

# Persia Blues

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**ISBN**  
*Comics Lit*

HERE.

A *PECULIAR* TOWN ON  
THE OUTER REACHES OF  
THE *PERSIAN* EMPIRE.

SEEMINGLY OUT  
OF PLACE, YET  
ODDLY FAMILIAR...

YOU SAID  
THERE WOULDN'T BE  
ANY GUARDS.

SO I WAS  
WRONG, OK?

WELL, WHAT  
NOW, MINOO? WE  
CAN'T GO BACK THE  
WAY WE CAME IN.

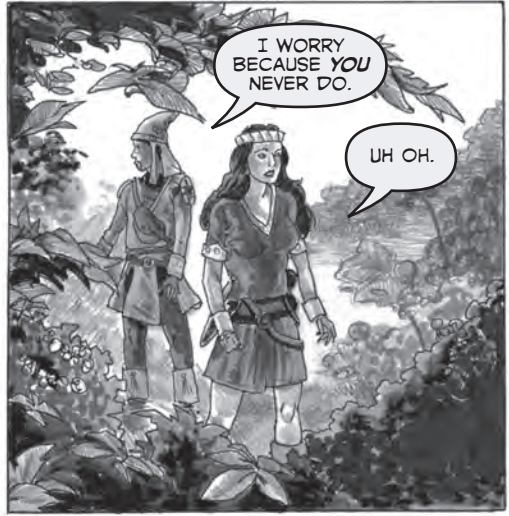
NO PROBLEM,  
WE'LL JUST TAKE THE  
*OTHER* EXIT.

WHAT  
OTHER  
EXIT?





YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU WORRY.



I WORRY BECAUSE YOU NEVER DO.

UH OH.



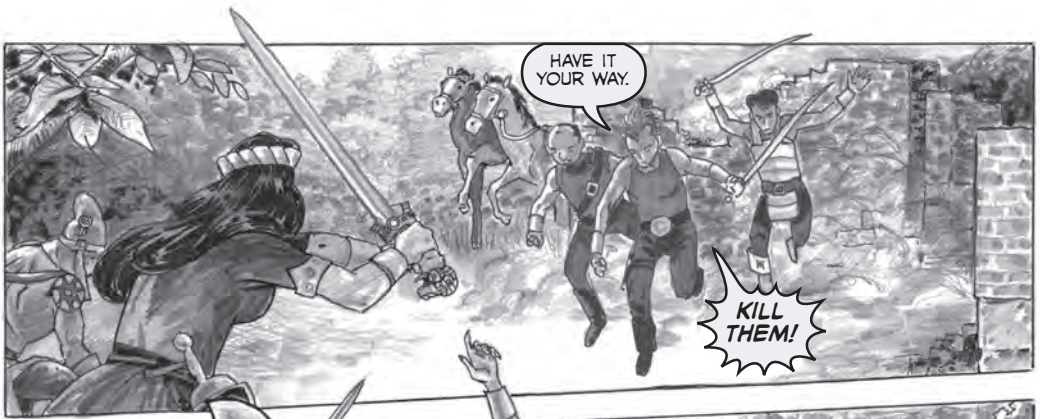
SEE WHAT I MEAN?

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, THIEVES.

HAND OVER WHAT YOU'VE STOLEN, OR WE WILL KILL YOU.

WELL, YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY.

BUT JUST TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, YOU'RE THE THIEVES. WE'RE SIMPLY RECLAIMING STOLEN PROPERTY.





URK

OOMPH



DIRTY B--



RRARG!



NOT SO TOUGH NOW, ARE YOU?

UNH



STILL TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU.

THAT'S FUNNY, COMING FROM AN UNARMED GIRL ABOUT TO DIE.



OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.



⇒HUURGH⇐



SO MUCH FOR THE HIRED MUSCLE.

THEY WERE **AMATEURS**. ARE YOU OK?

YEAH.

GOOD, THEN LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE MORE TROUBLE SHOWS UP.



FINE BY ME.

