



# THE SHEEP

DURING THE TIME ANOOSH STAYED WITH US I HEARD POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.

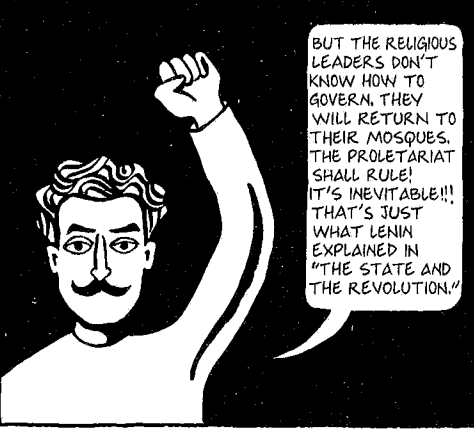
IT'S INCREDIBLE. THE REVOLUTION IS A LEFTIST REVOLUTION AND THE REPUBLIC WANTS TO BE CALLED ISLAMIC.



IT'S NOT IMPORTANT. EVERYTHING WILL TURN OUT FINE. IN A COUNTRY WHERE HALF THE POPULATION IS ILLITERATE YOU CANNOT UNITE THE PEOPLE AROUND MARX, THE ONLY THING THAT CAN REALLY UNITE THEM IS NATIONALISM OR A RELIGIOUS ETHIC...



BUT THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS DON'T KNOW HOW TO GOVERN. THEY WILL RETURN TO THEIR MOSQUES. THE PROLETARIAT SHALL RULE! IT'S INEVITABLE!!! THAT'S JUST WHAT LENIN EXPLAINED IN "THE STATE AND THE REVOLUTION."



SOMETIMES I EVEN TOLD THEM MY OPINION...

ON TV THEY SAY THAT 99.99% OF THE POPULATION VOTED FOR THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC.



HEY, WANT TO PLAY?



HE'S GOING TO THE UNITED STATES!

TO THE UNITED STATES? WHY?



MY PARENTS SAY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE UNDER AN ISLAMIC REGIME, IT'S BETTER TO LEAVE.

BUT THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE VERY STUPID, THEY WON'T LAST.

YEAH!



MY DAD SAYS NOBODY REALIZES THE DANGER.

SO WHEN ARE YOU LEAVING?



IN ABOUT A MONTH.

OH.

I THINK I REALLY LIKED THIS BOY...



DID YOU HEAR THAT, ANOOSH? DO YOU REALIZE HOW IGNORANT OUR PEOPLE ARE? THE ELECTIONS WERE FAKED AND THEY BELIEVE THE RESULTS: 99.99%! AS FOR ME, I DON'T KNOW A SINGLE PERSON WHO VOTED FOR THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC. WHERE DID THAT FIGURE COME FROM? FROM THEIR ASSES, THAT'S WHERE!



BUT IT'S NOT MY FAULT! IT'S THE TV!! BOO HOO!!!

CALM DOWN EBY, SHE'S JUST A CHILD WHO REPEATS WHAT SHE HEARS!



BUT THE UNITED STATES IS TERRIFIC! YOU'LL FINALLY SEE BRUCE LEE IN PERSON!


YEAH..THAT WOULD BE NICE.

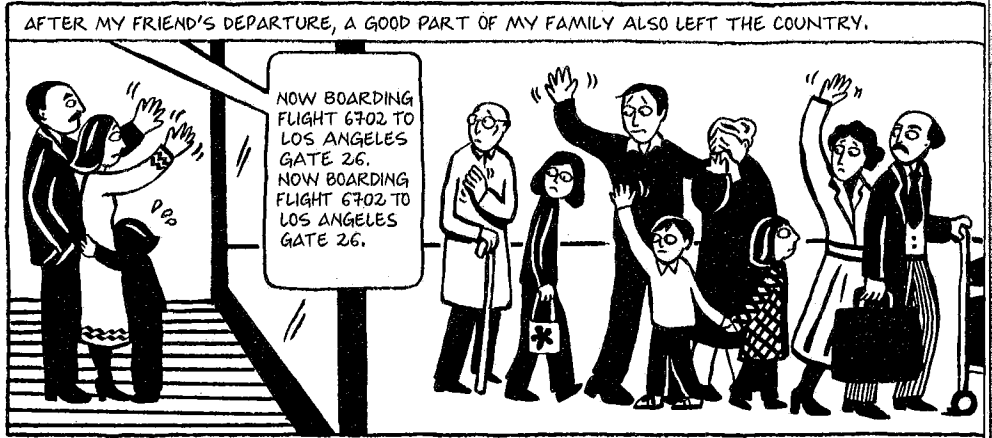


BRUCE LEE IS DEAD...



ACTUALLY I LIKED HIM VERY, VERY MUCH.





AFTER MY FRIEND'S DEPARTURE, A GOOD PART OF MY FAMILY ALSO LEFT THE COUNTRY.

NOW BOARDING FLIGHT 6702 TO LOS ANGELES GATE 26. NOW BOARDING FLIGHT 6702 TO LOS ANGELES GATE 26.



I'M REALLY FRIGHTENED ANDOSH!

