ELSA
VELAYAT UNIVERSITY

Subjects:
Art, Culture, Literature, Science, Game, Music...

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ELSA

I want to thank all VU ELSA members who have done their best to unite not only English majoring students but also all the members of the Velayat University family in these hard and dividing times. My special thanks go to those who have worked closely with the editorial board.

This magazine is just a pocket mirror trying to reflect the unlimited intellectual and creative potential of our student body. Like every other path in our life, there were bumps in the road, but we grew stronger as a team and learned that we could overcome each and every obstacle if we do not lose sight of our shared values while respecting the diversity of our viewpoints.

Nobody is above criticism. Neither are we. Thus, we are hoping to receive your constructive comments to improve VU ELSA.

Peace and progress,

Sanaz Narooei

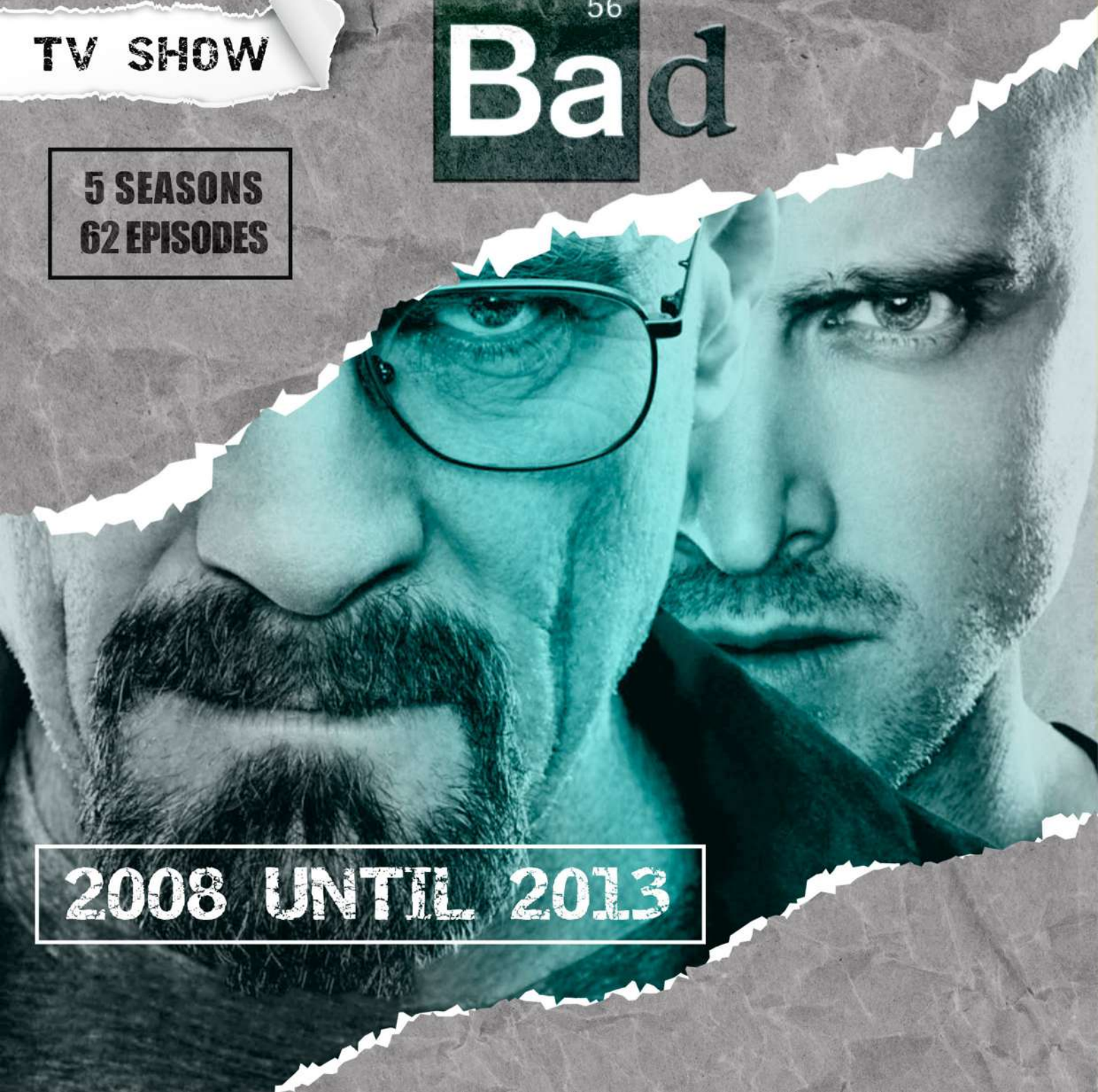
by Daniel Kheradmand

THE TRIUMPH OF THE TV:
TEAMING UP WITH A FORMER STUDENT

Br[35]eaking Ba[56]d

TV SHOW

5 SEASONS
62 EPISODES



2008 UNTIL 2013



16 Primetime Emmy Awards, 8 Satellite Awards, 2 Golden Globe Awards, 2 Peabody Awards, 2 Critics' Choice Awards, and 4 Television Critics Association Awards are enough proof of the quaiity of the show we are to introduce, the one and only Breaking Bad!

I don't know where to start. Shall I start with its unique story, direction, performances, cinematography, screenplay, or fantastic character development? We don't deal with consecutive action scenes of people shooting each other and making a blood bath. Breaking Bad keeps you glued to your TV sets with a relatable story of a regular citizen, a father, a husband, and a teacher.

The story starts with Walter White's discovery of his stage three lung cancer. As already mentioned, he is a teacher, an overqualified but underpaid chemistry teacher. He has been struggling to meet the financial needs of his expecting wife and disabled son who is willing to go to college. Walter meets his former student Jesse Pinkman who is a rookie crystal meth cook, and unlike the teacher-student relationship cliché, he decides to cooperate with him in his business. While Walter cooks extremely pure meth with 99.1% of purity, he earns enough money to secure the family's financial future.

Cranston starring as Walter won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series four times.

Aaron Paul, our drug dealer student, won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series three times

Anna Gunn, acting as Walter's wife, won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series twice

You really need to check it out!



"That which commanded the stars"

By Fazel Nazari

ELDEN RING

"THAT WHICH COMMANDED THE STARS"

"It happened an age ago. But when I recall it, I see it true. On a night of wint'ry fog, the rune of death was stolen and the demigods began to fall, starting with Godwyn the Golden. Queen Marika was driven to the brink. The Shattering ensued; a war that wrought only darkness. The conqueror of the stars, general Radahn. And the Blade of Miquella, Malenia the severed. These two were the mightiest to remain and locked horns in combat. But there would be no victor. What could the Demigods ever hope to win by warring?
The Elden Ring was broken, but by whom? And why?
And so, we inhabit a fractured world. Awaiting the arrival of the Elden lord."

the beginning sentences are borrowed from Ranni, the witch that narrates the story in the trailer.

