



The Stationery Shop

Written by Marjan Kamali

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The Stationery Shop

The Stationery Shop

By Marjan Kamali

The Stationery Shop Book

From the award-winning author of *Together Tea*—a debut novel hailed as “compassionate, funny, and wise” by Jill Davis, bestselling author of *Girls’ Poker Night*—comes a powerful love story exploring loss, reconciliation, and the quirks of fate.

The Stationery Shop Goodreads

Roya is a dreamy, idealistic teenager living in 1953 Tehran who, amidst the political upheaval of the time, finds a literary oasis in kindly Mr. Fakhri's neighborhood book and stationery shop. She always feels safe in his dusty store, overflowing with fountain pens, shiny ink bottles, and thick pads of soft writing paper.

The Stationery Shoppe

When Mr. Fakhri, with a keen instinct for a budding romance, introduces Roya to his other favorite customer—handsome Bahman, who has a burning passion for justice and a love for Rumi’s poetry—she loses her heart at once. And, as their romance blossoms, the modest little stationery shop remains their favorite place in all of Tehran.

The Stationery Shop Prudhoe

A few short months later, on the eve of their marriage, Roya agrees to meet Bahman at the town square, but suddenly, violence erupts—a result of the coup d'état that forever changes their country's future. In the chaos, Bahman never shows. For weeks, Roya tries desperately to contact him, but her efforts are fruitless. With a sorrowful heart, she resigns herself to never seeing him again.

The Stationery Shop Norwich

Until, more than sixty years later, an accident of fate leads her back to Bahman and offers her a chance to ask him the questions that have haunted her for more than half a century: Why did he leave? Where did he go? How was he able to forget her?

The Stationery Shop Ballymount

The Stationery Shop is a beautiful and timely exploration of devastating loss, unbreakable family bonds, and the overwhelming power of love.

LONGBUT NO MAJOR SPOILERS....

There is much to like about "The Stationery Shop", where we are taken back to the year, 1953 when Mossadegh was the Prime Minister in Iran, during political devastating-havoc.

Many people in Iran loved Mossadegh. They believed he was their democratic leader who had the courage to stand up to foreign powers wanting their oil. Mossadegh was "hope" for the many people in Iran who believed in him. They felt he was the right man to achieve democracy.

The anti-Mossade LONGBUT NO MAJOR SPOILERS....

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The anti-Mossadegh folks were angry - they thought Mossadegh was a communist and many not only wanted to replace him - plotting against him for General Zahedi as post-coo Prime Minister replacement - they wanted Mossadegh dead.

Demonstrations got ugly and frightening. Protesters were shouting "Marg Bar Tudeh"death to Mossadegh. History had never been more frightening- dangerous and ugly. The protesters managed to enter Mossadegh's house... but he managed to escape through a window to a neighbors.

The coup "Etat conspirators looted the prime misters house - burned some of the contents -completely destroying his house. The coop had succeeded. The world would be changed the world forever.

The political history written by Marjan Kamali, is clear, accurate, uncomplicated, straightforward, and easily accessible.....making this a great book choice for anyone who is unfamiliar with the political history & culture of Iran. This novel would make a a great pick for American High School and college students.

The history was written simple to understand - yet frustrating for many in Iran to understand why American government had a hand in the coup.

I spent several months in Tehran in 1974....I cherish my memorieswith some crazy stories and great times!

The Stationery Shop

Back to this story.....

During the summer of 1953, a couple fell in love. Roya and Bahman were 17 years old. Both bright educated students. They were engaged to be married.

But for reasons - (much for the reader to ponder), they never married each other.

Bahman literally vanished from Roya's life on the very same day that they had planned to meet at Sepah Square at Cafe Ghandi.....the same cafe where Roya first tasted coffee during the New Year holiday: Nowruz.

Bahman ordered them both a steaming Italian espresso with cream.

Passing on Roya's normal drink - tea - to try coffee - wasn't the only change for Roya during the most memorable summer of her life. Everything was changing fast and faster since falling in love with Bahman. Her thinking opened politically in ways they never had until she fell in love with an activist. She planned to secretly marry Bahman at the office of Marriage and Divorce...a few weeks before their real wedding. But on August 19th, 1953....when demonstrations - and violence in the streets were at an all time high....during the overthrow of Mossadegh....the day hundreds were killed...

Roya was alone waiting for her fiancé. August 19, 1953, they were going to marry - meeting at their favorite cafe, but Bahman never showed up.

Roya and Bahman first met in a Stationery/ Book store Shop, run by Mr. Fakhri.

Mr. Fakhri used to refer to Bahman as "the boy who would change the world". Symbolically....the title of this book will be clear in many more ways than one, once the reader is finished reading it all.

