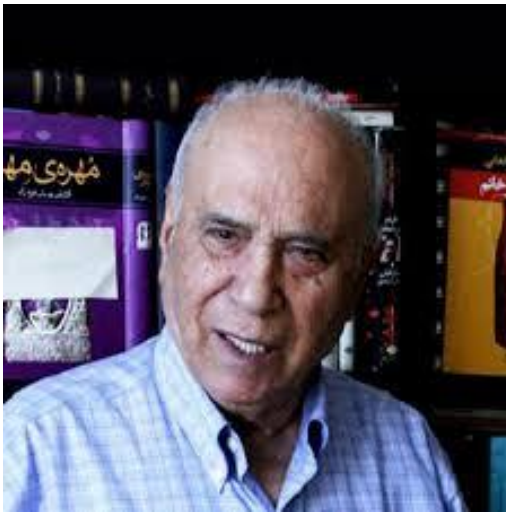




Ali Mohammad Afghani
(1925-Kermanshah)

*Ali Mohammad Afghani graduated from military college but was imprisoned due to his political activities. While in prison, he wrote his first book, **Lady Ahou's Husband**, a novel that critiques polygamy. Afghani has authored numerous other works and cites Jack London and John Steinbeck as inspirations for his writing. Afghani is recognized as a pivotal novelist in Iranian literature during the 1940s and 1950s. Critics categorize his works as socially conscious, often incorporating social and political commentary. He distinguishes his style from naturalism by integrating social elements into his realistic approach, making his writings prime examples of this literary style. Afghani's stories frequently highlight the struggles and hardships faced by marginalized groups, focusing on the lives of workers, rural farmers, and women. Additionally, he emphasizes the use of popular language and Persian prose in his works.*

Madam Ahou's Husband



Publisher: Negah Publication

Subject: Novel

No. of Pages: 800

ISBN: 9789643511104

Year of Publishing: 2023/38th Edition

•Adapted into a movie in (1968-Iran)

📖 English text is available.

Seyed Miran is the leader of the bakers' guild and a respected man who lives a peaceful life with his wife, Ahu Khanum. He has earned a lot of honor and respect from the people. One day, while serving a customer named Homa, she shared that she had recently separated from her husband. Homa gradually opens up to Seyed Miran, who is attracted to her beauty and youth. Eventually, he marries her and brings her home to Ahu Khanum.

The story is about Ahu Khanum, a traditional, headstrong, and oppressed woman living in a patriarchal society. Her position in the home is threatened by the arrival of a rebellious and modern woman in Homa. The book powerfully portrays the realities that women from lower strata of society face and also condemns polygamy. Ali Mohammad Afghani's precise setting, delicate characterization, and powerful writing have made Shohar Aho Khanum one of Persian literature's most popular contemporary books.

Ahou Khanom's Husband is a captivating novel that offers a vivid portrayal of Iranian society and culture during a period of social change. The story revolves around the character of Ahou Khanom, whose life is shaped by the patriarchal norms and expectations of her time. Through Ahou Khanom's experiences and interactions with the world around her, Afghani explores themes of gender, identity, and the struggle for self-determination. The title, "Ahou Khanom's Husband," suggests a reversal of traditional gender roles, hinting at the novel's subversive exploration of power dynamics within marriage and society. As

Ahou Khanom navigates the challenges and obstacles confronting her, she emerges as a resilient and independent-minded woman who refuses to conform to societal expectations.

This novel follows the adventures of Seyed Miran Sarabi, the head of the bakers' guild, who has two wives. He is described as religious, honorable, kind-hearted, modest, polite, calm, and considerate. Despite his good qualities, he falls in love with Piraneh Siri. His dedication to his work begins to negatively impact his family, his first wife, and his lover, his second wife. His increasing infatuation leads him into a downward spiral of lust. The interactions and conflicts between his wives, Aho and Hema, form the story's central focus.

The novel "Husher Aho Khanum" addresses the issue of polygamy within our society. The story presents two contrasting female characters: Aho, who is depicted as virtuous, and Huma, who is portrayed as impulsive and reckless. Huma, despite believing that she has no future with Seyed Miran due to his existing family, decides to stay with him and endures numerous hardships.