In the Lands Between ruled by Queen Marika the Eternal, the Elden Ring, the source of the Erdtree, has been shattered. The children of Queen Marika, the demigods began to fight and claim the Elden Ring's shards, the great runes. But since the rune of death was lost, they were in an unending curse.

Now you as a Tarnished who was once exiled from the Lands Between, must return and look for the Elden Ring and become the Elden Lord. On this path, you meet some people that can guide you. Yet some other Tarnished ones trying to abuse you to seek Elden Ring.

Last year if someone asked me about my top 3 video game experiences, I probably would say The Witcher3, God of war, and GTA San Andreas. But after releasing Elden Ring and getting familiar with FromSoftware games and generally the "Souls-like" games I found out I had an imperfect landscape in the entertainment universe.

A masterpiece created with the collaboration of two legendary men; Hidetaka Miyazaki(president of Fromsoftware Inc.) and George R. R. Martin(the author of "A Song Of Ice And Fire" novels) can give you an incredible experience in every way. Before Elden Ring is a video game, it is a work of Art. different and unique visual attractions that are scattered around the Lands Between will not make you feel bored during playing.

The other aspect which is very important for many gamers is the gameplay that in Elden Ring is very fluent and there is a wide range of choices between weapons. also, different weapon arts are allowing you to customize details of your fighting style and make your build-up so the player will not feel repetitive even after two or three times of playing.



Same as FromSoftware's previous games, before you start playing, you should customize your appearance and choose your character type from given classes(samurai, prisoner, vagabond, etc).

Another interesting aspect of this game comes from the online part; gamers can play co-op and make progress and defeat bosses and also you can fight PvP and challenge yourself and other players.

Lands Between is a great and vast continent with climatic differences and full of unexpected events, therefore the Tarnished will face dragons, sorcerers, and sorceresses, mighty knights that challenge him/her on the path.

For those who listen to instrumental music, Tsukasa Saito created wonderful soundtracks you listen to during your playing, doublings the quality of your experience. Occasionally, you meet enemies and NPCs playing music or singing songs in the game environment.

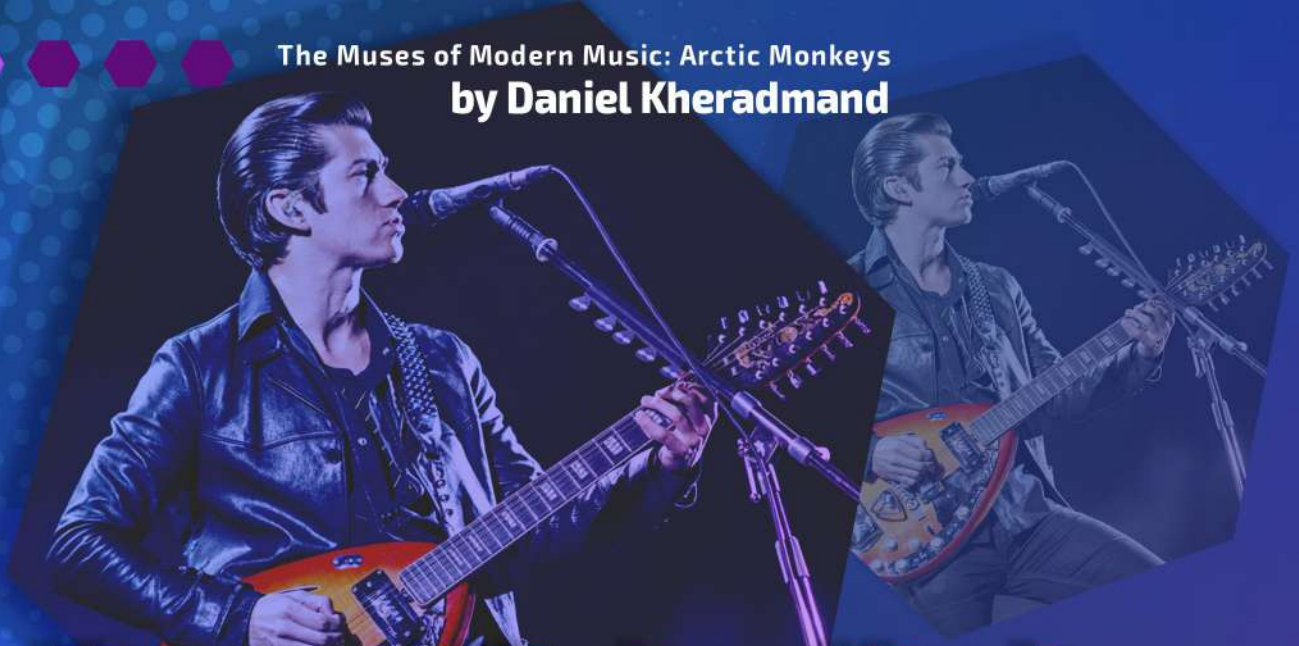
After all, Elden Ring is a Game that is worth playing, and if you have enough money I suggest you buy it so you can play online and enjoy your free time. But something before getting it, I've to tell you, Elden Ring and actually all of the souls-like games are well known for their difficulty and unique story and mysterious, complex storytelling you should be ready for seeing the "YOU DIED" phrase hundreds or thousands of times even.

This fantastic title has won the award for the best art design, best role-playing game, and best director at the Game Awards 2022, and as expected, it was chosen as the Game of the Year 2022, and even games like God of War Ragnarok and Final Fantasy XVI could not take the place of the best game from it. In the following, is the ratings of this game.

HERE ARE THE SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

minimum	recommended
OS: Windows 10 Processor: Intel Core i5-8400 | AMD RYZEN 3 3300X Memory: 12 GB RAM Graphics: Nvidia GeForce GTX 1060, 3 GB | AMD Radeon RX 580, 4 GB DirectX: Version 12 (Feature Level 12.0) Storage: 60 GB available space Sound Card: Windows-Compatible Audio device	OS: Windows 11/10 Processor: Intel Core i7-8700K | AMD Ryzen 5 3600X Memory: 16 GB RAM Graphics: Nvidia GeForce GTX 1070, 8 GB | AMD Radeon RX VEGA 56, 8 GB DirectX: Version 12 (Feature Level 12.0) Storage: 60 GB available space Sound Card: Windows-Compatible Audio device

by Daniel Kheradmand



The Muses of Modern Music: ARCTIC MONKEYS

If you have ever cared about Rock music, you have undoubtedly heard of Arctic Monkeys. Alex Turner, Jamie Cook, Matt Helders, and Nick O'Malley are Arctic Monkeys. With his stunning voice, Alex Turner is the lead singer of the band. He also plays rhythmic guitar, along with the occasional stint on keyboard and percussion. Jamie provides lead guitar, keyboard, and backing vocals. Matt plays the drums and backing vocals, while Nick plays bass and occasionally acts as a backing singer. Andy Nicholson, who was in the band from 2002-2006, played the bass guitar. He left the band after five years, but the band kept up with their excellent work even without him.

