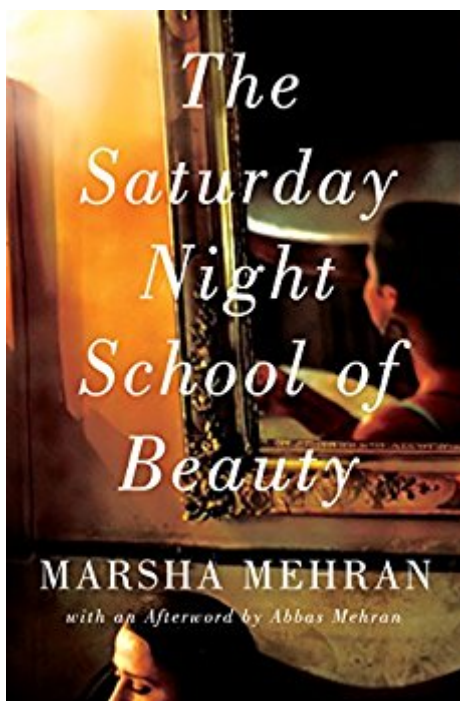


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The Saturday Night School Of Beauty



Synopsis

A moving tale of exile, friendship, and love from the bestselling author of Pomegranate Soup. In the wake of the Iranian revolution, Zadi Heirati, a single mother, flees to Buenos Aires with her young daughter. She decides to do what she knows best and opens a beauty salon, but as she meets her new neighbors and discovers their shared passion for poetry, the idea develops into much more than a job. The inhabitants of her apartment building form an eclectic community: a sick ex-prisoner and his daughter; a promising medical student; a timid hairdresser; a newlywed couple with a dark past; a young revolutionary; an eccentric pilgrim of Mecca; and at the heart of the group, Zadi, whose humble small business becomes a spiritual hub where she hosts weekly readings of Persian poetry. Drawn together by the revolution in their homeland, these neighbors share words that inspire each to turn inward and discover beauty long buried. At once familiar and extraordinary, this story weaves disparate lives together into a tapestry of unique grace, wit, and lyricism.

Book Information

File Size: 1852 KB

Print Length: 234 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1503947149

Publisher: Crossing (September 8, 2015)

Publication Date: September 8, 2015

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00V1YIYL6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #462,421 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #36

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Middle Eastern #224

inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Middle Eastern #2829 inÂ Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction > Women's Fiction

Customer Reviews

Imagine coming upon Da Vinci's Mona Lisa in an unfinished state â “ perhaps a third of the details

are sketched out, but not fully rendered with brushstrokes. Yet, you can still see without a doubt the lady's beauty, her mysterious smile, the grace of her hands. You can only visualize what the painting would look like in its finished state, but you can conclude from what was set down on canvas how breathtaking the whole would have been. That scenario is how I can best describe *The Saturday Night School of Beauty* by Marsha Mehran. It contains so many passages that excited me â€œ beautiful, heartbreaking, profound, shocking, memorable. Often-times I would have to read some parts over again because they moved me. I love the narrative format of the book, which interweaves the background stories of Persian expatriates in Buenos Aires who come together for weekly poetry night. They recite and passionately discuss the Koran, Rumi, Hafez, and other poets, often illuminating the characters' psyches. "What happened to people when they began to revolt, to change from within, and to become something else. That was why he loved poetry. What really drew him to the words. He understood those lines that called to him. Revolt, the turn in a turn." Mehran alternates from these poetry nights to exploring the haunting pasts of each character and what drove them from Iran to Argentina. These chapters are just as riveting as the poetry scenes, in that I felt immersed in Persian culture. Mehran's writing is as lyrical as the mystical poetry her characters discuss. However, there are some uneven sections in the book. Some characters' backgrounds and plots don't feel fully fleshed out.

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Saturday Night Live: The Book
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