

<i>Persepolis and Persepolis 2 by Marjane Satrapi</i>	
Author and Key Biographical Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marjane Satrapi • Written in 1999 • Born in Iran and lived through the Iranian revolution (Persepolis is based on her life) • Grew up with a very liberal lifestyle and was forced into one that was inherently repressive and Islamic due to the regime
Context and Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set in Tehran (culturally rich and somewhat cosmopolitan -> kansas restaurant etc thereby implying cultural decadence) • 1979 Iranian revolution that aimed to overthrow cultural decadence led to the abdication of the Shah • In 1980 Iraq attacked Iran which led to the Iraq-Iran war • <i>Persepolis</i>: Ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid empire
Narrative POV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First person (Marjane's view)
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marjane Satrapi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Protagonist ◦ Strong-willed and brave ◦ Confused about identity -> tries to understand her place in the world ◦ Faces a lot of oppression and reacts by either obeying, lashing out, or outright breaking them • Parents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Extremely modern and "avant-garde" ◦ Shields Marjane despite living a secular and modern life • Uncle Anoosh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Marjane's uncle and hero who fled to the USSR after opposing the Shah ◦ Is captured the regime and executed in prison • Marjane's grandmother <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Gives her advice about how she should live ◦ "I finally understood what my grandmother meant. If I wasn't comfortable with myself, I would never be comfortable." ◦ Supportive of Marjane • Niloufer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A young communist who was caught and executed ◦ Marjane's parents use her as an example of what happens when young girls are arrested • Reza <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Her first boyfriend and eventual husband ◦ Veteran of the Iran-Iraq war, makes her feel so connected to it that she looks past his incompatibility with her ◦ Marriage was for convenience, they marry to get an apartment together

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marjane marries Reza, marriage symbolises her holding onto the trauma of the revolution -> the revolution still holds onto her -> she can't let go of it
Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Self vs Society ● Self vs Parents ● "Good" vs "Bad" ● Religion vs Modernity (see themes)
Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Religion vs Modernity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marjane sees herself as a prophet and believes in social equality and aid ○ Perception of religion -> regime saw things like wine and music to be decadence ○ Imposition of religious laws causes Marjane to lose her religious identity -> banishes god ○ Religion used as a tool to instill fear/subservience ○ Marjane dives further into vices (sex and drugs) in a more "liberal" France -> change of environment ● Nationalism, heroism and martyrdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marjane rejoices when the revolution comes (cries at the national anthem) ○ Naïvely romanticises and glorifies martyrs as she wants a "hero" ○ Marjane feels urge to fight for her freedom and her country's freedom -> goes to protests ○ Marjane understands she can love and hate country, not everything in Iran is monolithic ● Violence, forgiveness and justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forgiveness is a tenet preached by her mother, towards the end Marjane realises not everything can be forgiven ● Personal vs political <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marjane's personal life is juxtaposed against the political situation in Iran ○ Politics seeps into her personal life in the form of the games she plays and the decisions she makes against the regime ● Gender and oppression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Freedom of women dependent on state ○ Veils - forces women to become uniform ○ Restriction on the types of clothing worn ○ Restriction of opportunities in education for women ● Identity and trauma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conflict between religion and modern ○ Maturation of her identity - aided by her parents and relationships ○ Her beliefs are molded unapologetically and opposed to