The Arctic Monkeys are from Sheffield, England, and their first gig was in a pub in Sheffield. The band started its work with Alex, Matt, and Andy in 2002 performing solely instrumental songs. Shortly after Jamie joined the group, the Arctic Monkeys played their first official gig in 2003 and soon began recording demo tracks.



The band handed out their CDs containing demo tracks at various gigs. Soon, a large population of fans started following them on MySpace, which aided them in promoting their 2005 debut Five Minutes with Arctic Monkeys.

The first song of Arctic Monkeys, apart from their demo tracks, was the memorable I Bet You Look Good on the Dance Floor. The song was released in October 2005 and easily landed the 1st spot on the UK Singles Chart.

Arctic Monkeys released a total of seven studio albums including Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not (2006), Favorite Worst Nightmare (2007), Humbug (2009), Suck It and See (2011), AM (2013), Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino (2018) and their latest album The Car (2022).

Just check out the stellar list of their awards and nominations:

Brit Awards for Best British Group in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2012,and 2014 and nomination in 2019

GAFFA Awards for Best Foreign Group in 2006 and 2018

Grammy Nominated for Best Alternative Music Album in 2007

Best Rock Performance and Best Alternative Music Album in 2015 and 2019

Mercury Prize for Album of the Year in 2006



And these are some of the most frequently played and best loved songs of Arctic Monkeys that I have picked for you:

505, Favorite Worst Nightmare

Do I Wanna Know?, AM

I Wanna Be Yours, AM

Crawling Back to You, AM

Enjoy!



Goli Emami an Eminent Translator and Literary Scholar

By Sanaz Narooei

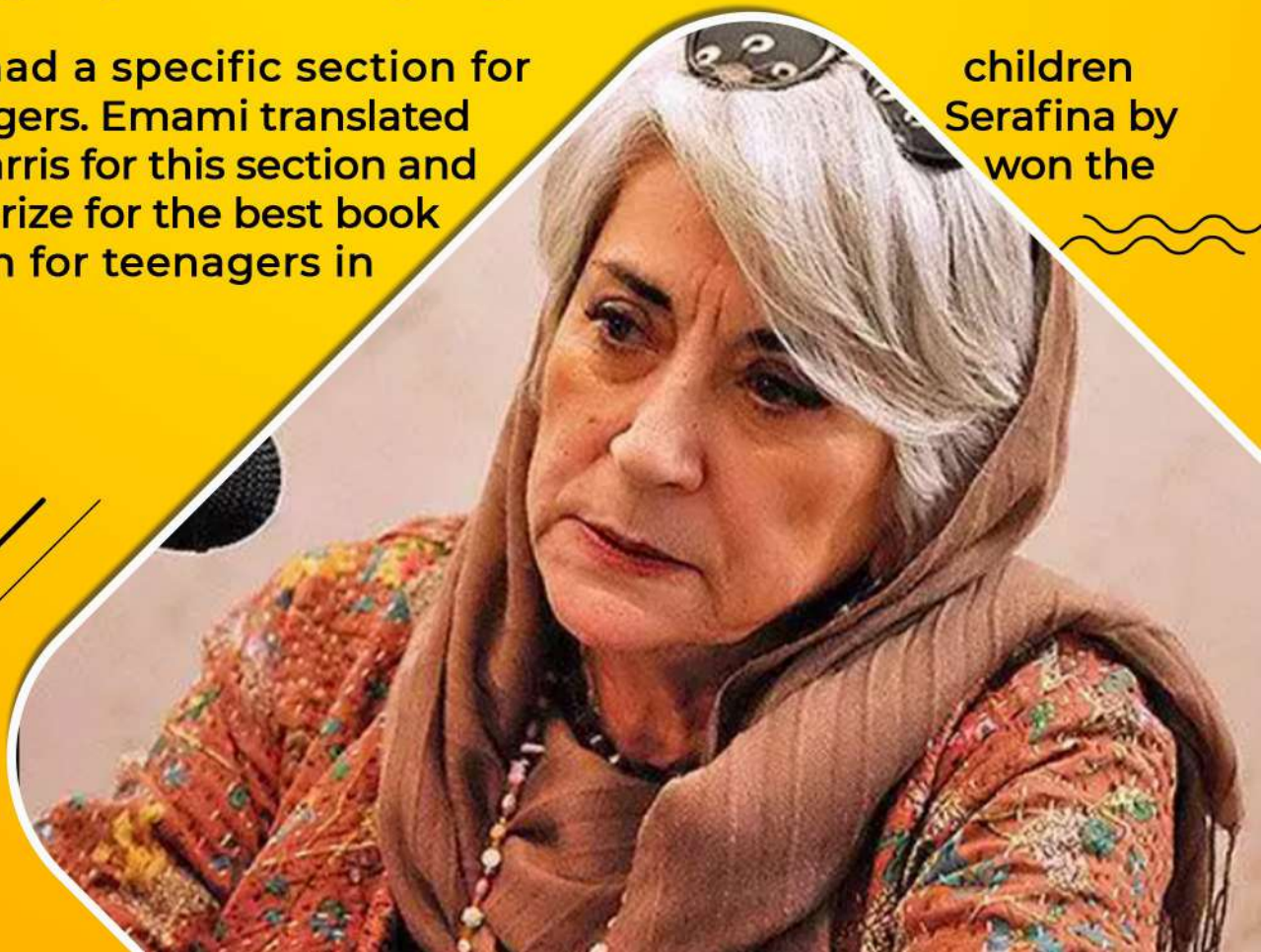
Goli Emami

A Successful Translator

Golrokh Adib Mohammadi, known as Goli Emami was born in Iran on July 7th, 1942. She is a writer, translator, and an Iranian cultural activist.
She studied in Smith's Translation College and continued her studies in English Literature. After getting her degree in English Literature, she returned to Iran and started working at Franklin Publication.

Franklin Publication was one the most significant publications in Iran. The aim of this pioneering publication was the translation and publication of American books. It was the initiator of the modern editing, page layout, and designing in Iran.

Franklin had a specific section for children and teenagers. Emami translated Serafina by Merrick Harris for this section and won the UNESCO prize for the best book translation for teenagers in 1970.







After Serafina, Emami translated her second book,
Pippi Longstocking, which was also awarded as the best story translation.

As we mentioned before, she started his career translating teenagers' books. She believes this is the best place to start from. This esteemed translator suggests beginner translators start with teenagers' books because these books have simple words and structures.