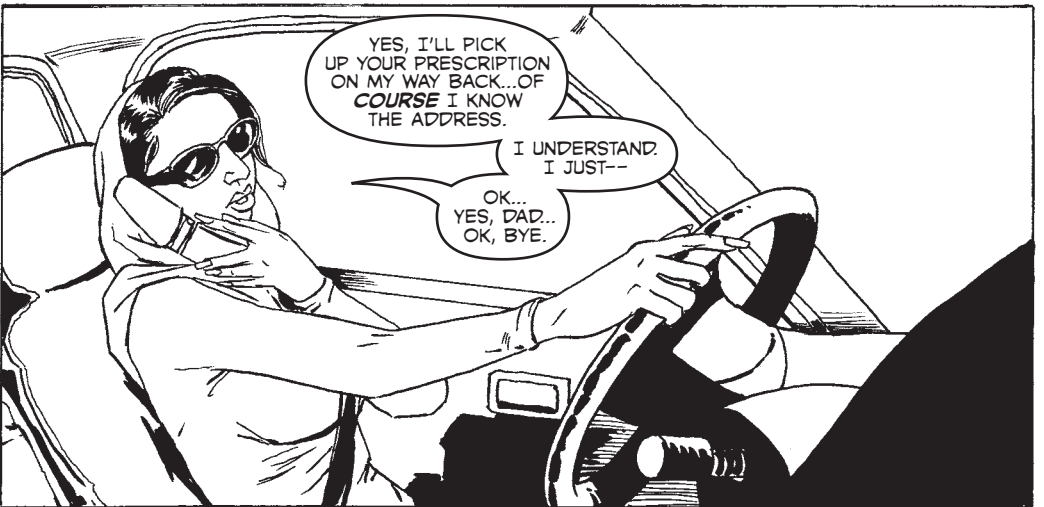
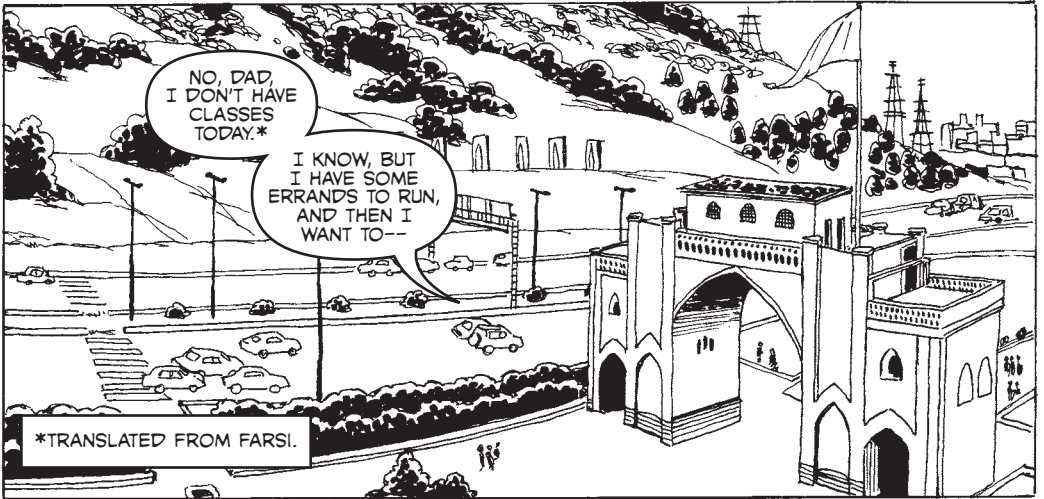
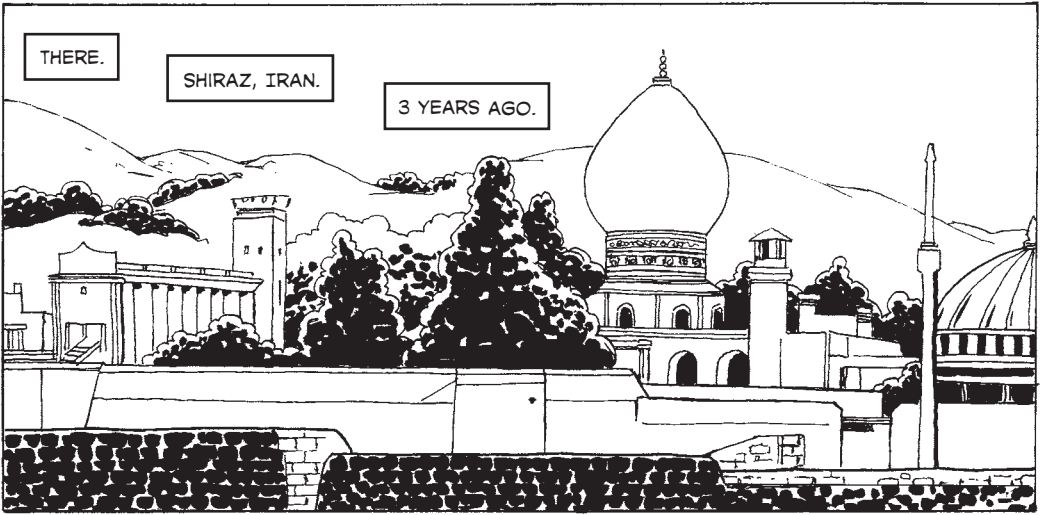
ALTHOUGH, IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE *ENJOYING* YOURSELF QUITE A BIT BACK THERE.