	<p>societal conventions - she has a distinct personal identity in an context where people are subjected to uniformity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ She gains an understanding of justice, forgiveness and faith which are integral to the growth of her identity ● Loss of innocence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has encountered so much destruction and death ○ Children imbibe the language used by the current regime - "execution in the name of freedom" ○ The games played by children are a reflection of Iran's political situation - "Down with the Shah" in the garden, torture methods ○ Violence is also considered normal by these children - attack against Ramin ○ Romanticization of the war ○ Loss of loved ones - Anoosh, Pardisse's dad ● Moral compromise
Symbols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The cigarette/Kim Wilde posters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rebels against "mother's dictatorship" ○ Reconciling her desires for an avant-garde lifestyle with her immediate environment ○ Compromise of morals (still has an islamic upbringing) ● Golden key <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Painted "gold" so represents how something bad (plastic) is presented as a beautiful idea (martyrdom) -> brainwashed ○ Regime emphasises beauty but rewards are few and far between (deceitful ideas of martyrdom) ○ Symbolises class divide -> upper class children like Marjane's cousin didn't get it ● Veil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Symbolises "total oppression" ○ Represents loss of identity for women -> made to look uniform ○ Used as a means of restricting means of expression ● Bread swan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Symbolises resistance and peace (swan represents peace) ○ Bread crumbles easily -> need to stay strong during tough periods ● Marjane's bed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Symbolises equality -> comforts Mehri (her maid) ○ Symbolises hope -> Has conversations with God ○ Symbolises maturity and loss of innocence -> banishes God ● Nuptial chambers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loss of freedom of men who have given up their lives -> link to golden key (idea of "love" and/or "women" used in both cases)

<p>Notable Craft/Authorial choices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Graphic novel -> allows us to see the impacts of the war as Marjane lives in it ◦ Visual storytelling -> reader is invited to occupy the space of the war *major contrast with TKR* • Motifs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Compromise of morals ◦ Motif of privilege <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In Iran Marjane is extremely privileged (has the privilege to leave the country, owns a car etc) ■ In France and Austria it's the exact opposite as she even ends up homeless -> more freedom leads to less privilege ◦ Motif of the sun ◦ Loss of innocence • Graphic weight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Used to emphasise the "main subject" in a panel ◦ Marjane placed in the corner during uncle Anoosh's death • Narration (breaking the fourth wall) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Directly invites the reader into the spacial and temporal of context • Speech bubbles • Idea of microcosms like school a microcosm of society (When Marjane slaps principle she's slapping society) • Colour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ As Marjane grows older the panels become more detailed, she has a more nuanced understanding of the revolution and how it has impacted her ◦ Growing up (black and white), she sees "good" and "bad" as absolute notions • Non-sequitar transitions follow the chaos of what's happening in the book
<p>Notable Nuggets/Quotes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We found ourselves veiled and separated from our friends" • "We didn't really like to wear the veil, especially since we didn't know why we had to" • "I want to be justice, love and the wrath of God all in one" • "In every religion you find the same extremists" • "I wanted to be a prophet because our maid did not eat with us." • "It was really our own who attacked us" • "With this first cigarette, I kissed childhood goodbye. Now I was a grown-up"
<p>Summary</p>	<p>Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi is a bildungsroman that follows the life of Marjane Satrapi as she grows up amidst the Iranian revolution. The memoir, in the form of a graphic novel, looks at how the social and political</p>

	turbulence in her environment shapes her as she navigates her way to adulthood.
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<i>The Kite Runner</i> by Khaled Hosseini	
Author and Key Biographical Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khaled Hosseini • Written in 2003 • Was inspired to write the book after he learnt that the Taliban banned kites • Lived in Iran, then went to America and returned (multicultural views in retrospect) • <i>The Kite Runner</i>: Refers to the main event that sets the plot in motion (Hassan gets raped as the kite runner)
Context and Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set in Kabul, the US and parts of Pakistan • Starts with Daoud Khan overthrowing Zahir Shah in 1973 • Soviet War then takes place • Afghanistan then became independent after the Soviet left but was immediately taken over by the Taliban • Kite Runner ends after 9/11 when the Taliban leaves after US's invasion of Afghanistan
Narrative POV	First person limited (Amir's POV)
Narrative Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of flashbacks used
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protagonist ○ Narrator ○ Grows up in the wealthy district of Wazir Akbar Khan ○ Feels guilt after letting Hassan get raped ○ Marries Soraya and adopts Sohrab • Hassan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amir and Baba's servant and Amir's childhood best friend ○ Born with a cleft-lip which is later fixed from a surgery Baba pays for -> makes Amir jealous as he had to get a painful circumcision ○ Is illiterate and part of the "Hazara" class -> discriminated ○ Is raped by Assef ○ Marries Farzana and has a child named Sohrab