Four and a half years after the coup...four and a half years since Roya and Bahman were to marry....

Bahman was working at a petroleum company....married to another woman....with a baby on the way. I found it shocking and sad to learn about Bahman's job.

The suspense of why - how come - and what happened- that broke up Roya and Bahman, will keep you guessing to the end.

Time kept moving on....

Roya and her sister Zari came to California- both having received an international scholarship at Mills College in Oakland....(a small private college not far from UC Berkeley)....

Our own daughter went Mills College.....and UC Berkeley.

I kept thinking about how political demonstrations changes people

I thought about the protesters against the Vietnam war when I was attending UC Berkeley.

Time keeps moving on.....

Bahman - and Roya - both senior Citizens - looked back on their summer - of love - during political chaos. ...August 19, 1953 is a day neither had forgotten -

Time still keeps moving on....

Sixty years later....

The Stationery Shop

Bahman wondered what his generation learned. He had worked hard to do all the right things to bring about political change! Democracy!
but in one day, in one afternoon, foreign powers and corrupt Iranians destroyed all his dreams. What had he learned? What regret did he have?

Getting older....

Roya married Walter. Her sister Zari married Jack. Both sisters married Americans...had childrenjobs
...(we get lots of juicy stories about living in America as an Iranian)....

From the SF Bay Area ...to New England....it seemed no matter how many years went by -
births...events... happiness and tragedies... when Roya was alone in her thoughts....Bahman was who
she reflected on.

I felt incredibly sad for people who worked hard for good changes in the world, but then saw
themselves as failures, or worse....dead.

I felt even sadderwhen I learned the why™s and ~what happened?•
It™s amazing to think about how one WORD can be ~life-changing™.

Iran was a complex nation in 1953 - still is. History repeats itself...

Politically charged....

In 1979 Iran had its Islamic Revolution- no longer ruled by the Shah - but religious clerics.

This was also a wonderful story exposing the many complex relationships - the challenges facing
cultural traditions vs. progressive changes - love and loss.

Young-adult-coming of age - falling in love and all the influential complexities including parents - in-laws
- siblings - friends - aging (memories, ailments, regrets, sorrows, perspective)

Besides Iranian political history being brought to life, which historical fiction readers will
appreciate...fans of romance novels might enjoy this book as well. Universal themes include family, and
friends.....with ~love™ being at the heart of everything that really matters.

If you enjoy Persian food.... there are many wonderful dishes being served. Yum!

Besides being a very engaging enjoyable book.....this story is timely - given the political relations
between the United States and Iran today.

Kudos to author Marjan Kamali! Terrific heartfelt storytelling - written with intimacy and compassion.....

This book - a lovely tribute - offers an understanding of life for Iranians and Iranian-Americans.

Thank you Marjan Kamali. I plan to read more by this lovely author.

Thank You Netgalley and Gallery Threshold ...more

The Stationery Shop Edenderry

Look at love

How it tangles

With the one fallen in love

Look at spirit

How it fuses with earth

Giving it new life

Five lyrical, heart-wrenching/ripping/breaking into pieces, soul shaking, perception changing, revolutionary, magical, eternal love stars!

The list of the things you need urgently after you finish this book are:

- Rolls of toilet papers, napkins, paper towels, anything helping you out to clean the nasty evidence of your ugly cries!

-Fresh air! So you can howl at the moon like a wolf for Look at love

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- Rolls of toilet papers, napkins, paper towels, anything helping you out to clean the nasty evidence of your ugly cries!

-Fresh air! So you can howl at the moon like a wolf for getting rid of bottled up emotions, anger, frustration.

-Punch bags and gloves! Some of the characters on this book will piss you off so much as you remember their name (She-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named!!!), use the punch bags instead of your lovely house walls or glasses!

- A good comedy movie or TV series to binge watch! Because you're gotta remember, there are still funny things in life!

-Eat pasta, chocolate to rise up your blue mood!

- Stay away from Zanax or any other prescribed pills, hard liquors which could deepen your depression. Try smoothies, ice cream or softer drinks!

- Good make up products to hide your puffy red eyes!

This story was started in Tehran, a stationary shop, it's a place where its owner Mr. Fakhri, helps the young people for their political awakening and fight for reformist changing of their country but it is also the safe place of book lovers who want to devour the words and broaden their intellectual minds.

Young Roya, book-worm, 17, comes to the stationary shop to find herself, her own words and meets Bahman Aslan (Aslan means lion, Bahram is mostly brave, passionate character just like his last name). As soon as they met, they understood that their life would never be the same.

The Stationery Shop

They fell in love when they were 17. They got engaged and against Bahman's mother's rejection who were suffering from psychological problems, they planned to get marry at the summer as the political turbulence commotion, danger of upcoming coup rising like Damocles' sword over their heads!