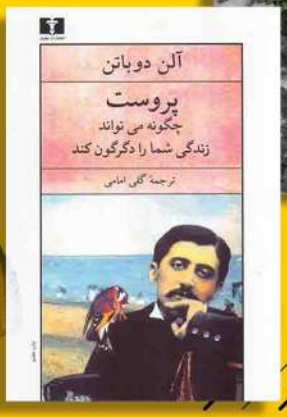
Later, Emami translated Alain de Botton's books The Course of Love and The Art of Travel. De Botton is a popular public intellectual who writes about philosophy and its use in daily life—choosing popular books like these to translate shows her intelligence and knowledge of the public. Girl with a Pearl Earring, Emami's next translation was also a best-seller. Sylbia Plath's The Bell Jar, Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys, and Jhumpa Lahiri's Unaccustomed Earth are some of Emami's excellent choice and quality works.











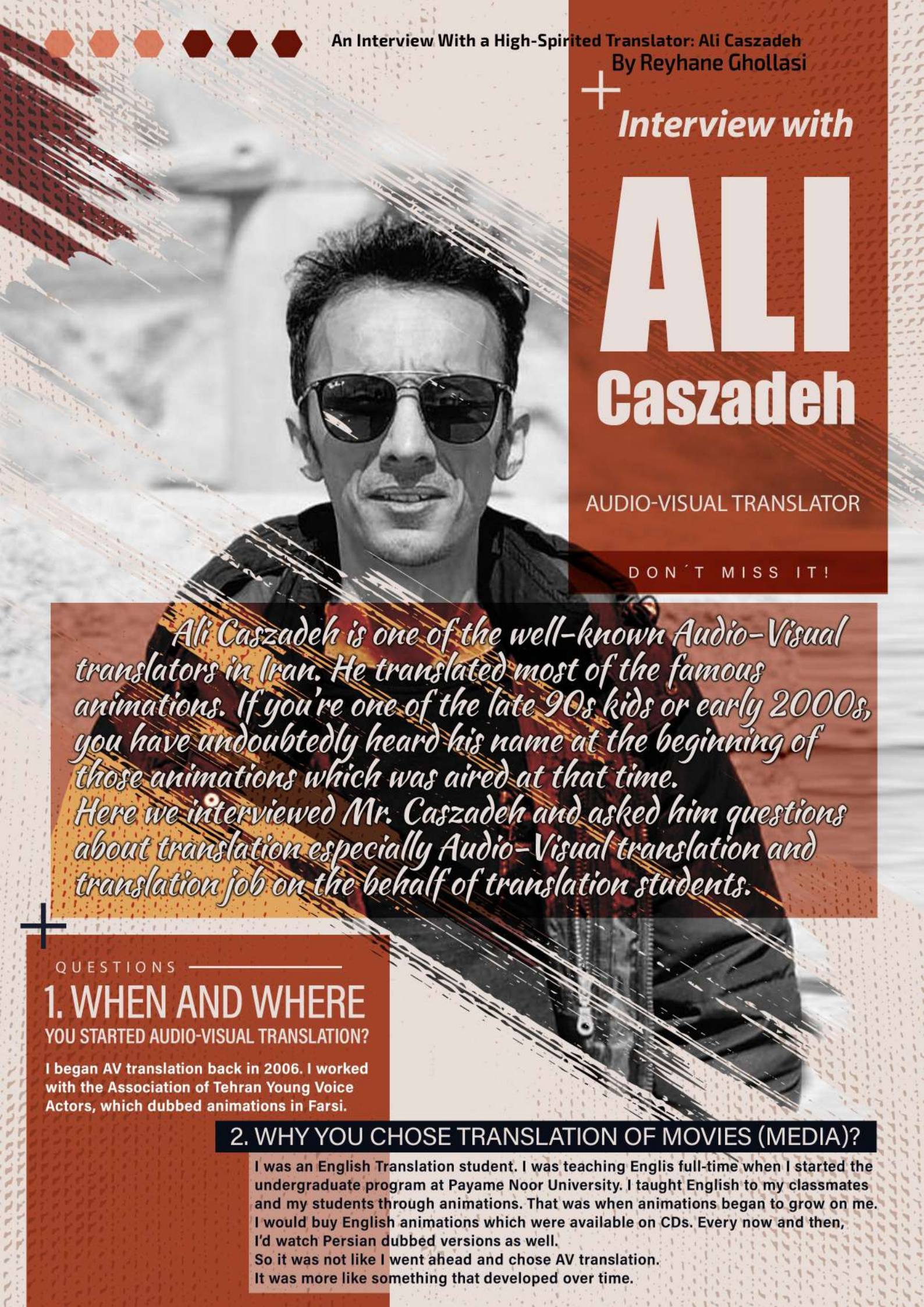
An Interview With a High-Spirited Translator: Ali Caszadeh

By Reyhane Ghollasi

Interview with ALI Caszadeh

AUDIO-VISUAL TRANSLATOR

DON´T MISS IT!



Ali Caszadeh is one of the well-known Audio-Visual translators in Iran. He translated most of the famous animations. If you're one of the late 90s kids or early 2000s, you have undoubtedly heard his name at the beginning of those animations which was aired at that time.
Here we interviewed Mr. Caszadeh and asked him questions about translation especially Audio-Visual translation and translation job on the behalf of translation students.

QUESTIONS

1. WHEN AND WHERE YOU STARTED AUDIO-VISUAL TRANSLATION?

I began AV translation back in 2006. I worked with the Association of Tehran Young Voice Actors, which dubbed animations in Farsi.

2. WHY YOU CHOSE TRANSLATION OF MOVIES (MEDIA)?

I was an English Translation student. I was teaching Englis full-time when I started the undergraduate program at Payame Noor University. I taught English to my classmates and my students through animations. That was when animations began to grow on me. I would buy English animations which were available on CDs. Every now and then, I'd watch Persian dubbed versions as well.
So it was not like I went ahead and chose AV translation.
It was more like something that developed over time.

3. WHICH SOURCES DID YOU USE TO BE AN EXPERT IN AV TRANSLATION?

I didn't use any specific sources. I'd watch animations, movies,cartoons,video clips,music videos;you name it. I'd watch anything I could lay my hands on. It didn't matter whether it was English or Persian. I'd watch them and take notes of anything and everything. Theoretically speaking, I'd study my university textbooks meticulously as well. I'd also read translation magazines that were available online. I'd say my dictionaries are my most prized possessions as far as translation is concerned!

4. TO START AUDIO-VISUAL TRANSLATION, WHAT TYPE OF SUPPORT AND HOW MUCH WEALTH DO WE NEED?

To dip your toe in the water, you need "love". Everything else comes next. It's needless to say that you need to have commitment and consistency as well. I don't think you need "wealth" to be a translator. As for the support, good teachers may facilitate the process for you. There are also translation associations that you can become a member of. They usually provide their members with invaluable support and guidance.