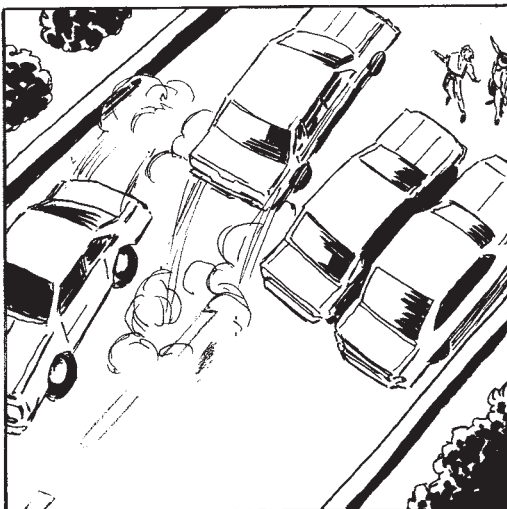
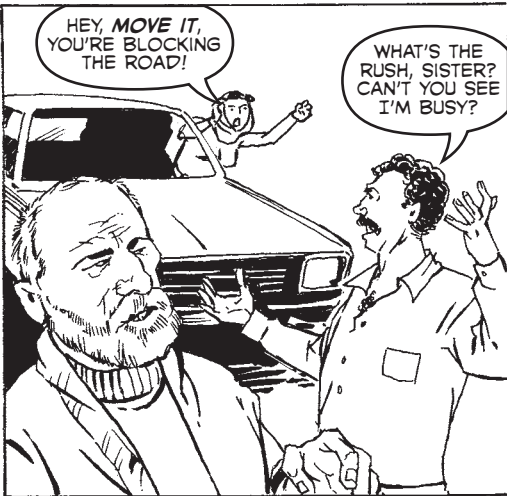
WAS I, NOW?

DON'T START WITH THAT INNOCENT ROUTINE, WOMAN.