But one day, Bahman and his family disappear and Roya can only communicate with him by the letters hidden inside the books with the help of Mr. Fakhri.

Finally young lovers decide to get marry and meet at the square to go to the mayor's office with their documents. Roya waits for Bahman, witnesses Mr. Fakhri`s dying because of a political commotion at the square. And then she gets a letter from Bahman that says he wants to break up with her.

Devastated Roya, decides to go to the US for college education and fresh start for her broken heart with her sister.

So this is 60 year old story of two lovers who have broken up , tried to gather their pieces of their broken hearts, gone to their separate ways to move on their lives and finally they got back together after 60 years to have their closure !But you know that lovers don't finally meet somewhere.. They're in each other all along! As like Bahman ans Roya!

I cried so much! I hurt so much! I cursed so much! This is a poignant, emotional, life changing and heavy story to absorb, digest properly about passion, ideals, dreams, sisterhood, traumas, betrayal, abortion, loss, devotion, trust, friendship, psychological issues !

I still feel lumps on my throat! Especially final pages are so hard to continue! But it's totally worth it!

Because this is an incredible journey about faith, love, beautiful Rumi poems!

I enjoyed every second of it.

I'm so lucky that I received this amazing complimentary ARC from the publisher, courtesy of NetGalley, in exchange of my honest review! I think it's safe to say I loved this book so much and again thanks to NetGalley to help me meet this gifted writer!

...more

5 stars

My goodness. Another beautiful and enthralling read in a year full of them for me! I am going to be brief as the less said the better for potential readers of this wonderful novel.

The Stationery Shop (the perfect title for this story) is set in two timelinesâ€”1953 and 2013. I would estimate, however, that 90% of the story takes place in 1953, including, believe it or not, the epilogue. Our protagonist is Roya, a young woman who turns 17 years old in 1953. She meets her first love, Bahman, 5 stars

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The Stationery Shop

knowledge. Both Roya and Bahman love poetry. The 1953 setting is Tehran, Iran, which is in political turmoil. The author's research is obvious as we are presented with what Iranian life was like at that time, including the culture, the state of the unstable government, and the accompanying unrest. We also get a flavor of Persian food. And a most touching young romance.

Things do not go as hoped and much grief and sadness ensues. To say more would risk saying too much. What happens to these people involves social mores of the time, mental illness, lies and deceit, familial wishes, deep regret, and again, political unrest. This is NOT your usual young romance - in no way, shape or form. Ultimately, although I felt drained at the end, we get understanding, compassion, acceptance and an abundance of love in many different forms. The Stationery Shop, a most moving and unforgettable tale with exceptional characterization, gets all the stars and is highly recommended.

...more

The Stationery Shoppe Faversham

I decided to read this after reading reading the enthusiastic review from my GR friend, Elyse. Unfortunately I didn't respond in the same manner. There are parts of it that I really liked and parts that just drove me up the wall.

I don't know if it's because I am old and cranky but the romance section just dragged out so long I wanted to scream. It just went on and on. I know many people like that so this could be the book for you. I was more interested in the political situation of Iran in 1953 I decided to read this after reading reading the enthusiastic review from my GR friend, Elyse. Unfortunately I didn't respond in the same manner. There are parts of it that I really liked and parts that just drove me up the wall.

I don't know if it's because I am old and cranky but the romance section just dragged out so long I wanted to scream. It just went on and on. I know many people like that so this could be the book for you. I was more interested in the political situation of Iran in 1953. There was a democratic Prime Minister overthrown by the Shah, backed by the Americans. That was fascinating. In fact it was that political situation that broke up the young lovers, Roya and Bahman. Bahman is a staunch supporter of the Prime Minister.

The couple meet at a Stationery Shop that also operates as a post office for young lovers. Roya is determined to read all the foreign translated novels. Bahman enjoys the poetry. The romance blossoms and blossoms and blossoms.

I did enjoy the food descriptions. It all sounded quite delicious. I also liked the story of the two young sisters traveling to America on scholarship to Mills College in the Bay Area. It was quite interesting to read of them making new lives in America. This could have been a better book. for me, if there was less romance.

Thanks to Net Galley for a copy of this book in exchange for a fair review. ...more

The Stationery Shop is a place you will want to visit again and again! In this skillfully plotted novel author Marjan Kamali introduces us to the violent upheaval leading up to the fall of Mossadegh in 1953 Iran. Against this political unrest we are introduced to a wonderful cast of characters you will immediately bond. I would argue fate is also a major character in the novel.