5. WHAT IS OR WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AUDIO-VISUAL TRANSLATIONS AND LITERARY TRANSLATIONS?

When translating a book, the text is transferred from one language to another. In this case, the new work completely replaces the original, and the two are completely independent. On the other hand, the message of a film is expressed by various elements such as image, acting, sound, or language. And obviously, only some of these are replaced. When a film is dubbed, the visual component stays completely the same; only the auditory component is changed. And it is even more interesting in the case of subtitling, as both visual and auditory components remain, the actual translation only being added to the original work. Thus, the transferred form of one element of a work has to 'coexist' with other elements of the same work. Those remain in their original form (Luyken, 153). The particularity of audiovisual translation also lies in the reduced scope of the translator. If there is something that has to be explained in the literary translation, the translator can use a footnote or he can



6. HOW MUCH OF THESE TRANSLATIONS GIVE YOU INSIGHT AND INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE? AND HOW MUCH EFFECT THE FINAL PRODUCT HAS ON YOUR AUDIENCES?

I am a work in progress. I never cease to learn. Every time I translate a new animation or movie, I learn something new, be it new expressions, be it a new concept. I believe I am not to measure the impact the final product has. In fact, I never think about the impact. I only strive for excellence. Quality will take care of everything else.

7. CAN YOU INTRODUCE CURRENT ASSOCIATIONS OR COMPANIES OF AUDIO-VISUAL TRANSLATION THAT ARE HIRING RIGHT NOW IN OUR COUNTRY?

Well, some companies/ websites offer such services. Unfortunately, there is no such thing as Film/ AV Translators' Association in Iran. However, VOD companies hire freelance translators. There are also dubbing groups that hire up-and-coming translators. It's all about networking. You should follow their works and get in touch with different dubbing groups and voice actors. Hopefully, you can jump-start your career.

8. CAN WE COUNT ON AUDIO-VISUAL TRANSLATION AS A GOOD SOURCE OF INCOME?

To be honest, I wouldn't bank on it. Considering the job market, teaching has always been a more profitable profession, not translation. For what it's worth, AV translation could be a side hustle. It all comes down to your priorities in the end.

List of animations translated by Ali Caszadeh:

El Raton Perez (2006)
Ice Age 2 (2006)
Shrek 4 (2010)
Toy Story 3 (2010)
Tangled (2010)
Cars 2 (2011)
Brave (2012)
The Croods 1 (2013)
Big Hero 6 (2014)
Inside Out (2015)
Kung Fu Panda 3 (2016)
The Boss Baby 1 (2017)
The Incredibles 2 (2018)
Toy Story 4 (2019)
Luca (2021)

Duolingo: The Lovely Owl that Teaches you language!

By Sanaz Narooei

DUOLINGO

THE LOVELY OWL THAT TEACHES YOU LANGUAGE!



What is Duolingo?

Duolingo is a free application that can teach you 24 languages, like English, French, Turkish, Spanish, Mediterranean, and even Navajo and Esperanto. To benefit from this application, you need to know one of the listed languages on the application, for example, you need to know English/ Turkish/ Arabic/ ... to learn French on Duolingo. Unfortunately, Persian is not one of the available options.

Safety First: Is Duolingo safe?

The requested accesses are access to the microphone for practicing pronunciation and access to the camera, for changing or selecting a profile picture. The application also demands access to the memory of your device.

How Duolingo works?

Since repetition and continuity are essential factors in learning a language, Duolingo notifies its users to visit the program on a daily basis. Users who keep their streak report satisfactory progress. The application is designed in a way that you will not feel you are doing the dull and repetitive drills of a traditional language course. It is more like you are playing a fun game.

What are the distinguishing features of Duolingo?

Duolingo has more than 300 million sign ups. It boasts of attracting the greatest number of French learner users in Iran.

The application has gathered together discussion communities or forums, personal lexicon, stories, podcasts, flashcards, and especially online tests all in an exciting space. So, if you want to learn French or any other language without attending boring classes and save the fee, Duolingo is the best choice for you!

To download Duolingo for your device, scan the QR codes:

ANDROID

IOS

An Artwork in Food: Tabaheg

By Fariba Bameri

TABAHEG

SEASONED AND SUN-KISSED TASTE OF BALUCHISTAN

The food culture of Baluchistan is full of exciting and delicious mysteries for those who have never traveled to this vast area in southeastern Iran. In this short article, we invited you to taste the spicy and exotic flavor of the Iran's mini-India.

Tabaheg is one of the traditional dishes of the mythical land of Baluchistan. It is mostly served in the cold seasons of the year or special occasions like the holy month of Ramadan.

In the past, when it was not possible to store meat for a long time, skilled butchers of Baluchistan cut the meat into thin slices; seasoned the beef with salt and anar danag- the pomegranate powder resulting from pounding dried pomegranate seeds. Then, the seasoned slices were placed outdoors to be sun roasted for ten days.

Do you like to try making some Tabaheg at home or in the dormitory? It is easy!

To prepare Tabaheg, add salt and pepper to the water, and let it boil for an hour. Meantime, chop some onions and fry them with some tomatoes. Use the mixture to marinate the meat. You need ever-sunny days of Baluchistan in this part of our recipe. Leave the flavored meat to be baked by the natural heat of the sun. After 10 days, you may cook the meat and enjoy serving it with the rice, as Baluch people do.

Watch out! You are facing the risk of falling in love!



By Yasaman Dinari

The Art of Art Salvador Dali

Dali, a Surrealist

Surrealists work with a dream world, depicting scenes that seem real but could never happen in the real world. Dali is one of the artists who promoted surrealism. His use of critical and systematic objectivity of associations and interpretations of delusional phenomena is noteworthy.

Dali's works might baffle the audience who is not familiar with his symbolic language. However, when you learn to read them, you will find the challenge immensely rewarding.

Let's try to decode one of Dali's paintings, The Persistence of Memory, through examining the main symbols employed in this masterpiece:

Dali's Melting Clocks

Dali first used his famous melting clocks in this work. Time was one of Dali's obsessions because the passage of time leads us to death, and our dearest Dali was, much like every living being, not a great fan of death.

Dali's Ants

There is only one clock that is not melting in The Persistence of Memory, and its conditions seem even worse than the others. It is covered with ants. What makes the ants so scary? They look at everything as some food to carry back home. They do not care if that is some part of your life or body. Seemingly, Dali used ants to express his discomfort and fear of the gradual but relentless crawling of death over life.

By Narjes Jahantigh

THE UNIVERSE CREATED THE GODS

Centuries ago, man was as curious as today and wanted to find the reason behind everything. He had experienced the joy of knowledge and the peace of heart it brought him. Living in a known world was less frightening and seemed less dangerous. Our ancestors were also immensely imaginative and talented storytellers. Stories helped them to make sense of themselves and their environment. Greeks, for example, imagined heaven and earth to be the first parents. Titans were their children, and gods were believed to be their grandchildren.