DON'T BE TAJI! IT'S LIKE THIS WITH ALL REVOLUTIONS. THIS IS JUST A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD...

RING! RING!



DAD! IT'S FOR YOU!!



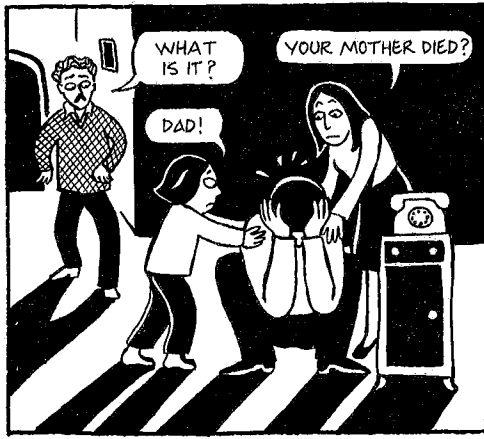
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?



MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE TOO...



SO THAT I CAN BECOME A TAXI DRIVER AND YOU A CLEANING LADY?



WHAT IS IT?

YOUR MOTHER DIED?

DAD!



IT'S MOHSEN, HE'S BEEN FOUND DEAD, DROWNED... ..IN HIS BATHTUB.

WHAT? WHERE?

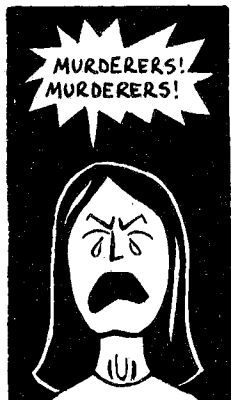


MY FRIEND KAVEH LEFT FOR THE UNITED STATES TOO.



DON'T WORRY, EVERYONE WHO LEFT WILL COME BACK. THEY'RE JUST AFRAID OF CHANGE.

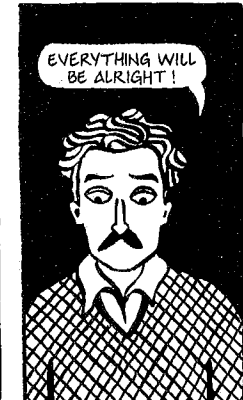
LET'S HOPE SO!



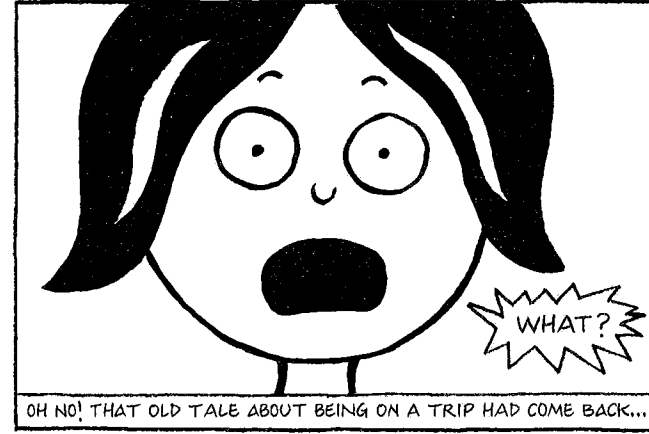
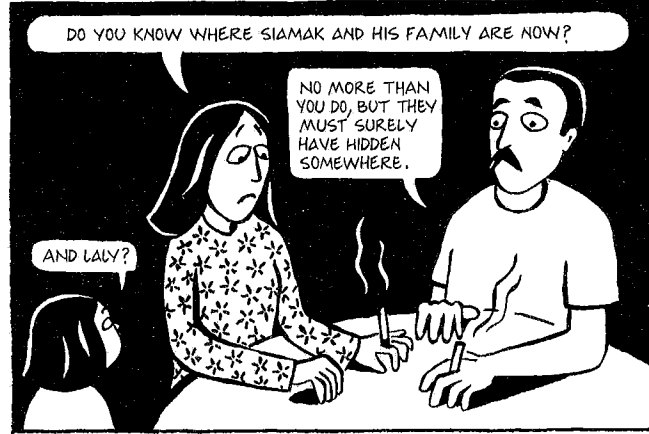
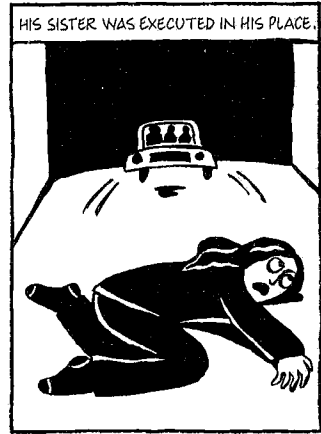
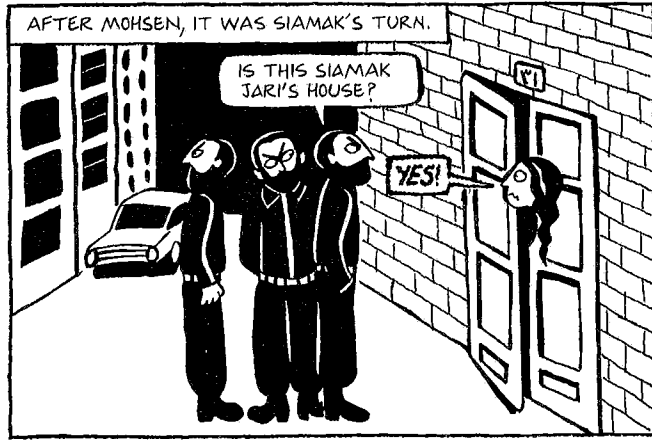
MURDERERS! MURDERERS!

