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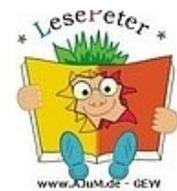
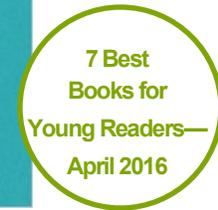
Mehrnousch Zaeri-Esfahani, born in Isfahan/Iran in 1974, fled to Germany with her family in 1985. She grew up in Heidelberg, studied social pedagogy in Freiburg and has been doing refugee work since 1999. She was president of the refugees' council in Baden-Württemberg and has been a consultant for voluntary refugee attendance since 2014. In 2002 she received the Democracy Award of the German Federal Parliament, 2012 she received the Innovation Award of the deaconry Baden for the formation of a free pool of interpreters. She lives in Karlsruhe with her family.
www.zaeri-autorin.de

English sample translation available



Sales points

- Autobiographical story
- Narrated in plain, beautiful language
- With vignettes by Mehrnousch's brother Mehrdad Zaeri-Isfahani



MEHRNOUSCH ZAERI-ESFAHANI

33 Arches and One Teahouse

Little Mehrnousch and her three siblings, children of a surgeon, have a privileged childhood in the lovely city of Isfahan in Iran in the 70s. Like most others, the family celebrates the eviction of the Shah as a fortunate event—little do they expect that the new ruler Ayatollah Chomeini would establish a despotic rule and rob them of their freedom in no time at all.

Bewildered with fear and anger, Mehrnousch experiences how the oppression begins to find its way into all areas of life. When her 14-year-old brother is in danger of being sent into war, the family flees via Istanbul and East Berlin to West Germany. They begin an odyssey through refugee hostels, a constant up and down between hope and despair until the family at last finds a new home in Heidelberg.

Mehrnousch Zaeri-Esfahani narrates the story of her life with poetic power. She tells of the beauty of Isfahan and happy family life, of the torment of the dictatorship, of the sad, but sometimes also cheerful experiences during these years. Of the feeling of speech- and homelessness and the joy of arrival.

REVIEWS

“A testimonial and parable at the same time. An outstanding novel that will persist.”
- *NZZ am Sonntag*, Christine Knödler

“The author very touchingly tells of parting, loss and despair—consistently from the child’s point of view.” -
Süddeutsche Zeitung

Young Adult Fiction