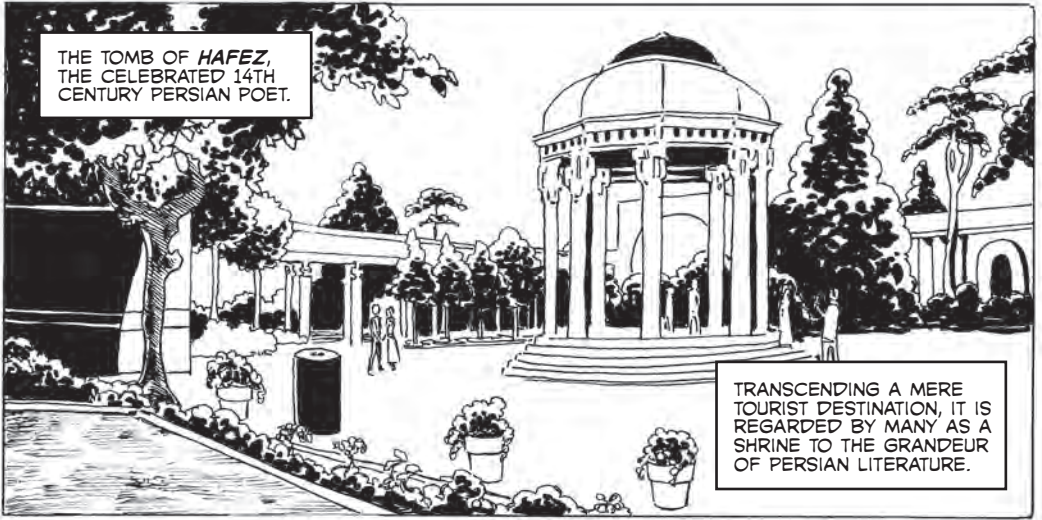
WHO, ME?







THE TOMB OF *HAFEZ*,  
THE CELEBRATED 14TH  
CENTURY PERSIAN POET.



TRANSCENDING A MERE  
TOURIST DESTINATION, IT IS  
REGARDED BY MANY AS A  
SHRINE TO THE GRANDEUR  
OF PERSIAN LITERATURE.

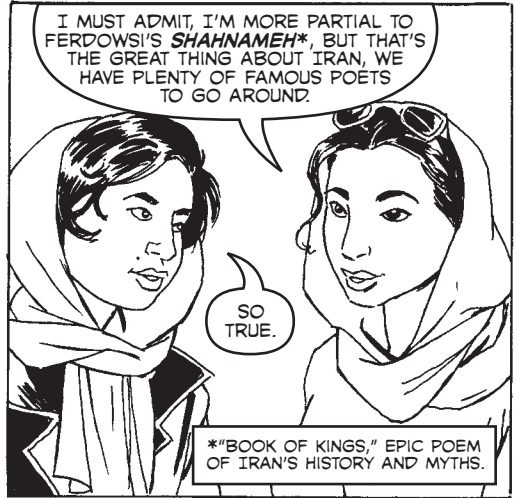
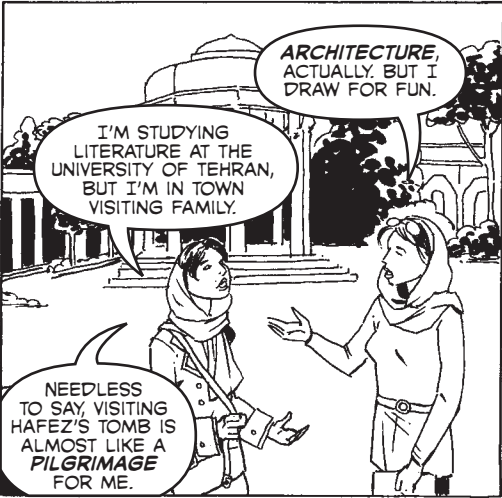
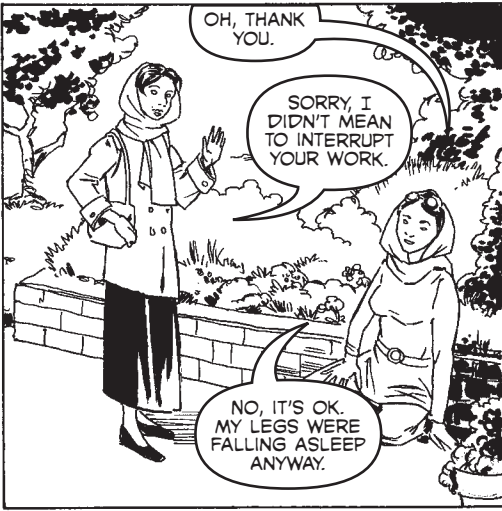