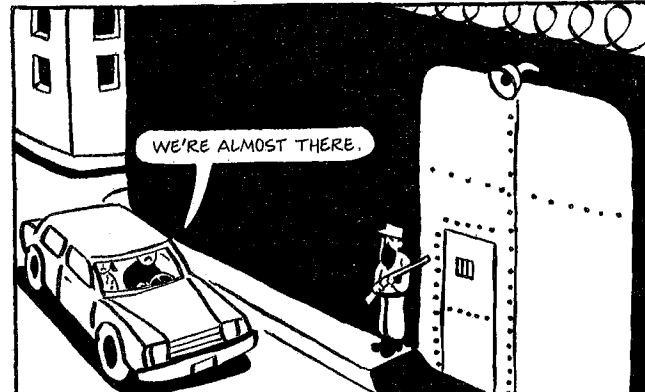
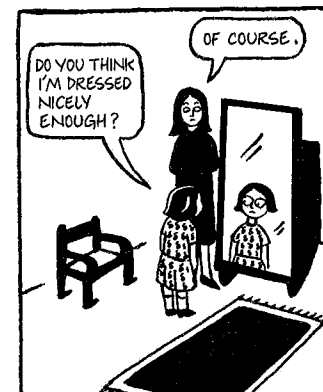


MY MOTHER WAS RIGHT TO BELIEVE IT WAS MURDER... WHEN THEY FOUND HIS BODY, ONLY HIS HEAD WAS UNDERWATER.

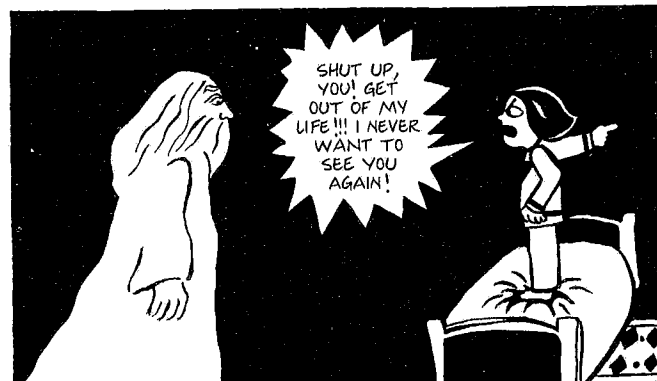


EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT!