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eventually executed by the Taliban ● Baba <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amir's father ○ Large man with a thick deep voice, physically strong, and is the alpha in society ○ Fear -> subservience ○ Is Hassan's father as well as he sleeps with Sanaubar ○ His charitable work like his orphanage is him trying to redeem himself ○ Not religious at all ● Ali <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hassan's "father" who has a limp and facial paralysis for which he is mocked ○ Was adopted by Baba's father and thus Baba considers him a brother ○ He and Hassan leave the house after Amir accuses Hassan of theft ● Soraya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amir's eventual wife ○ Was ostracised by society for running away and living with her American boyfriend (cultural divide prominent) ● Sohrab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hassan's son who is later adopted by Amir ○ Is taken to an orphanage but is sexually abused by Assef ○ Is a symbol of hope and redemption ● Assef <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main bully of Wazir Akbar Khan who rapes Hassan ○ He idolises Hitler ○ Eventually joins the Taliban but is defeated by Amir and Sohrab in a fist-fight ● Rahim Khan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baba's close friend who acknowledges Amir's knack for writing ○ Tells Amir to rescue Sohrab
Themes	<p>Politics intertwining in personal life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Afghanistan's political situation juxtaposed against events in Amir's life ● Tumultuous Afghan history with tumultuous events in Amir's life <p>Violence and Intolerance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The rape ● Oppression of freedom <p>Gender Equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Double standards for Soraya and Amir ● Jamila not being allowed to sing by General Taher ● Expectations of masculine norms in Afghan society

	<p>Friendship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pomegranate tree • Although Amir and Hassan were friends ("brother"), Amir still held an intrinsic discrimination against Hassan. Hassan is a Hazara and Shia Muslim <p>Father-son relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult in the starting due to Baba's high expectations of Amir • The relationship improved once they were in America and Amir starts to make his own decisions • Baba uses his lifesavings on Amir and Soraya's wedding (final act of redemption for the secret he kept) <p>Forgiveness and redemption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amir's entire journey throughout Kite Runner is ridden with guilt and a search for redemption • The cleft lip and the fact that the book ends with Amir playing with kites with Hassan signifies that he has achieved redemption <p>Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taliban violence - oppressing citizens in the name of religion • The Rape - Soviet invasion <p>Betrayal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baba's betrayal • Amir's betrayal <p>Politics and Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnic minority: Hazaras • Babaloo • Mazar-i-sharif massacre • Monarchy -> Soviet occupation -> Taliban
Symbols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blue Kite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Symbolises childhood betrayal ◦ Represents Afghanistan's golden days which were "banned" by the Taliban ◦ "Flying a kite is a little like going to war" -> Amir's internal war • Cleft Lip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Symbol of economic class differences and Amir's betrayal of Hassan ◦ Amir gets a wound from Assef's brass knuckles which resembled Hassan's cleft lip. This was his means to achieving redemption • Pomegranate Tree - start of friendship; withers in the end <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Later symbolises Amir's memory -> exists but doesn't bear fruit (bittersweet) -> Symbolises a divide as Amir wants Hassan to hit him with a pomegranate • Motif of Rape - supposed to depict violence in Afghanistan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter and Cold - to describe Baba and Amir's initial relationship • Slingshot: Symbolises childhood and justice (Parallelism as Hassan uses it to save Amir and so does Sohrab)
Notable Craft/Authorial choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative Voice - first-person (book) -> we understand how the war in the background affects Amir's guilt *contrast with Persepolis • Colour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "Blue" kite ◦ "Red" bike • Zoomorphism/Relation to animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Amir Monster in the lake: Represents Amir's betrayal and deception -> Leaves Hassan and drags him to the bottom of the lake -> bottom symbolises inferiority Hassan feels ◦ Baba Black Bear: Symbolises Baba himself and his beliefs, like how Baba wrestled a bear he must wrestle with his past; as Baba couldn't be distinguished from the bear he can't be distinguished from his sins ◦ Hassan Sacrificial Lamb: The lamb acted a substitute sacrifice for the prophet's son. Hassan was also the sacrifice; a substitute for the kite that was kept so that Amir could receive Baba's acceptance and pride. He believed his purpose in life was to devote himself to Amir (comes from his upbringing) -> society is the one imposing these religious structures -> Pashtun vs hazara discrimination • Foreshadowing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Monster in the Lake to Hassan's rape • Imagery • Allusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Allusion to Rostam and Sohrab (Amir means prince ie status and much like how Rostam kills his unidentified Sohrab Amir kills his unidentified sumbling Hassan; Rostam hosts a royal burial and Amir dedicates a story; Amir compares Soraya's beauty to Tahmineh) • Irony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Baba considers theft a sin but he commits adultery and keeps it a secret, stealing Amir's right to know. ◦ After Hassan's cleft-lip is cured, he no longer smiles • Allegory • Non linear structure -> shows chaos of war
Notable Nuggets/Quotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "In Kabul, fighting kites is a little like going to war." • "I always felt like Baba hated me a little. And why not? After all, I had killed his beloved wife." • "A boy who won't stand up for himself becomes a man who can't stand up to anything."