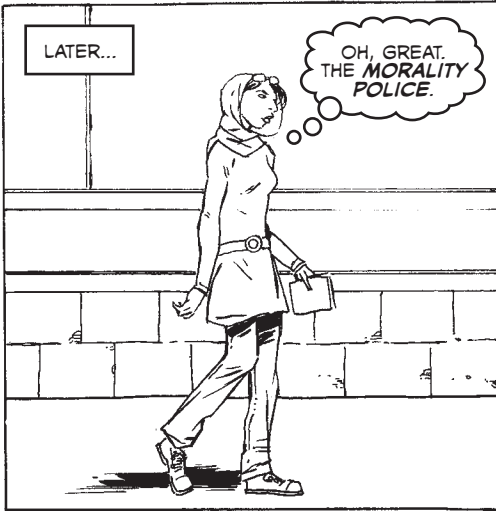
IT'S  
BEAUTIFUL.

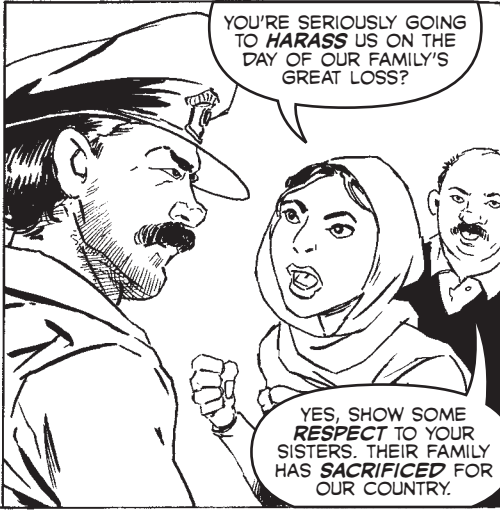
HUH?



YOUR ART,  
I MEAN. IT'S  
AMAZING.







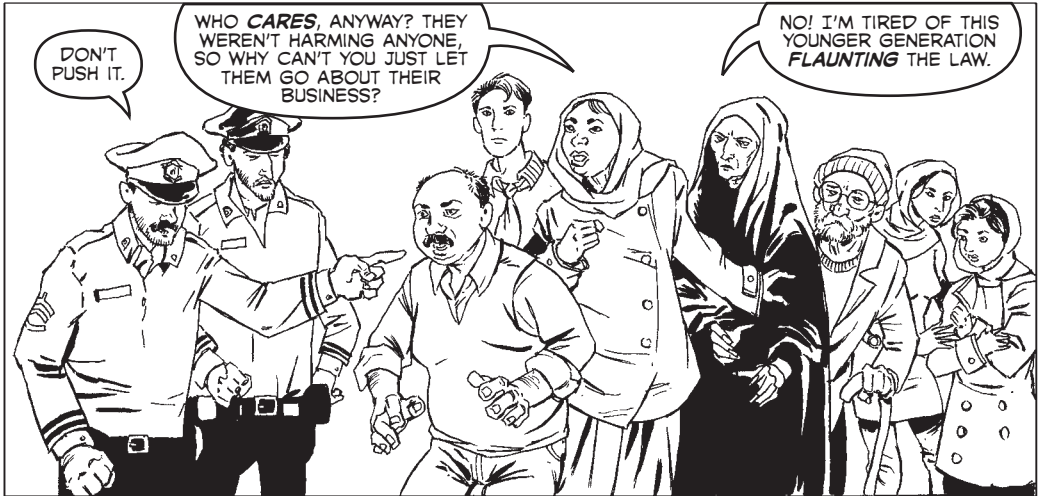
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY GOING TO **HARASS** US ON THE DAY OF OUR FAMILY'S GREAT LOSS?

YES, SHOW SOME **RESPECT** TO YOUR SISTERS. THEIR FAMILY HAS **SACRIFICED** FOR OUR COUNTRY.