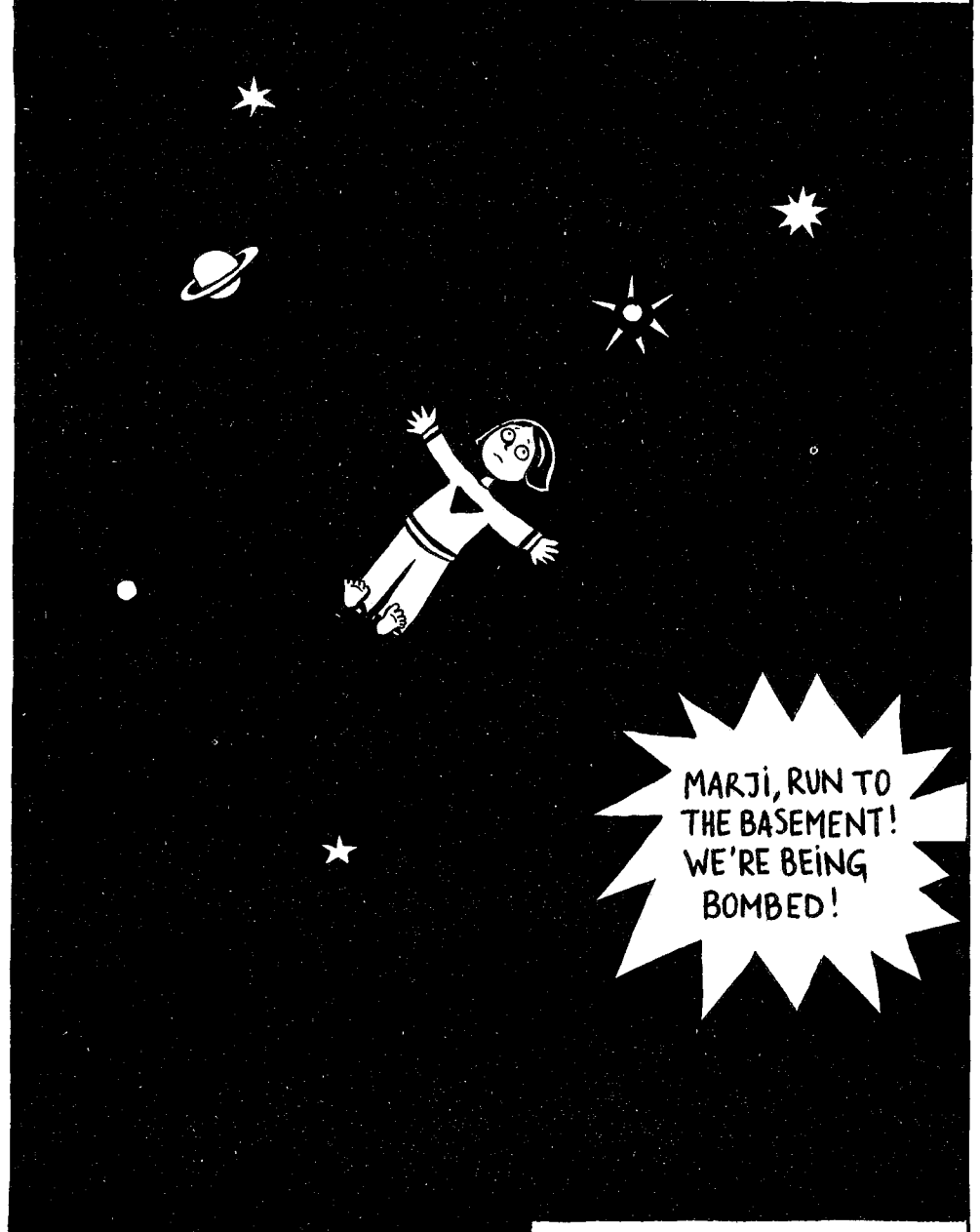




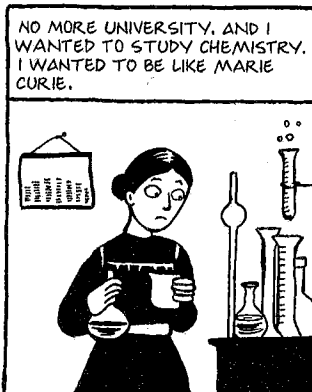
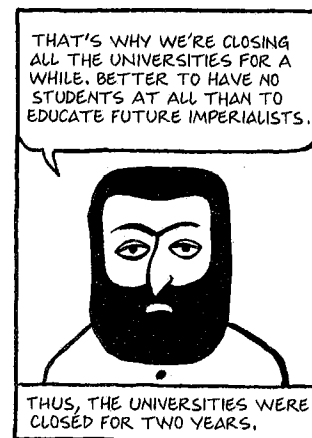
THAT WAS MY LAST MEETING WITH MY BELOVED ANOOSH...



AND SO I WAS LOST, WITHOUT ANY BEARINGS... WHAT COULD BE WORSE THAN THAT?



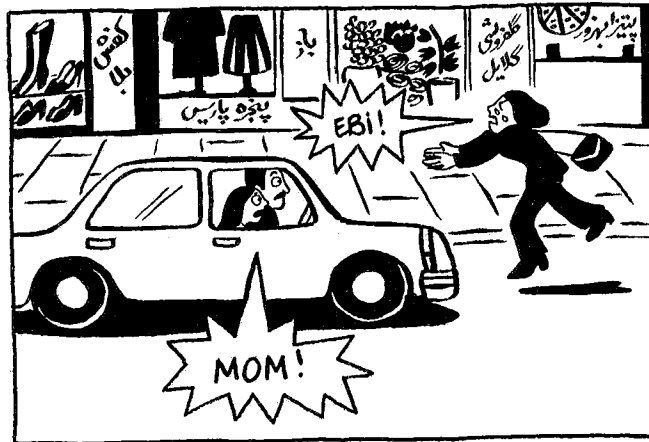
# THE TRIP





ONE NIGHT...

YOUR MOTHER'S CAR BROKE DOWN, WE HAVE TO PICK HER UP.



MOM!



TWO GUYS... TWO BEARDED GUYS!... TWO FUNDAMENTALIST BASTARDS... THE BASTARDS... THE BASTARDS... THEY...

CALM DOWN DARLING, CALM DOWN, WHAT DID THEY DO?

MOM!



THEY INSULTED ME. THEY SAID THAT WOMEN LIKE ME SHOULD BE PUSHED UP AGAINST A WALL AND FUCKED, AND THEN THROWN IN THE GARBAGE.



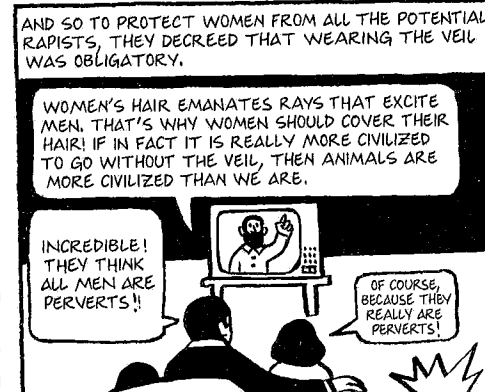
... AND THAT IF I DIDN'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, I SHOULD WEAR THE VEIL...

FORGET ABOUT THOSE MORONS!! LET'S GO HOME...



THAT INCIDENT MADE MY MOTHER SICK FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

ANYTHING I CAN GET YOU, MOM?