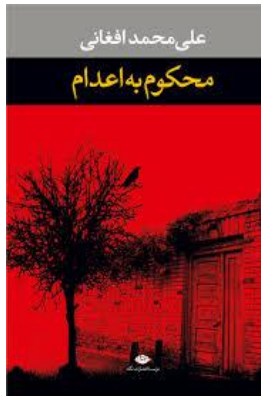
Aho, the novel's main character, shows a more original and authentic face of Iranian women. The face of a hard-working, housewife and humble woman who faithfully and chastely lived her life in her husband's house and made it with good and evil and brought him children, and then her husband took the reward of her purity and faithfulness and hard work on her head. The image of a deer's life is relaxing and indicates harmony between husband and wife.

The story gets more complicated from the point where Aho starts inquiring about Huma. Homa dominates Miran, and Aho becomes more miserable daily until his head is broken with a stick in a fight with Seyed Miran. After marrying Huma, Seyed Miran forgets his date with Aho and violates the idea of being one of them every night.

Along with these adventures, Homa's extravagances also increase. Seyed Miran does not accept that she goes out of the house, but time is the time to discover the hijab, and Homa says that we are modern women. Little by little, she puts aside the veil and scarf, opens the handkerchief tied to her hair, and her skirt becomes shorter. Miran also submits to all these actions of Homa.

Ali Mohammad Afghani's pen skillfully creates vivid images and delicately expresses intricate details. However, more attention has been given to the external aspects. While reading the book, the reader can easily visualize the house with the author's subtle explanations. The reader can imagine even the most minor details of the characters' faces and bodies, including the most minor individuals in the story. The story closely examines the complex lives of women in the lower classes of society during that time in Iran. The novel strongly condemns polygamy and explores family relationships and the associated emotional challenges. This book won the award for the best story of the year.

Sentenced To Death



Publisher: Negah Publication

Subject: Short Stories

No. of Pages: 215

Year of Publishing: 2023/6th Edition

ISBN: 9789643511777

In the oppressive atmosphere of the prison, the night guards often find themselves struggling to keep their eyes open at their posts. This weariness, coupled with their growing disbelief, leads them to disturb the prisoners' rest, causing a cacophony of noise that echoes through the damp corridors. These guards, their faces marred by the scars of violence accrued over years of duty, begin to see themselves as omnipotent figures, wielding the power of life and death over the vulnerable souls locked within the cells. Their perception of authority becomes particularly palpable when they witness a group of shackled prisoners tied together at the end of a heavy chain, evoking the image of "water slipping through the hands of Yazid."

Among these guards is Khorram, known to his colleagues as Najaf. Tasked with the midnight patrol, he strides through the semi-darkness, a flashlight piercing the gloom to expose what lurks within. The sharp clatter of his spiked shoes reverberates eerily along the dreary corridor, bridging the silence of the night with a heavy, unsettling rhythm. His labored breaths, deep and rhythmical like the chugging of a locomotive, startle the inmates awake from their restless slumber.

As the dark, damp air hangs heavily, the prison feels like a forgotten battlefield, littered with lifeless forms of bodies sprawled across the floor. Celled doors swing open, adding to the disarray as Constable Najaf's disruptive presence draws every weary soul back to a state of alertness.

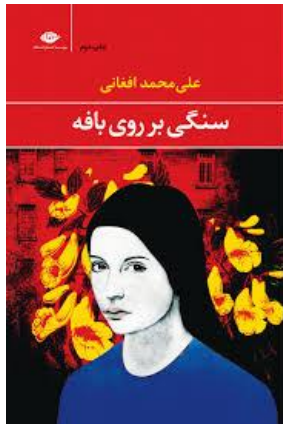
This collection of haunting narratives comprises five short stories: "Condemned to Death," "Alive in the Grave," "High Above," "A Pleasure Trip" and "A Good Season of the Year." Central to this story is Zaki, whose life unfolds like a tragic tapestry, revealing the stark realities faced by those trapped in the dark clutches of the prison system. Another pivotal character is Braga, labeled a murderer for the death of a

seemingly insignificant man, yet seen as innocent by his fellow inmates. The stories of these characters lay bare the flaws of the judicial system and the suffocating weight of oppressive laws, illuminating the bleak atmosphere of their era. This book draws striking parallels to "The Husband of Ahu Khanum," firmly establishing itself as a significant work of realism.