LISTEN, OLD MAN, THEY'RE **LYING**. NOW MOVE ALONG, OR I'LL ARREST YOUR **FAT ASS**.

OH, SO NOW YOU **DISRESPECT** YOUR **ELDERS** TOO?



DON'T PUSH IT.

WHO **CARES**, ANYWAY? THEY WEREN'T HARMING ANYONE, SO WHY CAN'T YOU JUST LET THEM GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS?

NO! I'M TIRED OF THIS YOUNGER GENERATION **FLAUNTING** THE LAW.



LISTEN, YOU ALL NEED TO CLEAR AWAY, **NOW!**

BUT THEY WEREN'T DOING ANYTHING **WRONG!**

PEOPLE JUST WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE.

YOU SHUT UP!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A **THUG**

WHAT'S ALL THIS **COMMOTION** ABOUT?

COME ON. **QUICK.**



THAT WAS **BRILLIANT!** BUT DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD HAVE REALLY **ARRESTED** ME?

HARD TO SAY, "COUSIN." THEY WERE PROBABLY JUST FISHING FOR A **BRIBE**, BUT WHY GIVE THEM THE SATISFACTION?



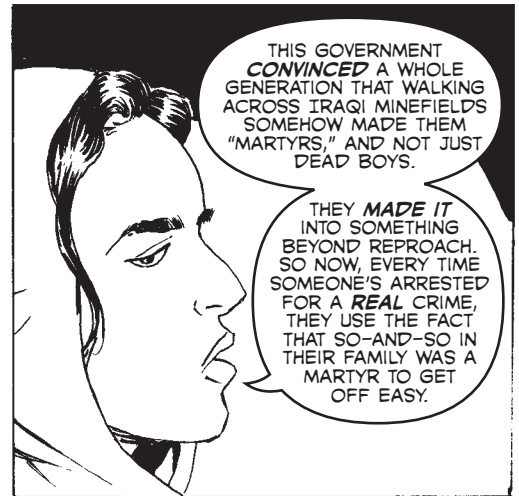
ÈPANTÈ HOP IN. I CAN DROP YOU OFF AT YOUR PLACE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH! ÈPANTÈ I APPRECIATE IT.



... I KNOW IT'S SILLY, BUT I FEEL A LITTLE **GUILTY** LYING ABOUT THE MARTYRED UNCLE THING.

DON'T.



THIS GOVERNMENT **CONVINCED** A WHOLE GENERATION THAT WALKING ACROSS IRAQI MINEFIELDS SOMEHOW MADE THEM "MARTYRS," AND NOT JUST DEAD BOYS.

THEY **MADE IT** INTO SOMETHING BEYOND REPROACH. SO NOW, EVERY TIME SOMEONE'S ARRESTED FOR A **REAL** CRIME, THEY USE THE FACT THAT SO-AND-SO IN THEIR FAMILY WAS A MARTYR TO GET OFF EASY.



A LOT OF ASSHOLES HAVE BEEN MILKING THAT PHRASE FOR DECADES.

SO I THINK IT'S OK FOR US TO DO THE SAME, IF IT MEANS NOT GOING TO JAIL FOR SHOWING TOO MUCH **HAIR**.



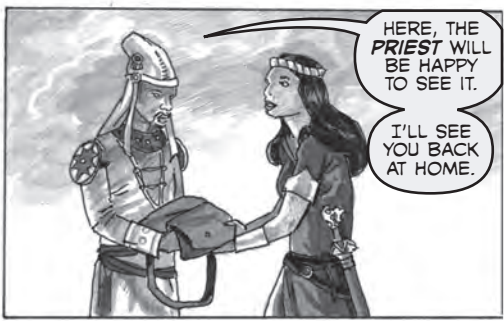
HERE.

ZOROASTRIAN FIRE TEMPLE,  
ON THE EDGE OF TOWN.

ARE YOU  
SURE YOU DON'T  
WANT TO COME  
WITH ME?



YEAH. THIS WAS  
**YOUR** SCORE, YOU  
DESERVE THE  
BOUNTY.