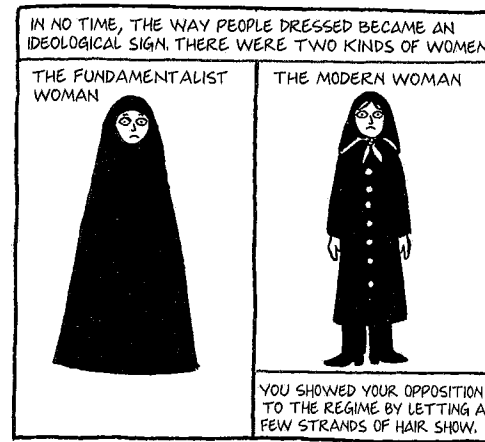


AND SO TO PROTECT WOMEN FROM ALL THE POTENTIAL RAPISTS, THEY DECREED THAT WEARING THE VEIL WAS OBLIGATORY.

WOMEN'S HAIR EMANATES RAYS THAT EXCITE MEN. THAT'S WHY WOMEN SHOULD COVER THEIR HAIR! IF IN FACT IT IS REALLY MORE CIVILIZED TO GO WITHOUT THE VEIL, THEN ANIMALS ARE MORE CIVILIZED THAN WE ARE.

INCREDIBLE! THEY THINK ALL MEN ARE PERVERTS!!

OF COURSE, BECAUSE THEY REALLY ARE PERVERTS!

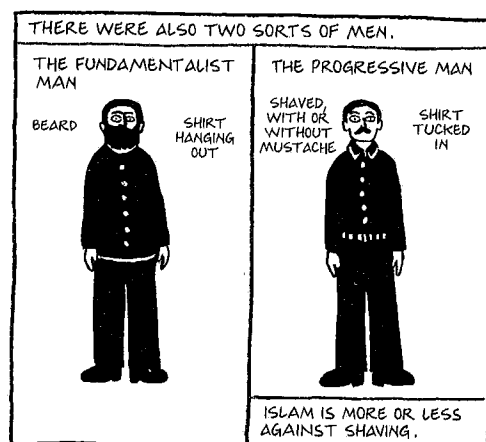


IN NO TIME, THE WAY PEOPLE DRESSED BECAME AN IDEOLOGICAL SIGN. THERE WERE TWO KINDS OF WOMEN.

THE FUNDAMENTALIST WOMAN

THE MODERN WOMAN

YOU SHOWED YOUR OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME BY LETTING A FEW STRANDS OF HAIR SHOW.



THERE WERE ALSO TWO SORTS OF MEN.

THE FUNDAMENTALIST MAN

THE PROGRESSIVE MAN

BEARD SHIRT HANGING OUT

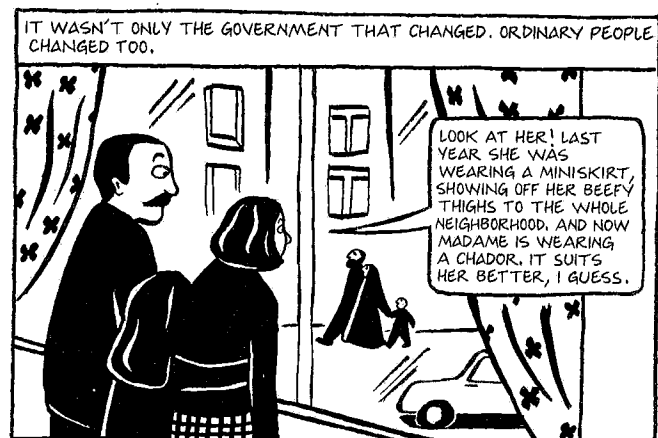
SHAVED, WITH OR WITHOUT MUSTACHE SHIRT TUCKED IN

ISLAM IS MORE OR LESS AGAINST SHAVING.



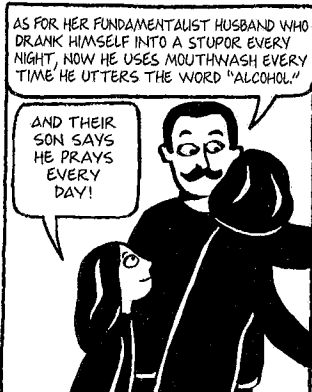
BUT LET'S BE FAIR. IF WOMEN FACED PRISON WHEN THEY REFUSED TO WEAR THE VEIL, IT WAS ALSO FORBIDDEN FOR MEN TO WEAR NECKTIES (THAT DREADED SYMBOL OF THE WEST). AND IF WOMEN'S HAIR GOT MEN EXCITED, THE SAME THING COULD BE SAID OF MEN'S BARE ARMS. AND SO, WEARING SHORT-SLEEVED SHIRTS WAS ALSO FORBIDDEN.

THERE WAS A KIND OF JUSTICE, AFTER ALL.



IT WASN'T ONLY THE GOVERNMENT THAT CHANGED. ORDINARY PEOPLE CHANGED TOO.

LOOK AT HER! LAST YEAR SHE WAS WEARING A MINISKIRT, SHOWING OFF HER BEEFY THIGHS TO THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND NOW MADAME IS WEARING A CHADOR. IT SUITS HER BETTER, I GUESS.