The novel's true beauty lies in its capacity to emotionally move the reader. You cannot read this story without feeling The Stationery Shop is a place you will want to visit again and again! In this skillfully plotted novel author Marjan Kamali introduces us to the violent upheaval leading up to the fall of Mossadegh in 1953 Iran. Against this political unrest we are introduced to a wonderful cast of characters you will immediately bond. I would argue fate is also a major character in the novel.

The Stationery Shop

The novel's true beauty lies in its capacity to emotionally move the reader. You cannot read this story without feeling something. I predict the book will touch a vast majority of readers in a way they did not think a novel capable.

Due to the fact the story begins in Iran and the American audience has little experience with this setting, the rise of this novel may be slow. Word of mouth will play a major role in expanding book sales. How many times have you picked up a book you might normally bypass because a trusted reading friend raved about it?

Consider me your trusted reading friend and pick this book up on June 18th when it is released. Visit [The Stationery Shop](#) and I guarantee it will be one of your favorite reads of 2019! ...more

The Stationery Shop Magaliesburg

I'm not a very emotional person--I'm usually left dry eyed when others are sobbing over books all around me--but this novel gutted me in the very best way possible. I am wowed by The Stationery Shop.

The story of Roya and Bahman begins when they are teenagers in 1953 in Tehran. The two fall in love, meeting in secret at the Stationery Shop. They become engaged, although the political upheaval around them and family demands threaten to tear them apart. The two decide to marry anyway, but when Roya

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The story of Roya and Bahman begins when they are teenagers in 1953 in Tehran. The two fall in love, meeting in secret at the Stationery Shop. They become engaged, although the political upheaval around them and family demands threaten to tear them apart. The two decide to marry anyway, but when Roya goes to meet Bahman for their wedding, he doesn't show up. The story then moves forward--through the 1950s, into 2013--as we trace Roya's life, which has the mystery of Bahman's rejection constantly dangling over it. In 2013, they meet again in the United States, where Roya settled.

The details in this novel are exquisite. Kamali has a light touch--never does the story feel weighed down--but she paints a rich portrait of what life was like in Iran in the 1950s, with the foods, the smells, the customs. The setting is as beautifully drawn as the characters. Kamali also includes the Iranian politics of the time in an incredibly seamless manner. The upheaval plays a large part in the story but doesn't weigh it down. (In 1953, Iran was on the brink of revolution as the Shah was in power but in direct conflict with Prime Minister Mosaddegh, all the while a Communist faction looked to gain a foothold in the government.)

This novel, which I read courtesy of NetGalley, is one I didn't want to end. The images are haunting, the story both heart-breaking and uplifting. It's a story of love and family and the things we give up and the losses we deal with. I am now eager to search out more books that take place in Iran. In the meantime, I can say that though the year has only just begun, this will absolutely be one of the best books of 2019. ...more

Yes, this book is technically a romance, but what I loved the most was how it opened my eyes to the Iranian culture, to the complexity of living in a land constantly in political upheaval. For the first time, my heart identified and ached for a generation of people I had never truly concerned myself with before.

I loved the simple parts too--the food and customs, the smells, the taarof extreme politeness and small talk, the deeper meaning conveyed in conversation through the Farsi language, even Yes, this book is technically a romance, but what I loved the most was how it opened my eyes to the Iranian culture, to the complexity of living in a land constantly in political upheaval. For the first time, my heart identified and ached for a generation of people I had never truly concerned myself with before.

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I loved the simple parts too—the food and customs, the smells, the taarof extreme politeness and small talk, the deeper meaning conveyed in conversation through the Farsi language, even the rallies and seeing the extreme divisions of political opinion.

At first I'll admit it was only those things I enjoyed; Roya's romance and story itself I wasn't that invested in, but as she grew older and all the different POVs and time jumps worked to write a fuller and broader story than just Roya's, I grew more and more engaged in the story. And it was Roya and her new eyes in taking in California and America and later her grief in losing her daughter Marigold that captured my heart. It was Bahman and his letters that made me mourn for everything that had happened in his country, the disappointment in fighting for a cause and seeing it destroyed. (And, wow, just read a little on the history of the 1953 Iranian coup d'état, and see if your heart doesn't ache as an American over our involvement in the coup.)

But there were some parts I was uncomfortable with in this book and didn't enjoy. Roya still loving Bahman while married to Walter, or the fact that every book published now days feels as if it needs a gay side character or Mr. Fakhri's 1916 POVs that were rather uncomfortable to read, to say the least. So, I'm grateful for this book in a lot of ways, but at the same time, I wasn't 100% comfortable with all the content. Four stars for the way it drew me in.

FTC Disclosure: I received a copy of this book for promotional purposes from Netgalley. I was not required to write a positive review. These are my honest thoughts and opinions.

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