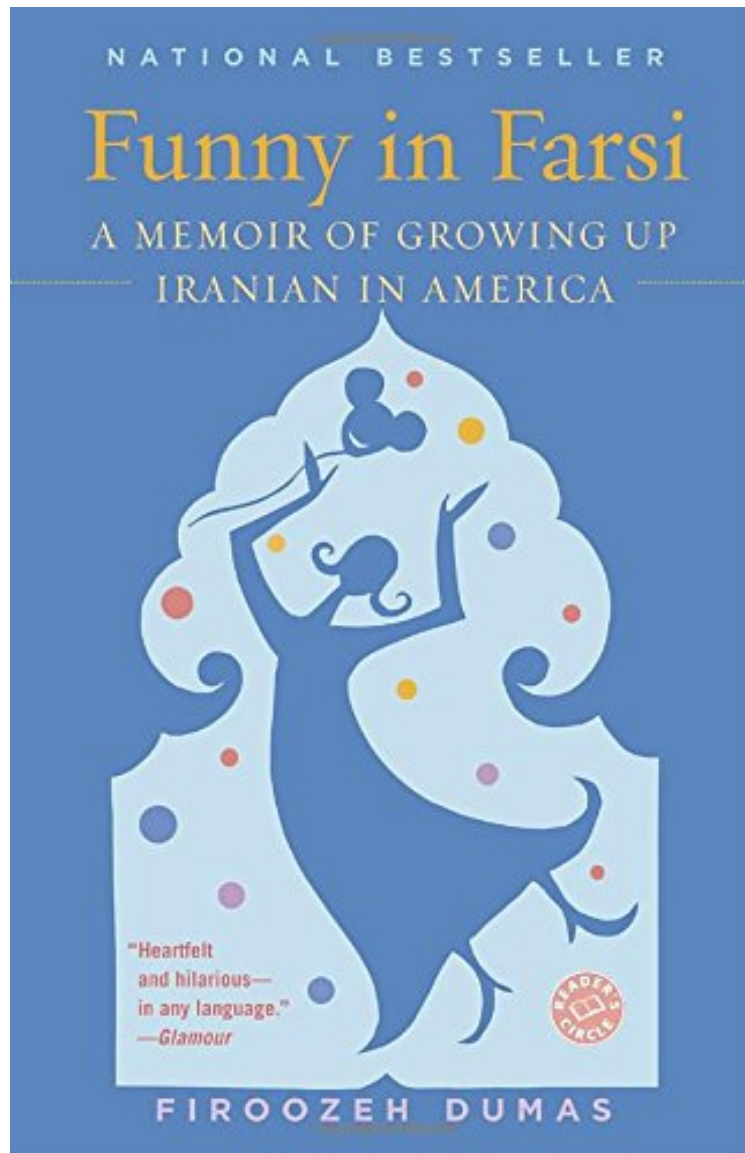


(Download ebook) Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America

## Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America

*Firoozeh Dumas*

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#6288 in Books Random House Trade Paperbacks 2004-01-13 2004-01-13 Original language: English PDF #1 7.99 x .54 x 5.171, .40 #File Name: 0812968379240 pages Great product! | File size: 46.Mb

**Firoozeh Dumas : Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America:

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Hilarious and so very insightful - a must-read! By NancyJI've now read all three of her books and loved them all. She has a gentle way of observing her life that's also absolutely hilarious. I think every American should read her books, especially with the suspicions toward foreign-born raging in

our country right now. Meeting people from other countries is so important, and making friends with them will lead to peace. It was great to 'meet' Firoozeh through her books. Keep writing! We are a better - and safer country - because she and her family are here!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I recommend this

By barbaraje This was a very funny and relatable book. We all know someone who is old fashioned, or doesn't speak the language well and is trying to fit in. This is Firoozeh's family, and the simplest things require a slight shifting of the brain to accommodate them. The complex things turn out needing to be seen from a different angle completely. The author herself came to America as a child, and so has one foot in each culture. Aside from that, she has a good way with words, and knows how to write, bringing humor to those times we all have that seem funny only in retrospect.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Laugh out loud funny in places

By Cynthia Hass Bishop Laugh out loud funny in places. Offers a unique insight into a family from an Iranian culture into an American culture. Living as an US expat in a foreign country, I can truly appreciate the challenges of new foods, new slang terms, new ways of behaving in public. Loved their close knit family ties that bound them together and supported them during their "assimilation" into the American lifestyles. Highly recommend this book. Well written, honest, insightful. I felt enlightened by Ms. Dumas' honesty and entertaining writing style, and was, quite honestly, wishing the book hadn't ended.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Finalist for the PEN/USA Award in Creative Nonfiction, the Thurber Prize for American Humor, and the Audie Award in Biography/Memoir

This Random House Readers Circle edition includes a reading group guide and a conversation between Firoozeh Dumas and Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner*!