AS FOR HER FUNDAMENTALIST HUSBAND WHO DRANK HIMSELF INTO A STUPOR EVERY NIGHT, NOW HE USES MOUTHWASH EVERY TIME HE UTTERS THE WORD "ALCOHOL."

AND THEIR SON SAYS HE PRAYS EVERY DAY!



IF ANYONE EVER ASKS YOU WHAT YOU DO DURING THE DAY, SAY YOU PRAY, YOU UNDERSTAND??

OK...



AT FIRST, IT WAS A LITTLE HARD, BUT I LEARNED TO LIE QUICKLY.

I PRAY FIVE TIMES A DAY.

ME? TEN OR ELEVEN TIMES... SOMETIMES TWELVE.

IN SPIITE OF EVERYTHING, THE SPIRIT OF REVOLUTION WAS STILL IN THE AIR. THERE WERE SOME OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATIONS.



NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. SHE'S COMING TOO.



SHE SHOULD START LEARNING TO DEFEND HER RIGHTS AS A WOMAN RIGHT NOW!



SINCE THE 1979 REVOLUTION, I'D GROWN OLDER (WELL, A YEAR OLDER) AND MOM HAD CHANGED.

SO I WENT WITH THEM. I PASSED OUT FLYERS...



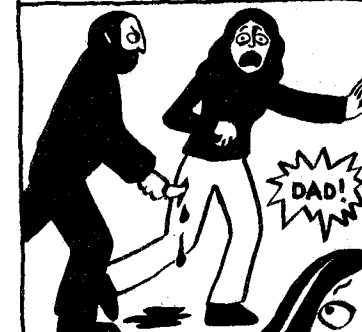
GUNS MAY SHOOT AND KNIVES MAY CARVE, BUT WE WON'T WEAR YOUR SILLY SCARVES!

... WHEN SUDDENLY THINGS GOT NASTY.



THE SCARF OR A BEATING!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I SAW VIOLENCE WITH MY OWN EYES.



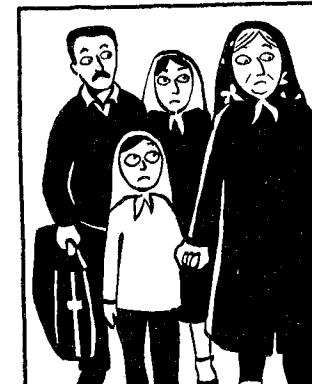
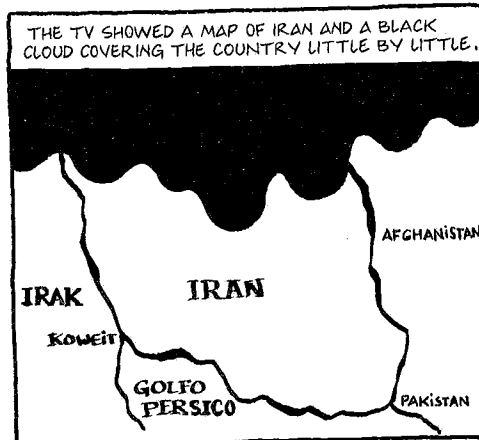
THAT WAS OUR LAST DEMONSTRATION.



THINGS GOT WORSE FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT. IN SEPTEMBER 1980, MY PARENTS ABRUPTLY PLANNED A VACATION. I THINK THEY REALIZED THAT SOON SUCH THINGS WOULD NO LONGER BE POSSIBLE. AS IT HAPPENED, THEY WERE RIGHT. AND SO WE WENT TO ITALY AND SPAIN FOR THREE WEEKS...







# THE F-14s

A FEW DAYS AFTER OUR TRIP, AND JUST BEFORE I HAD TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL, I WENT TO MY FATHER'S OFFICE.



**BOOM**



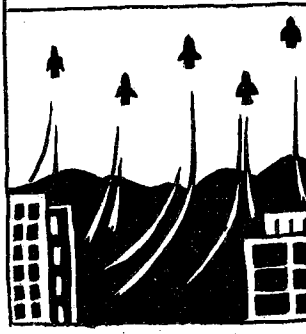
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D SEEN FIGHTER JETS...



I DON'T THINK SO. THOSE ARE PROBABLY IRAQIS.



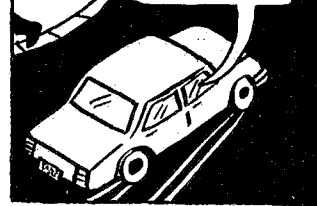
IRANIAN OR IRAQI, THE JETS HUGGED THE GROUND BEFORE SUDDENLY ZOOMING UP INTO THE SKY RIGHT BEFORE THE MOUNTAINS ON THE HORIZON.



LET'S GO HOME NOW! YOUR MOTHER MUST BE TERRIFIED.



DAD! DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU LEARNED DURING YOUR MILITARY SERVICE? ARE YOU GOING TO WAR? ARE YOU GOING TO FIGHT? WE HAVE TO TEACH THOSE IRAQIS A LESSON!



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? OF COURSE I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT. WHY SHOULD I FIGHT?!



