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# Butterfly Stitching



## Synopsis

Terrifying Iranian secret police. An inspiring forbidden love. And the horrors of war. Butterfly Stitching weaves a stunning tapestry of the lives of Sahar and Samira, daughter and mother. And through the strength, beauty and imagination of these remarkable women, reveals Iran herself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was swept away to a land of mystery, excitement, and intrigue with the backdrop of a unique culture, rituals, and rules that may seem so foreign to us but have become a daily routine for people who live in Iran. I felt I was right there, where action was happening, and could feel, smell and touch my surroundings. This is truly a mesmerizing book that you will not be able to put down. Characters, locations, and their experiences will stay with you for a long time to come. I highly recommend this wonderful book to anyone who wants to discover a truly talented author and an unforgettable story of love and perseverance.

Shermin Kruse has written a beautiful novel about religious freedom. As a muslim woman myself, I abhor the idea of forcing my religion (or any religion) on to anyone. Kruse's novel does an amazing

job of portraying the way Islam (or any religion) can be improperly misused by those in power to oppress a population. I very much appreciated how the author heavily criticized religious oppression but portrayed Islam itself as it is practiced by many of its believers beautifully. This is masterfully shown in one of the scenes where Samira is meditating to prayer and loses herself to the pure love of God. My favorite part of the book is the romance between Samira and Armin and how they get carried away in their adulterous relationship. This novel should definitely be one of Oprah's picks!

Butterfly Stitching is a simply stunning novel and a beautifully written, in depth account of what it means to be a woman growing up and maturing in Iran. Touching, profound and at times shocking, you cannot fail to be moved by Butterfly Stitching and I cannot recommend it highly enough. "The stories of Sahar and Samira will stay with me for a long time.

Good things tend to happen when very creative, very intelligent people dig deep within themselves and share their most intimate truths--not as some therapeutic exercise, but as structure for an artistic adventure. And so it is perhaps not so surprising that Butterfly Stitching is very, very good. Exceptional, in fact. It does and doesn't matter that this story takes place mostly in Iran, and powerfully explores the realities of three generations of Persians in a time of great upheaval. As compelling as the context is, the true power of Ms. Kruse's storytelling and her prose lies in exposing core truths--of the power of family, of love, and of the limits of integrity. The context and story are themselves captivating, no doubt, but ultimately it is the way her unique characters interact and live their lives--the choices they make and the joys and sorrows they experience--that opens our minds and our hearts, and leaves the reader so much the richer for having picked up this book. One thing more: as a man, I have rarely read a work so feminine (and feminist) and yet so accessible to me. I could hardly put this book down. If you will pardon the metaphor, the lead character not only discards the veil (hejab) before and after leaving Iran, but Ms. Kruse has lowered a bit that more universal veil that clouds our understanding of women.

This incredibly moving story of the intimate lives of a mother and daughter, separate but entwined, was a well-plotted and well-written book. It is set over multiple time periods and places, mostly in Iran, all vividly depicted, and the author uses great care to artfully weave together their stories. I was especially impressed with the great care with which the author examines the depths of humanity and exhibits her political passions (artfully and largely through art!) in this first novel. In addition to being an engaging read by virtue of the great character development and terrifyingly real situations

abroad, it certainly made me reflect on the infinite number of personal freedoms I take for granted as an American woman. I laughed, I cried, and am excited to read more by this author!

I could not put this book down. It is a gorgeous modern epic, unfolding stories of three generations of women in an Iranian family, through cultural and government oppression, forced marriages, secret passions, courageous escapes. Despite the dramatic differences in the worlds in which they live, the common thread remains -- always keeping alive a deep strength and sense of joy, hope and love passed from daughter to daughter. Richly visual in its descriptions of a time and place unknown to most of us, it will stay with you long after you turn the last page.

Butterfly Sticking's plot is thoroughly engaging from beginning to end, with plenty of surprises even up to the final page! Not since Kite Runner have I read a more believable account of life in a culture so foreign to our own. Kruse effectively bridges the divide, delivering the reader enhanced understanding along with thorough entertainment. Most of all, it's shocking to me this is a first novel! I can't wait to read Shermin's next one!

This novel drew me in from the first to last page. I lost myself in the story of Samira and Sahar and felt that I was there experiencing their tears, their joy, their struggles, their loss and their triumphs. The backdrop of the Iran revolution gave me a glimpse into Persian culture and a mysterious and hidden land uniquely told from the perspective of a 9 year old girl and a mature woman. It is a rich and compelling story that gives the reader rare insight into the role of women and family that transcends time and space. The message of the value of freedom was beautifully woven through every page. The depth of the story and masterful writing touched me in a profound way. Coming to the end of the book felt like losing a good friend. It left me breathless and wanting more. Can we hope for a sequel!

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