eye level on the counter being highly touted by the bookseller, my mom and I could not resist It's a sign! We must read this book!

To backtrack a bit, both my mom and I read Sky of Red Poppies earlier this year as part of the One Book, One San Diego program. We were both left feeling a little disappointed with that book. We had both hoped, I think, that Sky of Red Poppies would give us that broader understanding of Iran (Persia) under the Shah and the Islamist Revolution. That book was a fictionalized, though semi-autobiographical, account of the friendship between two teenage girls and it did give a sense of the personal tension and fear that people felt during that time.

The Golden Cage: Three Brothers, Three Choices, One Destiny has a more removed, arm's length feel to it. I thought the book was fiction when I bought it but it turns out that this is actually memoir/autobiography. This is Sirin Ebadi's story about the three brothers of her childhood friend Pari. The book is told with as much distance as you'd have trying to paint a historical context about your friend's brother(s). As such, the book for me lacked emotional punch or power. Retrospectively, although the scope is smaller and assumes more historical knowledge, I got more of the conflict and tension from Sky of Red Poppies. In the end you find out that she actually wrote this book as a kind of monument to all of the innocent people who were killed in the Islamist Revolution in Iran to fulfill a promise she made to her friend so that Pari's brothers would not be forgotten. It's hard to really knock a book like that - that just feels mean - but I found myself wishing she had written the book from her perspective and about her life.

I found it difficult to follow because in order to tell the story Ebadi had to jump around chronologically to explain how certain things came to be. Then she would insert these small personal references (like the reference to when she won the Nobel Prize!) almost as an aside and you realized that she was this really major intellectual power with a LOT to say about Iran and the events and history leading up to the current

circumstance(s) and I found myself just wishing she had told HER story, not used Pari's brothers to try and provide a loose outline.

Mehmet Akif Koc says

“Haksızlığı engelleyemiyorsanız bile, en azından onu herkese anlatın” - Ali İeriati

Alessandra says

Interesting to understand Iranian history

Fatma says

Great book! Shirin Ebadi is a powerfull and brave woman!
