
Gina B. Nahai

Caspian Rain



Title: Caspian Rain

Author: Gina B. Nahai

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Description

In the decade before the Islamic Revolution, Iran is a country on the brink of explosion. Twelve-year-old Yaas is born into an already divided family: Her father is the son of wealthy Iranian Jews who are integrated into the country's upper-class, mostly Muslim elite; her mother was raised in the slums of South Tehran, one street away from the old Jewish ghetto.

Yaas spends her childhood navigating the many layers of Iranian society. Her task, already difficult because of the disparity in her parents' worldview, becomes all the more critical when her father falls in love with a beautiful woman from a noble Muslim family. As her parents' marriage begins to crumble and the country moves ever closer to revolution, Yaas is plagued by a mysterious and terrifying illness. But despite her ailment, when she learns that her father is about to abandon her and her mother—to immigrate to America with his mistress—Yaas is determined to save herself and her family.

At once a cultural exploration of an as-yet-unfamiliar society and a psychological study of the effects of loss, *Caspian Rain* takes the reader inside the tragic and fascinating world of a brave young girl struggling against impossible odds.

Insightful reviews

Kelli: All of the magic of a fairy tale without the happy ending. (But an ending that makes you say "wow" never the less.) Thought provoking.

some gems worth pondering:

There's such a thing as too much hope. It's like a black hole: you fall in, and there's no bottom. p259

What is a life, at the end but a story we leave behind? What if that story was never told? p256

They have a different burden—the weak, those who are subject to the will and whims of the strong? They have to choose between two bad options: to be loyal and perish, or to betray others and save themselves. p274

Lorri: Cultural mores and expectations are a central theme throughout the novel. Love and loss are predominate factors in *Caspian Rain*. Identity and failure are evoked within the pages. Women are expected to perform in specific manners, within a marriage, and within a family unit. Even the women married to wealthy husbands are expected to obey their husbands, and uphold strict appearances, so as not to embarrass the family or cause gossip within the social spectrum. Through all the wealth they have, the women have given up their freedom and are repressed. Divorce is a stigma that nobody wants to endure.

Nahai has written a book filled with vivid imagery of life during that time period in Iran. She

demonstrates how the men hold the upper hand, and the women are stifled and held to a strict command. Repression weaves its way through the pages, as the story unfolds. Gina Nahai has given the reader a brilliant story, although a depressing one. The ending, although predictable, does not lessen the story line or the strong message within it. There isn't much inspiration or illumination within the novel and that is due to the fact that life is portrayed as it was, factually, through all of the confinements imposed upon women. I recommend *Caspian Rain* to those who are interested in the cultural aspects of pre-revolutionary Iran.

Nan: A sad story, the Jewish-Iranian family culture did make it interesting.

Samah Al-Atwani: a gorgeous and heartbreaking e-book ! for those who like Khaled Hosseini's books, you are likely to like this one too.

Diane: Set within the years ahead of the Iranian Revolution, this novel tells the tale of a tender woman who struggles along with her parents' failing marriage, and a mysterious illness. even though the prose is apparent and comparatively simple, the characters are well-drawn, and the writer conjures up the feel of where and time. even though the unconventional has a few tricks of magical realism, the tale is generally realistic. the writer does a very good activity of portraying the aspirations of Iranians from all walks of lifestyles in this tumultuous time.

Laurinda Paz: Um livro marcante. Uma escrita de uma sensibilidade extraordinária. Retrato de uma sociedade marcada por uma cultura de exclusão.

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