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "For you a thousand times over."• "There is a way to be good again."• "There are a lot of children in Afghanistan, but little childhood."• "Now, no matter what the mullah teaches, there is only one sin, only one. And that is theft. Every other sin is a variation of theft."
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MADHAV MENON

Themes and Big Ideas	<i>Persepolis</i>	<i>The Kite Runner</i>
Trauma		
Political turbulence		
Coming of Age	Persepolis depicts the protagonist Marjane's journey from childhood to adulthood during the Iranian Revolution.	The Kite Runner" follows Amir's maturation from a young boy to an adult, marked by the consequences of his actions.
Identity and Belonging	Marjane's identity as an Iranian develops and matures throughout Persepolis. From blindly following and supporting her country's government, she learns to critically analyze and comment on the happenings of the country. Later, she feels a sense of relief in Vienna. However, she feels suffocated not being able to take pride in her Iranian identity (claimed herself as French to a boy)	Amir has always been a wealthy Afghan yet took great joy in Afghan customs like kite-flying. Although he did not face much difficulty settling in America unlike Marjane, Baba definitely did. Their economic situation in California is vastly different. However, Amir grew up in an Afghan community in America taking part in flea markets and communal events. His identity was still a major part of him and he took pride in it. So did Baba.
Family and Relationships	Marjane owes her growth to her parents who insist on giving her a liberal education (French). They taught her to voice out her opinions unapologetically and later be an independent woman.	Baba and Amir have a difficult relationship at first but later mend it. Baba has brought up Amir with strict moral principles which might help him later in life.
Religion	<p>Religion used as a driving point for everything -> Marjane loses religious identity after uncle Anoosh's death (religious practices/religious politics were resisted)</p> <p>Yet God is a symbol of hope as Marjane turns to him during their conversations</p>	<p>Religion almost looked down upon; Baba says "piss on their beards"</p> <p>Amir turns to God in the hospital as he prays for Sohrab to live -> moment of weakness (God symbol of hope)</p>
Gender Norms	The Islamic government expects women to behave in a certain way.	Explores Masculine norms in Afghan Society (arts is looked

	By wearing the veil, no tight jeans, restricting tertiary education for women Persepolis 2: Marjane being slut-shamed by Taji's friends during a skiing trip	down upon, expected to be more violent) Double Standards for women - Sanauber and Soraya (slut-shaming)
Point of view	First-person limited <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual storytelling invites reader to occupy the space of the war -> allows you to empathise with the torture, political situation etc 	First-person limited <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TKR is more retrospective, in a descriptive format we get the

Baba's lies point, "when a lie is said too many times it becomes believable"

Same hierarchical structure that made Hazaras inferior facilitates the suffering and guilt in Amir