Ali Mohammad Afghani employs his trademark style in this poignant collection—rich with vivid realism and immersive settings. "Sentenced to Death" recounts the harrowing tale of an individual courageously standing up against cruelty and tyranny, a defiance that ultimately leads to his murder. Upon his incarceration, he encounters a diverse array of inmates, each sharing their unique and harrowing experiences that contribute to his understanding of injustice. The themes within this narrative examine the nature of rights and justice, the failings of the judicial system, and the existential struggle of humanity against societal oppression.

In the evocative short story "Sentenced To Death" Afghani confronts the grim reality of execution with unflinching honesty. The narrative unfolds from a third-person perspective, maintaining a neutral tone while vividly capturing the prison's brooding ambiance. It delineates its shadows and stark reality with precision and depth.

A stone on a bunch of plants



Publisher: Negah Publication

Subject: Novel

No. of Pages: 160

Year of Publishing: 2023/4th Edition

The book weaves a poignant tale of love between two characters, Jeiran and Mushtaq, with Mushtaq as the introspective narrator. A miller's son, Mushtaq, has been nurtured in an environment steeped in tradition, where he has always been led to believe that his fate is intertwined with the mill worker's daughter. From his formative years, the shadow of this impending marriage looms over him, creating a turbulent inner conflict that pits societal pressure against the stirrings of unexpected love in his heart. Jeiran, the vibrant heroine of this narrative, embarks on a journey that defies the conventional limits imposed on her. With the singular aim of finding a husband, she takes to the streets in a carriage, also selling cinema tickets—a symbol of her determination to carve out her own space in a world that seeks to box her in. Breaking free from the constraints of her patriarchal society, Jeiran boldly takes the initiative to rally community support; she traverses her neighborhood, collecting signatures that reflect her desire to improve her surroundings. Her quest leads her to engage with local officials, passionately advocating for a cleaner environment, replacing the oppressive mound of garbage outside her home with a vibrant array of flowers.

Set against a rich tapestry of social issues, this narrative unfolds within a deeply conservative town, highlighting the struggles faced by women in the lower echelons of Iranian society. Jeiran's quest is not merely for a suitor but an assertion of her right to challenge the traditional roles that confine women behind closed doors. As she embarks on this unconventional mission, she confronts societal disdain and becomes a symbol of controversy, navigating the turbulent waters of judgment accompanying her bold choices. Her beauty, which should be an asset, ironically transforms into a poignant burden, complicating her journey.

Following the death of her father, Jeiran is thrust into a whirlwind of responsibility, forcing her to confront decisions she had previously evaded. The story, rich with emotional depth and intricate relationships, invites readers to explore profound themes of humanity, resilience, and the relentless

pursuit of dreams. Through vivid illustrations of poverty, beauty, love, and the intricate web of connections among simple-hearted individuals, the author paints a picture of a girl whose beauty shines tenderly despite the struggles around her that often blind others to its brilliance.

Cousin Parvin



Publisher: Javidan Publication

Subject: Novel

No. of Pages: 176

Year of Publishing: 2023/38th Edition

“Isn't it true that children and adolescents are more influenced by the actions, behavior, morals, and customs of adults than by anyone else, often imitating them?

Kermanshah, known as the city of heroes, made us feel like heroes in our homes or neighborhoods. Even though I was no more than twelve years old and in the fifth grade of elementary school, I often found myself at the end of the line when we prayed in the morning before heading to class.

My peers recognized me as a hero, and I had two younger siblings who would come to our room at night before or after dinner to wrestle with each other. I would say, "Come, let me show you the technique," or the "Iem."

Now, where did I learn these techniques? And how did I manage to impress the little ones with such joy? Only God knows.”

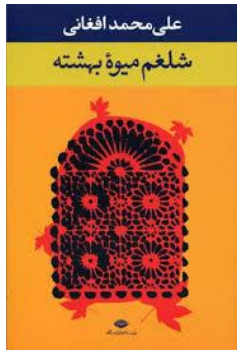
The book unfolds the captivating journey of a boy who shares his life experiences. It began in Kermanshah, a vibrant city where I lived with my supportive parents, who tirelessly encouraged me to study diligently. They hoped I would one day grow into a responsible and valuable member of society. Our home was spacious and bustling, with several rooms we rented out to others. Among those who shared our living space were my two lively cousins, Abdul and Mamli, who, along with their parents, sought shelter with us. Though they often looked up to me for guidance, it was clear that a deep friendship blossomed between us.