QUICK, THE RADIO.



IRAQI MIGS HAVE BOMBED TEHRAN...



THOSE ASSHOLES!



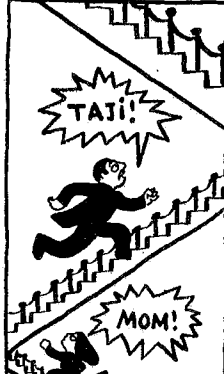
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? THE IRAQIS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OUR ENEMIES. THEY WANT TO INVADE US.



AND WORSE, THEY DRIVE LIKE MANIACS...

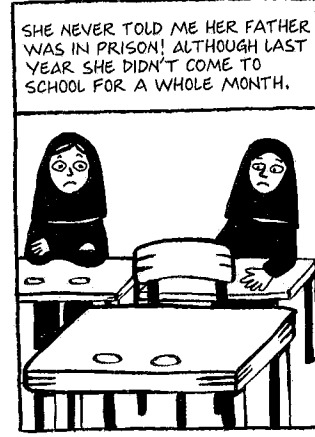


THE ARABS NEVER LIKED THE PERSIANS. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT. THEY ATTACKED US 1400 YEARS AGO. THEY FORCED THEIR RELIGION ON US.



THE IRAQIS BOMBED US!



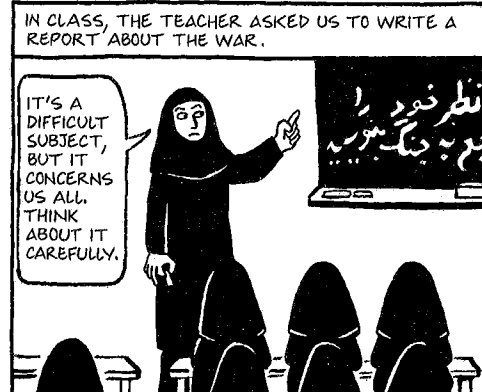




I WAS ALL WRONG ABOUT DAD. HE LOVED HIS COUNTRY AS MUCH AS I DID.



PRESIDENT BANISADR HAS ORDERED THE RELEASE OF THE MILITARY PILOTS JAILED AFTER THE FAILED COUP. THEY AGREED TO ATTACK IRAQ IF THE GOVERNMENT BROADCAST THE NATIONAL ANTHEM...



I DIDN'T NEED TO DO MUCH THINKING. I KNEW ALL ABOUT THE WAR.

# THE JEWELS

I WROTE FOUR PAGES ON THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT ENTITLED "THE ARAB CONQUEST AND OUR WAR."



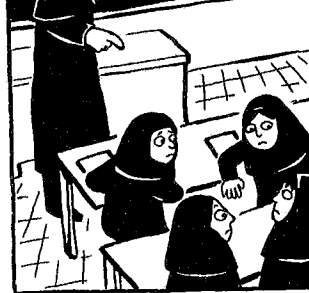
I WAS VERY PROUD OF MYSELF.

...THIS WAR IS THE SAME AS THE ONE 1400 YEARS AGO...



BUT THE TEACHER DIDN'T SEEM TOO IMPRESSED.

THAT'S PRETTY GOOD. NOW, PARDISSE, COME TO THE BLACKBOARD.



...PARDISSE'S REPORT WAS BY FAR THE BEST. IT WAS A LETTER TO HER FATHER IN WHICH SHE PROMISED TO TAKE CARE OF HER MOTHER AND LITTLE BROTHER.



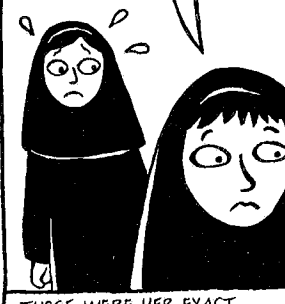
REST IN PEACE, DAD.

AT RECESS, I TRIED TO CONSOLE HER...

YOUR FATHER ACTED LIKE A GENUINE HERO, YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF HIM!



I WISH HE WERE ALIVE AND IN JAIL RATHER THAN DEAD AND A HERO.



YES, IT WAS WAR ALL RIGHT. RIGHT AWAY, THE SUPERMARKETS WERE EMPTY.

I'M NOT SURE IT'S EVEN WORTH GETTING A CART.



خاتم غری بندهان  
مهره و لؤلؤ دین

عاشا بیوه من  
کس از شوهرش نماند

I SAW IT FIRST!

LET GO OF THAT!



COME ON, STOP IT!

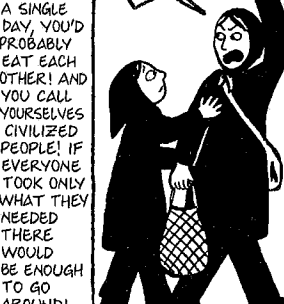


MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?  
FORGET ABOUT IT, MOM!



IF STORES WERE CLOSED FOR A SINGLE DAY, YOU'D PROBABLY EAT EACH OTHER! AND YOU CALL YOURSELVES CIVILIZED PEOPLE! IF EVERYONE TOOK ONLY WHAT THEY NEEDED THERE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO GO AROUND!