HERE, THE  
**PRIEST** WILL  
BE HAPPY  
TO SEE IT.

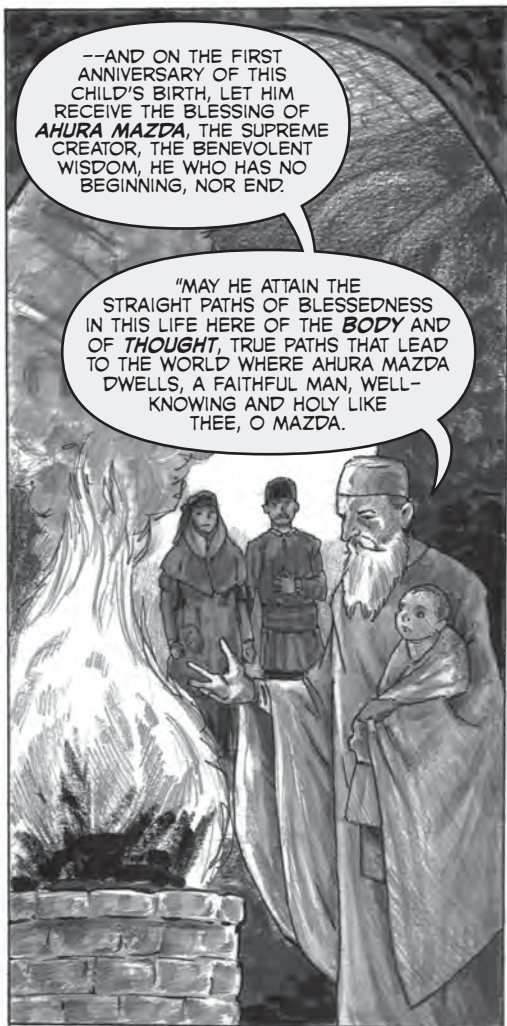
I'LL SEE  
YOU BACK  
AT HOME.



OK, KEEP  
THE BED  
WARM.



LIKE YOU  
EVEN HAVE  
TO ASK.



--AND ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THIS CHILD'S BIRTH, LET HIM RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF **AHURA MAZDA**, THE SUPREME CREATOR, THE BENEVOLENT WISDOM, HE WHO HAS NO BEGINNING, NOR END.

"MAY HE ATTAIN THE STRAIGHT PATHS OF BLESSEDNESS IN THIS LIFE HERE OF THE **BODY** AND OF **THOUGHT**, TRUE PATHS THAT LEAD TO THE WORLD WHERE AHURA MAZDA DWELLS, A FAITHFUL MAN, WELL-KNOWING AND HOLY LIKE THEE, O MAZDA.



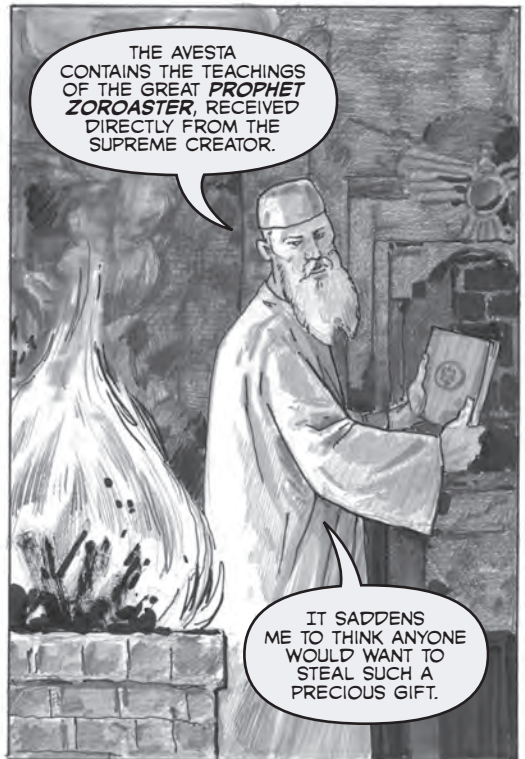
"THEN SHALL I RECOGNIZE THEE AS STRONG AND HOLY, O MAZDA, WHEN BY THE HAND IN WHICH THOU THYSELF DOST HOLD THE DESTINIES THAT THOU WILT ASSIGN TO THE **LIAR** AND THE **RIGHTEOUS**...