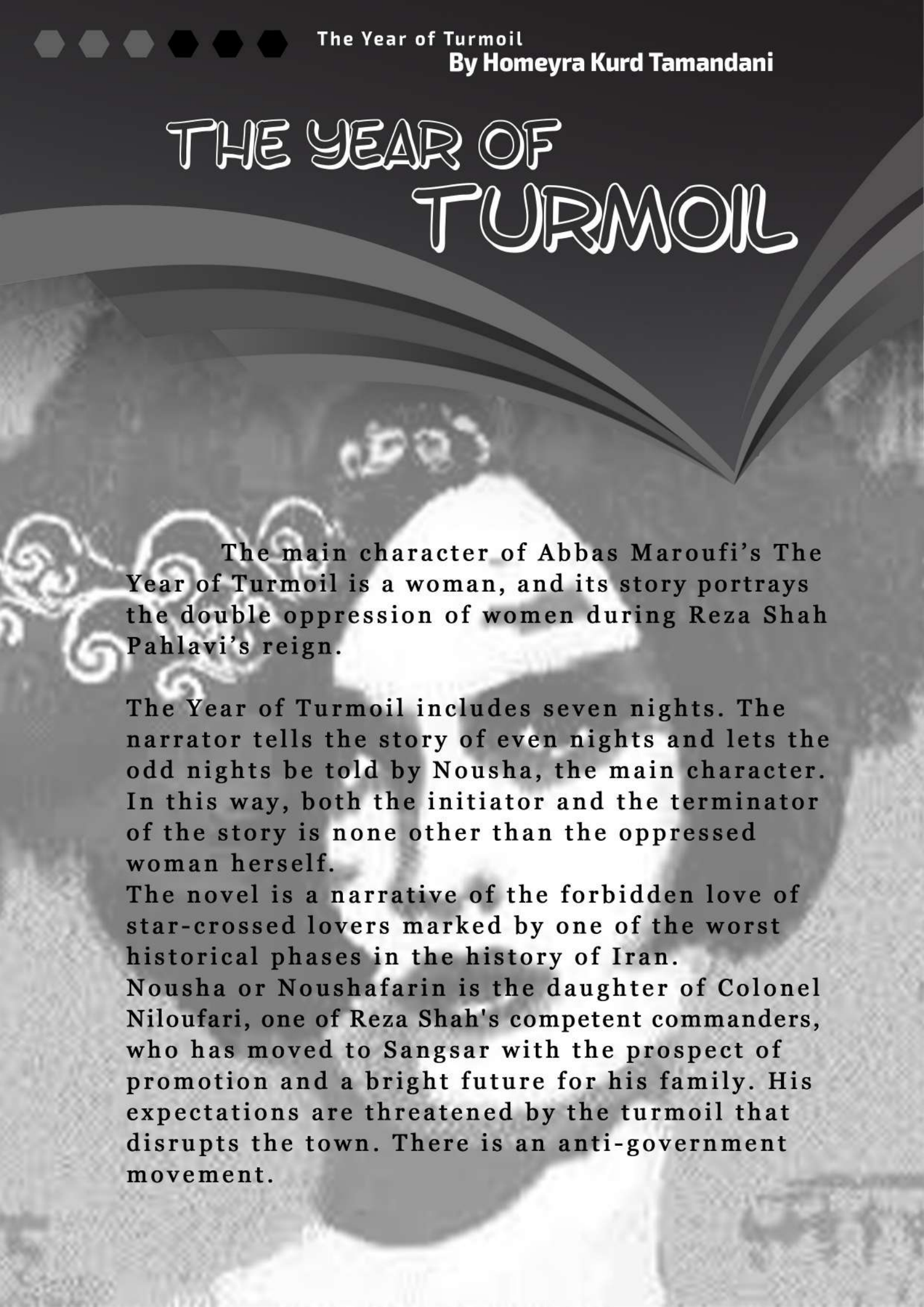
Cronus, the titan of time, was the most powerful of these grandchildren. There was a prophecy that one of his children would dethrone him. Thus, he ate all his children on their day of birth. Rhea was fed up with his husband's cruelty and hid Zeus, the youngest of his children, and wrapped a rock and passed it as their newborn to Cronus. Zeus realized the prophecy and became the supreme ruler. He was the Lord of the sky, the Rain God, and the Cloud-gatherer. When there was a rainstorm or thunderstorm, Greek people believed Zeus was whirling his terrifying thunderbolt with anger. Zeus did not like people who broke their oaths, and he never helped liars. He was the chief protector of hospitality, and people hosted their guests to honor Zeus.

Zeus and his children were the great gods of Olympus. We can think of each god/goddess as the representative of certain personality traits and psychological tendencies.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHICH OLYMPIAN YOU LOOK LIKE MOST, SCAN THE FOLLOWING QR CODE :)

By Homeyra Kurd Tamandani

THE YEAR OF TURMOIL



The main character of Abbas Maroufi's The Year of Turmoil is a woman, and its story portrays the double oppression of women during Reza Shah Pahlavi's reign.

The Year of Turmoil includes seven nights. The narrator tells the story of even nights and lets the odd nights be told by Nousha, the main character. In this way, both the initiator and the terminator of the story is none other than the oppressed woman herself.

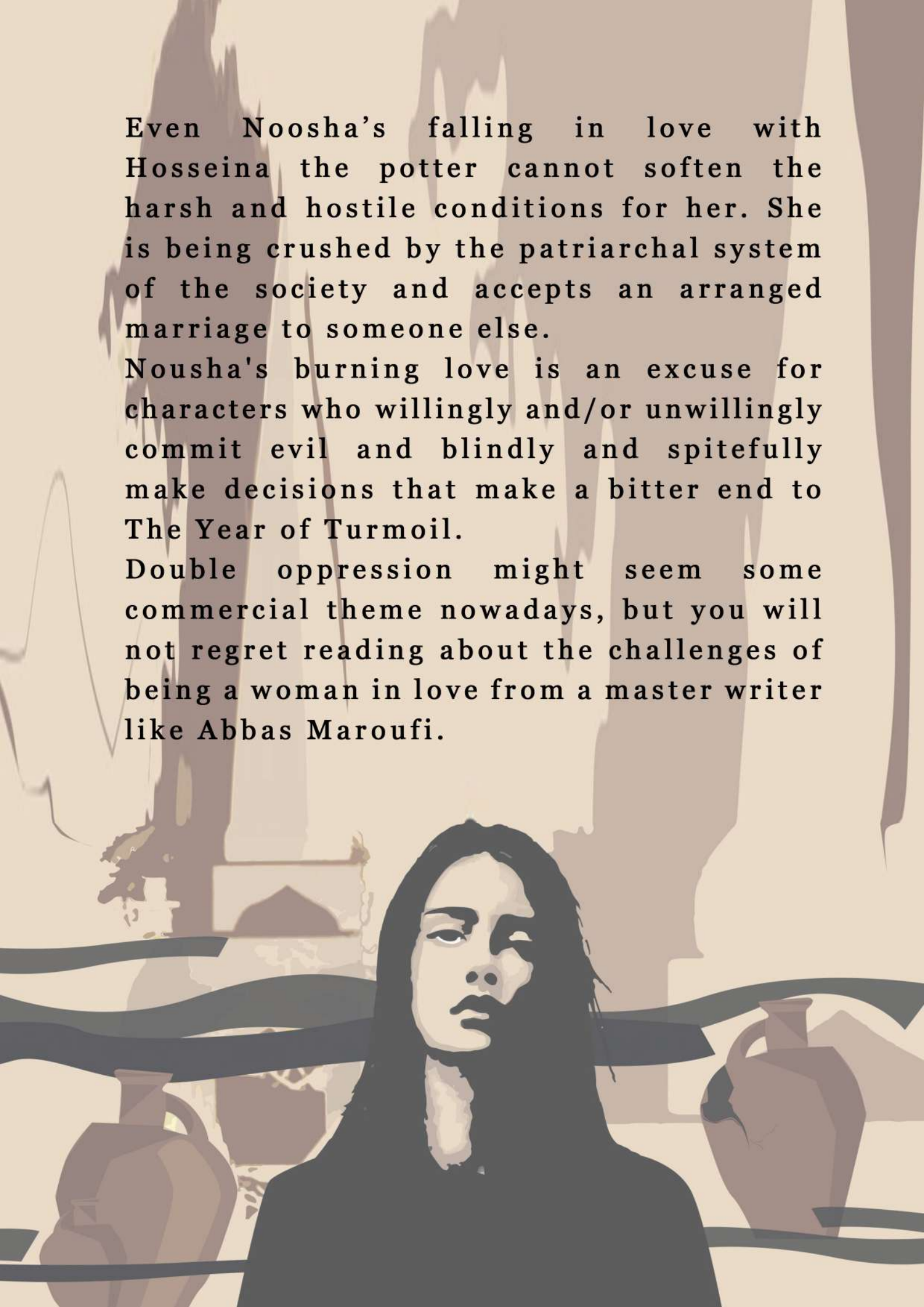
The novel is a narrative of the forbidden love of star-crossed lovers marked by one of the worst historical phases in the history of Iran.

