



# The Book of Fate

By Parinoush Saniee

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## The Book of Fate By Parinoush Saniee

A bestselling novel in Iran, despite being banned twice by the government, *The Book of Fate* follows a teenage girl in pre-revolutionary Iran through five turbulent decades, from before the 1979 revolution, through the Islamic Republic, and up to the present in this powerful story of friendship, passion, and hope.

A teenager in pre-revolutionary Tehran, Massoumeh is an average girl, passionate about learning. On her way to school she meets a local man and falls in love, but when her family discover his letters they accuse her of bringing them dishonour. She is badly beaten by her brother, and her parents hastily arrange for her to marry to a man she's never met. Facing a life without love, and the prospect of no education, Massoumeh is distraught, but a female neighbour urges her to comply: "We each have a destiny, and you can't fight yours."

The years that follow Massoumeh's wedding prove transformative for Iran. Hamid, Massoumeh's husband, is a political dissident and a threat to the Shah's oppressive regime. When the secret service arrive to arrest him, it is the start of a terrifying period for Massoumeh. Her fate, so long dictated by family loyalty and tradition, is now tied to the changing fortunes of her country.

Spanning five turbulent decades of Iranian history, from before the 1979 revolution, through the Islamic Republic, and up to the present, *The Book of Fate* is a truly remarkable story — and a rare insider's view of Iranian society.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

**Parinoush Saniee** is a sociologist and psychologist. She was formerly manager of the research department at the Supreme Coordination Council for Technical and Vocational Education in Iran. She has written several novels, of which *The Book of Fate* is the first; *The Father of the Other One*, her second novel, has also been published to great acclaim in Iran. Her other books are awaiting approval by the censorship board.

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