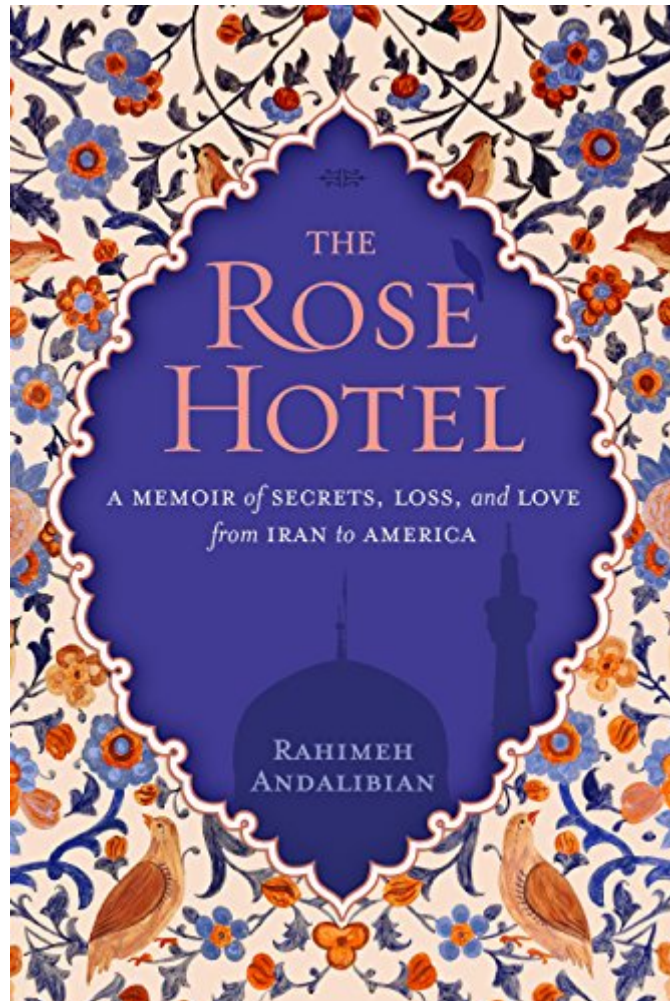


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The Rose Hotel: A Memoir Of Secrets, Loss, And Love From Iran To America



Synopsis

In this searing memoir, Rahimeh Andalibian struggles to make sense of two brutal crimes: a rape, avenged by her father, and a murder, of which her beloved oldest brother stands accused. Her journey, eloquently and intimately told, is a tribute to the resilience of families everywhere. Andalibian takes us first into her family's tranquil, jasmine-scented days of prosperity in Mashhad, Iran, where she and her brothers grow up in luxury at the Rose Hotel, owned by her father. In the aftermath of the 1979 revolution the family is forced to flee: first to the safety of a mansion in Tehran, next to a squalid one-room flat in London, and finally to California, where they discover they are not free from the weight of their own secrets. Caught between their parents' traditional values and their desire to embrace an American way of life, Andalibian and her brothers struggle to find peace in the wake of tragedy. In the tradition of *The Kite Runner*, *House of Sand and Fog*, and *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, this is a universal story of healing and rebirth. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rahimeh Andalibian tells the dramatic story of the implosion of her once secure and happy Iranian family following the 1979 Islamic revolution. The owner of a hotel in the city of Mashhad that caters

to Muslim pilgrims, Rahimeh's father, her beloved Baba, becomes involved in an event that ultimately traps the family in the brutal regime of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and exacts an unimaginable price. Rahimeh is just 5-years-old when the story begins, one of five children of Baba and Maman. She lives an idyllic life, pampered and protected by her loving parents. "The borders of my life were defined by two buildings -- home and hotel - edged by trim topiary hedges," she writes. "How often I skipped for joy along that driveway from one pleasure dome to another." As the narrator, Ms. Andalibian doesn't let the reader know more than she knows at any given age. Growing older, she lets us in on more of her story and her understanding of it. In the aftermath of the revolution, the family escapes first to London and then to Los Angeles, where they must begin again in poverty. The family is resilient and finds its place in the Iranian community, her father starting a business that leads pilgrimages to Mecca. But the events of their last days in Iran -- and the secrets left buried -- affect each family member in different and destructive ways -- depression, resentment, drug abuse and alcoholism, broken marriages, failed businesses and bankruptcies, outbursts of rage and violence. "Because we did not mourn our losses or talk openly about what had happened, the festering wound -- the secret -- got buried deep within our family, like a land mine," she writes. "It was only a matter of time before it would explode.

Time it took to read: 9 nights. Not because of lack of reading -- "I read every night" -- this is a LONG book. It is an auto-biography of Dr. Andalibian's life, her whole life to date. Did I mention it was long? That sounds harsh. It was a book out of my comfort zone about a young girl and her family growing up in Mashhad, Iran during the late 70s, early 80s all the way up to current time. I downloaded it because of the great reviews and to broaden my knowledge of another culture. I do enjoy books that include historical facts with a story (usually fictional) woven in -- "historical fiction. The story and struggles of this family were just as good (meaning it would be hard to make this stuff up) as fiction. So full of drama that you'd almost wish it were made up as you can feel the pain of this family through young Rahimeh's eyes. A pain that lasts a lifetime for them. Rahimeh is the only daughter to Maman & Baba, has 3 older brothers (Abdollah, Hadi, and Zain) and 1 younger brother (Imam). The story starts out when she is 4, describing their life of luxury at the Rose Hotel, which her family owns, in Iran. It quickly fills up with drama, both political and within their family, and takes a dark turn. The family is forced to make many changes including moves to Germany, England, and eventually the US. Each family member has their own share (really enough for anyone's lifetime) of struggles, most centered around one tragic event, but also physical, mental, emotional, and cultural. Throughout the book, the reader learns more about this event •

as Rahimeh does too. Just when you think you know it all â “ more details come out â “ even at the very end.

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