One sunny afternoon, as Abdul and Mamli strolled near a quaint little shop, their attention was caught by a charming canary flitting about in its cage. Their delight was abruptly interrupted when the gruff shopkeeper seized them by the wrists, accusing them of stealing figs and dates. The injustice of the accusation angered me deeply, for I knew their innocent hearts. Driven to protect my friends, I hatched a plan to confront the shopkeeper. With a bold decision, I entered the shop and engaged the owner in conversation, creating a distraction. Meanwhile, Abdul and Mamli quietly emptied two sacks of his juicy

figs into the nearby stream, where the water glistened under the sun. Once our little scheme was complete, we hurried back home, our hearts racing with excitement and thrill.

On another occasion, I heard whispers that the Qarachi gypsies had set up a vibrant tent city near the bustling Alamshan caravanserai. My cousins, brimming with enthusiasm, urged me to join them on an adventure to visit one of my relatives nearby. Despite their eagerness, the weight of impending exams loomed over me, preventing my escape from home. Still, after much coaxing and playful insistence from Abdul and Mamli, I finally caved to their requests. As I approached the lively caravanserai, my eyes scanned the crowd, and amidst the bustling atmosphere, I spotted Reza, the son of Parvin's cousin. The air was thick with excitement and the promise of new encounters, and I was ready to dive into the unfolding adventure.

Turnip Is a Paradisal Fruit



Publisher: Negah Publication

Subject: Novel

No. of Pages: 175

Year of Publishing: 2023/20th Edition

ISBN: 9789643511784

In a dilapidated house that had stood for over thirty years, Barat Ali, a skilled lamp maker, resided with his wife, Narges, and their beloved child, Abedin. The couple had taken in a vegetable seller from Mashhad named Anbar, who had three lively children of her own, renting out two cramped rooms to them. The relationship between the two women was fraught with tension, marked by jealousy and rivalry. Yet, despite this animosity, Anbar held a deep affection for Abedin, cherishing him as if he were her flesh and blood.

This warmth turned to turmoil when Abedin fell ill with a cold, prompting Anbar to prepare a warm dish of turnips, believing the hearty vegetables would aid in his recovery. Tragically, after consuming the turnips, Abedin's condition worsened; he developed a relentless fever and acromegaly, a condition that caused his limbs to grow abnormally large. In the community, whispers circulated, but no one could diagnose or remedy his plight except for Gul-Anbar, the elderly wife of a neighbor whose ominous intuition began to spiral into paranoia.

Gul-Anbar became convinced that Abedin's affliction was directly linked to the turnips Anbar had prepared, leading to an escalating dread that her family could face legal repercussions. Her unease transformed into a heavy weight on her conscience, intensifying as Abedin's condition persisted without hope of a cure. She was entangled in a brief, intense affair with a young neighbor in this turmoil. This relationship offered momentary escape but ultimately unraveled her sanity, plunging her into madness. Throughout this poignant narrative, the author paints a vivid picture of a society steeped in ignorance and superstition, where altruism and compassion have vanished into thin air. Instead of rallying around the sick child and his distressed family, the locals perpetuate a narrative of blame and ostracism, branding Abedin as a madman who deserves to be restrained or cast away. Afghani intricately weaves a tale that details the strange and unsettling physiological changes in Abedin's body while reflecting on life's stark, often harsh realities. He masterfully illustrates that a lack of understanding leads people to resort to superstition and irrationality. In their blind ignorance, they foster beliefs that their home is

cursed due to Abedin's illness, with the turnip serving as a powerful symbol of the deep-rooted corruption in society that twists human values and compassion.

The novel "Turnip, Fruit of Paradise" offers a straightforward narrative that eschews complex storytelling techniques or a distinct narrative voice. Yet, this simplicity reveals a remarkable strength, particularly in its vivid characterization. The character of Gul-Anbar emerges as a striking example of this depth. Her psychological deterioration is laid bare through meticulously crafted details. As a child, she endured the catastrophic Buyin-Zahra earthquake, losing her entire family and being trapped under the rubble for an excruciating time. In the aftermath, a kind-hearted middle-aged man took her under his wing in Tehran, eventually marrying her just days before the birth of her first son. This poignant backstory adds layers to her character, making her journey all the more tragic and compelling.