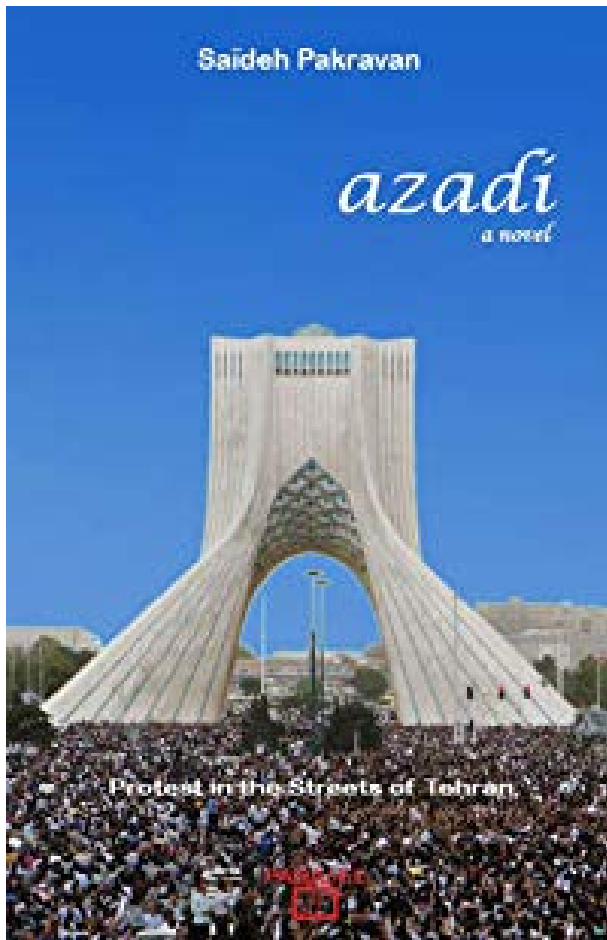


Azadi, Protest in the Streets of Tehran



Pages:	356
Language	English
Author:	Saïdeh Pakravan
ISBN10:	061540751X
Genre:	Roman
ISBN13:	9780615407517
Goodreads Rating:	4.38
Published:	by Parallel

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Raha, an architecture student at Tehran University who lives uptown with her liberal parents, is arrested in the protests following the fraudulent presidential elections of 2009. While in prison, she is the victim of extreme violence. A vibrant and strong-willed young woman, she decides after her release to seek justice, a difficult proposition in a country where the rule of law is arbitrary at best, where women don't count for much, and where conservative Islamic factions, despite being at each others' throats, will present a united front where the survival of the regime is at stake. Beyond describing Raha's terrible ordeal and her fight, against all odds, to obtain redress, the novel places the story in the context of a fascinating and complicated country and offers deep insights into the Iranian psyche. At the core of the novel is the moving relation that develops between Raha who belongs to a well-to-do family from the rich suburbs of Northern Tehran and Hossein, a sepahi (or Revolutionary Guard), from one of the poorer neighborhoods, and how they overcome their completely different backgrounds to touch each other's lives in a way neither will ever forget.