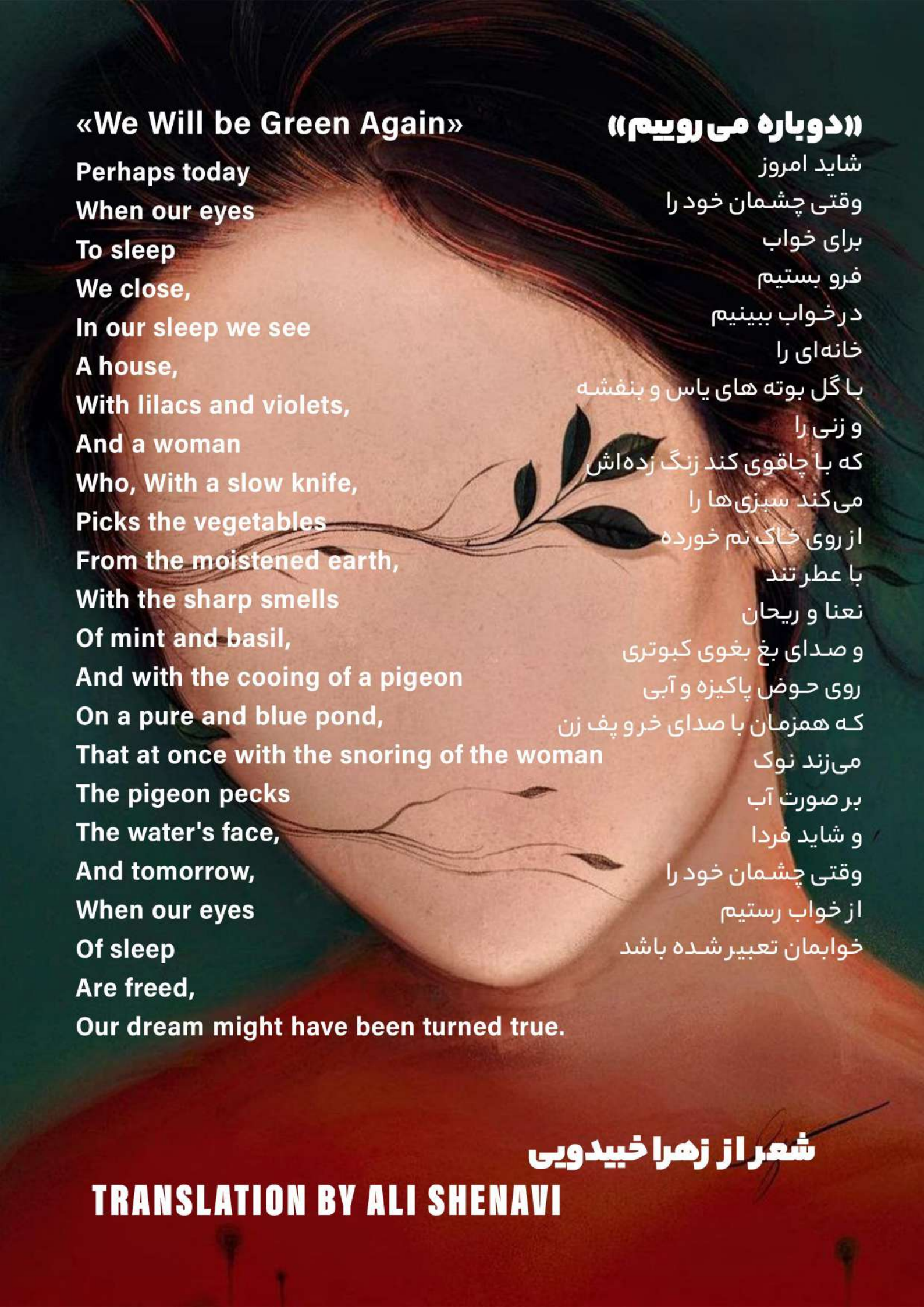
Nousha or Noushafarin is the daughter of Colonel Niloufari, one of Reza Shah's competent commanders, who has moved to Sangsar with the prospect of promotion and a bright future for his family. His expectations are threatened by the turmoil that disrupts the town. There is an anti-government movement.

Even Noosha’s falling in love with Hosseina the potter cannot soften the harsh and hostile conditions for her. She is being crushed by the patriarchal system of the society and accepts an arranged marriage to someone else.

Nousha's burning love is an excuse for characters who willingly and/or unwillingly commit evil and blindly and spitefully make decisions that make a bitter end to The Year of Turmoil.

Double oppression might seem some commercial theme nowadays, but you will not regret reading about the challenges of being a woman in love from a master writer like Abbas Maroufi.