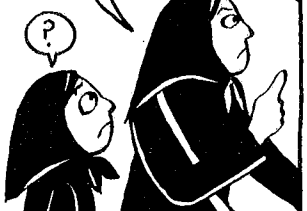
AND IN THE PARKING LOT...

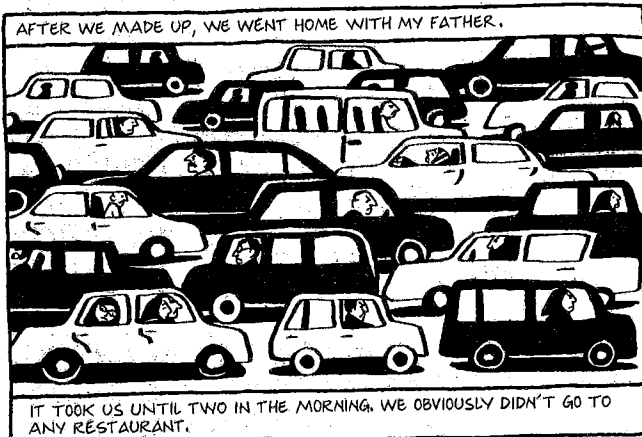
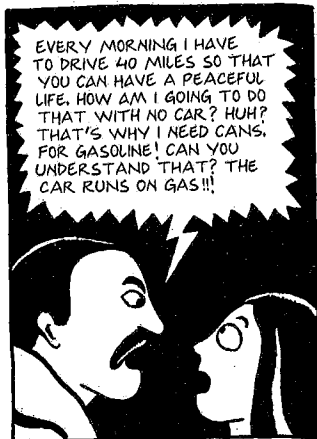
HOW MANY BOXES OF RICE DID WE GET?

UH...TWO!

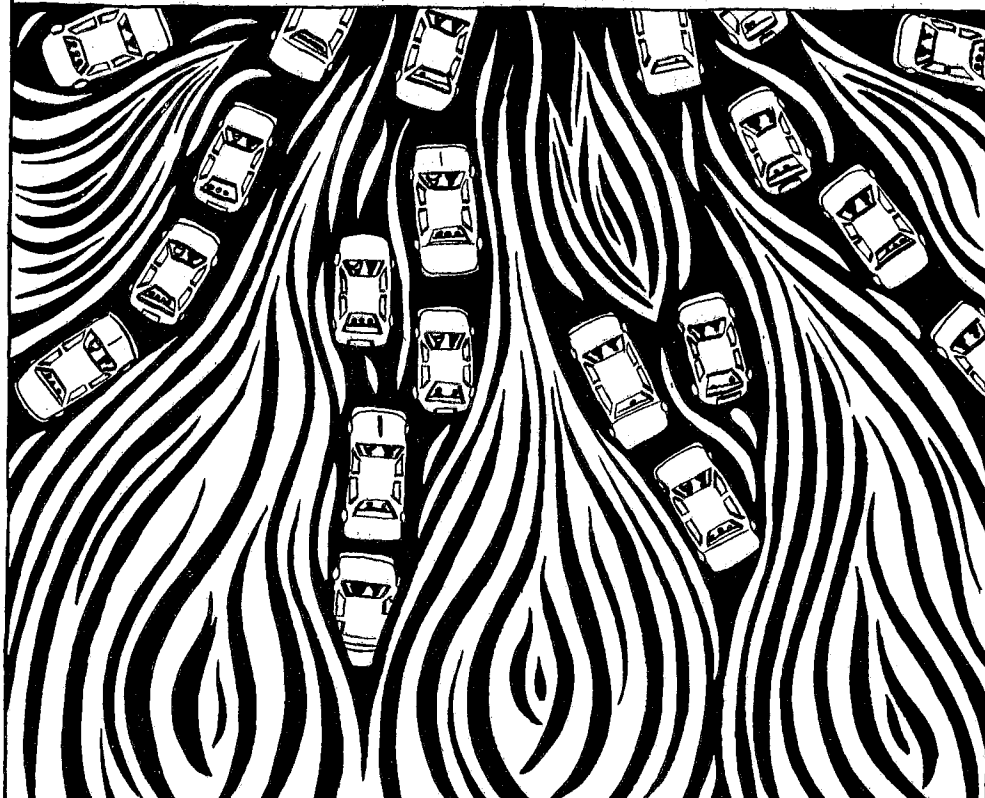


HMM. WE'LL GO TO THE STORE ACROSS THE STREET AND TRY TO GET MORE. YOU NEVER KNOW!





AFTER ABADAN, EVERY BORDER TOWN WAS TARGETED BY BOMBERS. MOST OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THOSE AREAS HAD TO FLEE NORTHWARD, FAR FROM THE IRAQI MISSILES.







MALI AND HER FAMILY SPENT A WEEK WITH US. THAT'S HOW LONG IT TOOK TO SELL THE JEWELRY AND START OVER AGAIN. MALI'S MOTHER WAS BITTER AND HARD TO DEAL WITH (AND DEAF), BUT THEY WERE HAPPY AT OUR PLACE. THEN, ONE DAY, WE WENT TO THE SUPERMARKET.