Remarkable . . . told with wry humor shorn of sentimentality . . . In the end, what sticks with the reader is an exuberant immigrant embrace of America.

San Francisco Chronicle In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here. More family soon followed, and the clan has been here ever since. *Funny in Farsi* chronicles the American journey of Dumas' wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on *Bowling for Dollars* and in Las Vegas, and later lost his job during the Iranian revolution; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself, who as a girl changed her name to Julie, and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot. In a series of deftly drawn scenes, we watch the family grapple with American English (hot dogs and hush puppies? a complete mystery), American traditions (Thanksgiving turkey? an even greater mystery, since it tastes like nothing), and American culture (Firoozeh's parents laugh uproariously at Bob Hope on television, although they don't get the jokes even when she translates them into Farsi). Above all, this is an unforgettable story of identity, discovery, and the power of family love. It is a book that will leave us all laughing without an accent.

Praise for *Funny in Farsi* Heartfelt and hilarious in any language. *Glamour* A joyful success. *Newsday* What's charming beyond the humor of this memoir is that it remains affectionate even in the weakest, most tenuous moments for the culture. Its the brilliance of true sophistication at work. *Los Angeles Times* Book Review Often hilarious, always interesting . . . Like the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, this book describes with humor the intersection and overlapping of two cultures. *The Providence Journal* A humorous and introspective chronicle of a life filled with love of family, country, and heritage. *Jimmy Carter* Delightfully refreshing. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* [*Funny in Farsi*] brings us closer to discovering what it means to be an American. *San Jose Mercury News*

From *Publishers Weekly* This lighthearted memoir chronicles the author's move from Iran to America in 1971 at age seven, the antics of her extended family and her eventual marriage to a Frenchman. The best parts will make readers laugh out loud, as when she arrives in Newport Beach, Calif., "a place where one's tan is a legitimate topic of conversation." She is particularly good making gentle fun of her father, who loves Disneyland and once competed on the game show *Bowling for Dollars*. Many of the book's jokes, though, are groan inducing, as in, "the only culture that my father was interested in was the kind in yogurt." And the book is off-kilter structurally. After beginning with a string of amusing anecdotes from her family's first years stateside, one five-page chapter lurches from seventh grade in California to an ever so brief mention of the Iranian revolution, and then back to California, college and meeting her husband. In addition, while politics are understandably not Dumas's topic, the way she skates over the subject can seem disingenuous. Following the revolution, did her father really turn down the jobs offered to him in Iran only because "none were within his field of interest"? Despite unevenness, Dumas's first book remains a warm, witty and sometimes poignant look at cross-cultural misunderstanding and family life. Immigrants from anywhere are likely to identify with her chronicle of adapting to America.

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From *School Library Journal* Adult/High School-Dumas first came to the U.S. from Iran in the early '70s when her father was sent to California on a two-year contract from the National Iranian Oil Company. Her family soon discovered that his presumed skill in English was basically limited to "vectors, surface tension and fluid mechanics." In short, humorous vignettes, the author recounts their resulting difficulties and Americans' almost total ignorance of Iran, illustrating the

kindness of people and her father's absolute love of this country. After a brief return to Iran, they came back. This time, however, they were mistrusted and vilified, as a result of the Iranian hostage crisis. Her father lost his job and was forced to sell most of their possessions. Even this harsh treatment didn't diminish his love for the U.S., and they later reestablished themselves, though with a lower standard of living. Throughout, Dumas writes with a light touch, even when, after having been flown to DC by the state department to welcome the shah, they faced death threats and had to leave town. Her descriptions of American culture and her experiences with school, TV, and language (she was once called "Fritzy DumbAss" by a receptionist) could be the observations of anyone new to this country, and her humor allows natives and nonnatives alike to look at America with new insight. Susan H. Woodcock, Fairfax County Public Library, Chantilly, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Dumas came to America for the first time in the early 1970s, when many Americans were unfamiliar with Iran. She and her family spent much of their time correcting misconceptions about Iran--no, it's not in the Sahara; no, they didn't live in a tent; and no, they didn't own camels. After the Iranian revolution, the attitude of Americans changed, and Dumas and her family faced downright hostility from formerly friendly Americans. Her father even lost his job. She saw American conjecturing work in a very different way after she met her French husband-to-be, Francois, who was assumed to be cultured and well read. Dumas peppers her memoir with amusing anecdotes about her family's experiences in America--her uncle's attempts to lose the pounds that fast food has added to his figure, her family's dismay at being served turkey, and her own misery at summer camp. Dumas has a unique perspective on American culture, and she effortlessly balances the comedy of her family's misadventures with the more serious prejudices they face. Kristine Huntley Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved