



# Emma of Iran

*T. Marion Dodge*

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An Iranian/American woman who justifiably kills a high ranking Iranian Republican Guard member must escape Iran or face certain execution. Her husband is a nuclear engineer, and assumed by the CIA to be involved in Iran's nuclear program. It is a thought provoking thriller and love story, with unexpected twists and unlikely heroes.

## Emma of Iran Details

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Author : T. Marion Dodge

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# **From Reader Review Emma of Iran for online ebook**

## **Sue says**

First, I won this book on Goodreads. I'll give it a fair and honest review.

This was a great story. The book follows the life of Emma from her teenage years when she meets the love of her life, Hamid, to her late 30s when their two daughters are off to college. She spends time in the US and in Iran. The book was difficult to put down. I read it in 2 days.

There were a few issues that are things that I think come from this being the author's debut novel and not having a good enough mentor or editor. My examples: 1) I had to read the story of Hamid's disappearance at least twice. I didn't need to reread it. A simple, "and then she told him the story" would have sufficed. 2) I found Shane just leaving the scene of the accident very disturbing. I know he was in shock but I kept expecting some kind of problem to appear because of him leaving the scene. 3) there were some very awkward scenes. Sasha blurting out her secret in front of a virtual stranger was very weird, and the Persian belly dance was more than weird.

However, after having said that, I think this book has a lot to say and is a very good debut novel. Don't miss reading it because of a little awkward writing. The story is worth a read which is why I'm giving a novel that is probably a 3.4 a 4 rating.

I would recommend this book for those interested in the Middle East, especially Iran, those interested in learning a little about the real Islam (rather than the radical Islam we seem to get hit with) and those interested in a beautiful love story.

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## **Honey Jimenez says**

I received a free kindle copy this book through goodreads giveaways.

This a touching, and at times emotional story. Emma is a woman who has gone through a lot since she was 15, death and loss of loved ones, going to college, escaping from life or death situations, supporting herself and girls, and the drama seems to follow her and her children, but in the end it makes them stronger. This, in a way, prepares them for what lays in store for them in the end..

There is also a bit of education thrown in about Islam, and the difference between Iranian and Persian, which I found interesting. Some of which I did not know.

I liked it.

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## **Meagan Greenbowe says**

### **Charming and brilliant**

This was an enthralling, quick paced read from beginning to end. I enjoyed the character development throughout the story and found myself learning quite a lot about the Iranian culture while being swept up in

the tale. Easy read and would high recommend.

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### **Mary says**

An enthralling book that kept my interest from the first page to the last.

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### **Linda Munro says**

I received this book via a goodreads giveaway, which came with a nice handwritten letter from the author (something always appreciated!).

The book spans from the late 1970's through the early 2000's. This is important because of the concept of an Iranian woman residing in locations throughout the world. Much of the book is set within the Pacific Northwest.

I will admit, that upon reading the initial synopsis of the novel, I thought the concept was awesome; however, with the book being about an Iranian woman and the author appeared to be a typical American male, I was nearly certain that this author could not pull off such a novel. I am extremely happy to report; I WAS WRONG!

As a woman, there were a couple of things I would have handled differently; but the twists in this book were amazing. While the author claims that much of his material came via dreams; he modestly left out the research he must have done for accuracy.

This is defiantly a work of love with a female character that is easy to understand and empathize with.

I wish this author much success!

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### **Stephen says**

I won this at goodreads.com!

A captivating story that kept me interested from the first to last page.

As a man, I like to read books from a woman's perspective. Especially women from different cultures.

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### **Marcia says**

A fast read which reveals much about the Persian and Muslim culture. Emma is under protection of the CIA after she kills a high ranking official in Iran. She is informed that her husband is dead and she takes refuge in the USA with her twin daughters. The story is interesting. Not sure it's totally realistic but an interesting read.

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**Irene Demchenko says**

Great and important read. There's no book quite like this out there at the moment, so I'd recommend it.

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**Gail Thompson says****Emma's Story**

Because of my interest in Iran I selected this book. Emma's Story is quite bazaar. There are some interesting facts but the whole thing is just too unreal. The dialogue seemed stilted. All said I enjoyed the read

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**Joann Glasser says**

Got this as a giveaway onto my Kindle. Could not stop reading. Read in one sitting. A book well written and engaging. So glad I received this book. Thank you

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**Stephanie says**

I don't know where to go with this review. Before I would begin, I will say that my background is that of a small mid-western farming town, far removed from Middle Eastern cultures. First-I WOULD recommend this read to my friends. I will keep this in my library and reread it at some time. I may make it required reading for my children, because it is the first book I've read that covers these topics in this way. I liked the writing style. I liked the story. There were different facets-almost as if this could have been written as three books instead of one. My favorite being the espionage/thriller bit. I don't know a whole lot about the Middle East. Maybe more than some Americans, but less than other. Only because I do read a lot, and I like to KNOW things.

I thought the insets about the culture were educational and presented in the context of the story, so I found that interesting and integral to understand the motivations of the characters. Never having been to Iran, I have always found it difficult to understand why someone would voluntarily go there. This cleared it up a bit. I think that the fact that Emma comes of two worlds changes the perspective of the book and her approach to escaping the country, too. While I do agree that there is good and bad in every culture, and I understand why women would choose to wear a hijab, I realize that many people do not understand, and I think that was dealt with well in the context of the story. I liked it that Emma was trying to raise her family within her beliefs. I think many parents have the same problem: How to raise their children with a belief in God and what is right-as their family believes-while still allowing the children to follow their own path and be their own person. That has been true in every culture since the dawn of time. I like how it is addressed in Emma of Iran. I also like how the political situations-both in the U.S. and overseas is portrayed as the complicated knot that it is. Mr. Dodge doesn't try to sort it out, he just says 'here's the problem. That's why it ISN'T sorted out easily.' It doesn't come across as preachy or

Here's where my only complaint with the story lies, and maybe I am just being sensitive: I feel like the depiction of Americans and the 'American Influence' was a little skewed. It seems like all of the 'Americans' that Emma and her family encounter are druggies and rapists. At the very least, they leer at the Persian ladies and make rude comments in their hearing (so they can be ignored or told off.) There are absolutely no friendly people at the girls' school, but every single person in the other countries they visited were so kind--no meanies there. Even the helpful American manages to drink more beers in two pages than I wanted to go back and count--ie. he's a drunk. So much so that the last paragraph has him traipsing off happily to a bar. The 'American Influence' causes Emma's daughters to be corrupted into performing a lewd dance for a virtual stranger who has opened their home for them--a man old enough to be their father. I teach dance, for heavens' sake and none of my students would dream of doing this. I feel like it wasn't the American Influence so much as some kind of bad parenting on Emma's part. But I don't see where the bad parenting happened, and I really don't feel like a few semesters in public school--especially since they were social outcasts apparently--were enough to cause that kind of influence. I feel like the girls HAD been raised to know this was wrong. They are 18. They are educated. I didn't think that fit their characters or their upbringing. But Emma chalks it up to bad influence by Americans that can be solved with some modest clothing and a head scarf. Problem solved. I just feel like morality isn't solved with just a head scarf. Okay. Enough ranting. There were times in the book when I did think 'Here we go again with the evil Americans' but it wasn't enough to stop me reading the book, and who knows, maybe it's true out there somewhere. I do understand that there are many prejudices inflicted on minorities in our country, but the book goes to show just how many good Persians there can be, I feel like the good Americans deserve a nod too. Okay. to be fair--the people in the apartment complex seem friendly and vice-free, and so does the knife-wielding coach. That said, I still think it's a book worth reading, and I would still recommend it to someone who wants a novel, but also wants a little enlightenment. I think books like this are important in bridging the understanding about cultures and religions that are unfamiliar. I hope that more people read this book because what it says is important.

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### **Kathy Shaw says**

Emma is a strong, intelligent, loving, Talented woman..in short, a superhero, and in spite of this far fetched character, the story drew me in. I could not stop reading and loved all the switchbacks and highs and lows it took me. The story never dragged, sometimes I was on the edge of my seat and when it ended, I smiled.

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### **Kelly says**

Wonderful book! Entertaining and interesting! I loved the authors writing style. Although a fictional book I learned a lot about Iran and their culture. Great story and good characters....I would definitely put it on everyone's summer reading list!

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