«دوباره می‌روییم»

شاید امروز
وقتی چشمان خود را
برای خواب
فرو بستیم
در خواب ببینیم
خانه‌ای را
با گل بوته های یاس و بنفشه
و زنی را
که با چاقوی کند زنگ زده‌اش
می‌کند سبزی‌ها را
از روی خاک نم خورده
با عطر تند
نعنا و ریحان
و صدای بغ بغوی کبوتری
روی حوض پاکیزه و آبی
که همزمان با صدای خرو پف زن
می‌زند نوک
بر صورت آب
و شاید فردا
وقتی چشمان خود را
از خواب رستیم
خوابمان تعبیر شده باشد

«We Will be Green Again»

Perhaps today
When our eyes
To sleep
We close,
In our sleep we see
A house,
With lilacs and violets,
And a woman
Who, With a slow knife,
Picks the vegetables
From the moistened earth,
With the sharp smells
Of mint and basil,
And with the cooing of a pigeon
On a pure and blue pond,
That at once with the snoring of the woman
The pigeon pecks
The water's face,
And tomorrow,
When our eyes
Of sleep
Are freed,
Our dream might have been turned true.

شعر از زهرا خیدویی

TRANSLATION BY ALI SHENAVI



«کودکی گریخت»

نیستی‌ات چه زود و ممکن
وسط آن خیابان
مرا به گریه انداخت
من نتوانستم برای دردهایم
منطق بیاورم
گریستم
گریستم
مقابل آن همه چشم
کنار گربه‌ها و گنجشک ها و برگ های مرده‌ی پاییزی
کودکی رنجید اما
باید می‌خندیدم
دیده بود مرا
بی‌آنکه ببینمش
دیده بود مرا
با دستان حالی از بودم
دهانی پر از گل های ذبح شده
سکوت
وسیبی کال
با تکه‌ای نان و پنیر
و خرما
که دادمش
اما نگرفت
گستاخ و چموش مرا رها کرد
در پایان کوچه گم شد
اینک
من رفته بودم
کودکی از من
که نگران چشمان تو بود

«A Child Ran Away»

So soon and destined,
Ere I blink,
Thine absence triggered
My cloudy eyes,
To shed their pearls
In the midst of that street;
I could not reason with my scars,
So I wept,
I wept,
Before all of those eyes,
Beside the cats, the sparrows, and golden fallen leaves,
A child was vexed
So I had to smile,
She've seen me
Without me seeing her,
She've seen me,
With the last drops of existence
Pouring out of my hands,
With a mouth full of
Sacrificed flowers,
Silence!
And a green apple,
With a loaf of bread and some cheese,
And a date,
All of which I gave her,
But she take not,
Insolently and unruly she left me,
And was lost in the end of the alley,
Now! I was gone,
A child within me
Who worried about your eyes.

شعر از زهرا خیبدویی

TRANSLATION BY ALI SHENAVI

Story By Rasoul Afrasiabi
Translated By Amirhossein Afrasiabi

ME, MOON, AND NO ONE ELSE

A gentle breeze was blowing through pores of clothes and cooling down the sweating bodies. Laying on a rug in the front yard, the kid was gazing at the constellations of stars on the sky. A soft and subtle smile was playing hide and seek on the kid's face. The kid glanced at the moon and then enchanted by it, raised a hand up in the air to grasp it. The moon was shining through the fingers. The kid closed the fingers into a tight ball and put the fist on the chest; then covered it with the other hand. A deep breath, a short pause … the kid opened the eyes and saw there was nothing in the heavens.

"The moon is gone!"

Startled and surprised, the kid took his wondering eyes off the sky and stared at the fist as if it was an alien object. The kid tried to open the fist, but some foreboding feeling tightened it even harder.

"What if it wasn't there?"

Reluctantly, the fist was unclenched, and the beams of light leaped out. Eyes were widened in astonishment. It was impossible! The kid's face was lit up. The kid was blinking hard. The sudden sound of approaching steps startled the kid. Someone was knocking at the gate. The kid was trembling. The moon almost fell off. Another knock at the door was heard.

"What should I do with the moon?"

The door was knocked again. Kid's eyes looked around the yard for a place to hide the moon. His eyes lit up, and the moon was placed where nobody could take it away, right in the sky. Unwillingly, the kid went to the door and opened it to the uncle who passed by the kid with a pat on the head. Seemingly he had left something behind. Greetings that could be heard through the window faded away, and the kid stared back at the moon wishing that the uncle leaves them sooner. Kid longed to hold the moon and save it for the time that going to school was an option again. The kid was anxious to show it to a benchmate. Up to that time, the bag of marbles could be a safe spot. What would happen if the moon was tossed into some water? Would it make the water fizzy like the vitamin c tablets? Would it light up the bedroom when all the lights were off? The kid experienced a sharp pang of nostalgia which was too weird to feel in the early stages of life. Have the benchmate saved their spot or already shared it with someone else? The sadness was about to cast a shadow on the little jealous heart, but seeing the uncle leaving brightened the mood.

With a smile he passed by the kid, opened the door, and waited for a moment.

"What are you waiting for?"

He waited for a few more seconds; then, returned, and kneeled in front of the kid. He took the little hands, cleared his throat: "when Arash was at your age, he was afraid of the darkness. And Ali, with that ridiculously big mustache, needed his mommy's company to walk into the front yard, but you've always been here by yourself." Sadness could be felt in his deep voice. He cleared his throat again to cover it.

"You've been always the bravest of us".

As soon as the uncle left, the kid raised a hand to get back the moon. Again and again, the kid tried, but it was of no use. The moon was up in the sky shining on the empty-handed kid who was standing alone in a dark yard. Maybe the moon had risen a bit higher. There was an empty wooden box in the corner of the yard. It was not visible from where the kid was looking, but it was there. The father had made it out of some fallen tree. It was big, and heavy. The kid almost dragged it to the center of the yard. Then the kid put the box upside down and climbed on. The moon was still unreachable. A stool was brought and the body was stretched upward on the little and weak toes. It was hopeless. The dark box slid, and the kid fell badly with a thump. Mom and Dad ran out to the kid who was standing there with clenched teeth and had gone blue. Dad was there first.

"What's the matter?"

The tears rolled down the apple cheeks.

"I can't get the moon anymore."

Dad was dusting kid's clothes and stealthily checking for the probable injuries.

"It's OK, Kid."

Mom was standing there all the time trying not to cry. As the father took the kid back into the house, she burst into tears. She put her hand on her mouth so that the kid couldn't hear her whimpers. There was no moon in the heavens.



WE EDUCATE AND FASCINATE, DON'T WE?

"I went to a coffee shop and ordered an espresso and black coffee and took tea and cake and left the place and went to the university and went to the library and opened my book and started reading it and all of a sudden saw a couple. I played with my phone and sent a text. They started fighting then I ate my cake then my friend came to me and shortly after a water bottle passed by me then I turned back, so I got angry I looked at them, and the woman cried. I told them to damn you, I took a deep breath, and then my friend and I picked up a knife. I grappled and slapped him then the woman drew a gun. It turned out it was a toy gun, but before that, I was killed by the woman. Suddenly I woke up; the mother opened the door, but I closed the door, and she said a family is here to adopt you."

The story written by ELSA's wise minds :)
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"Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success."
__ Edward Hale