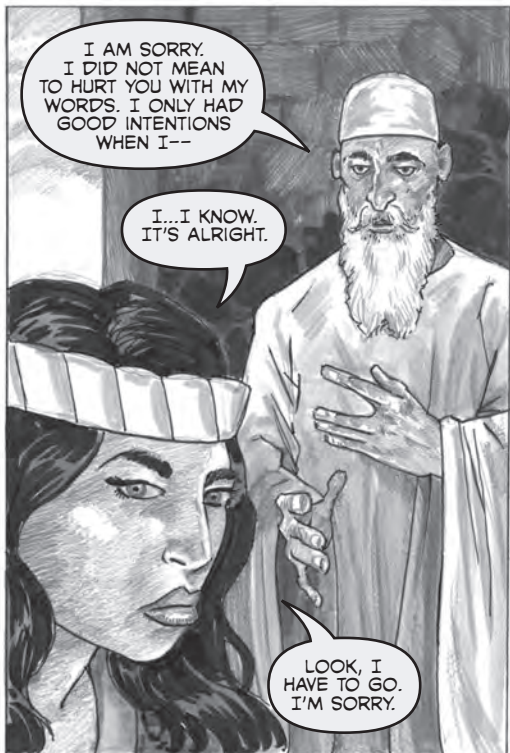
"...BY THE GLOW OF THY TRUTH-STRONG **FIRE** THE MIGHT OF **GOOD THOUGHT** SHALL COME UPON US."



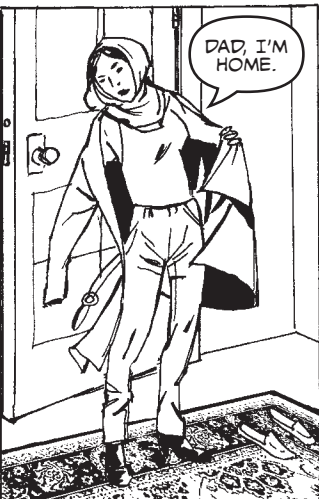
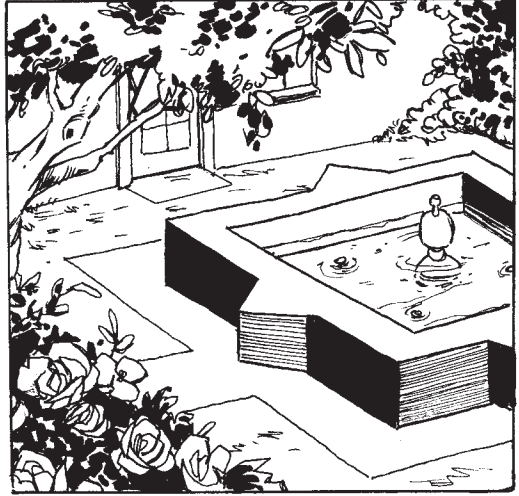
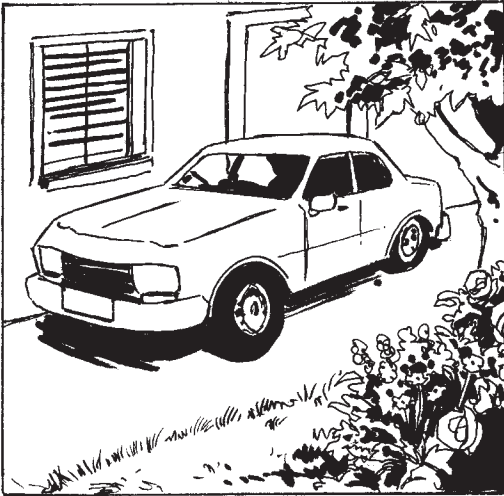
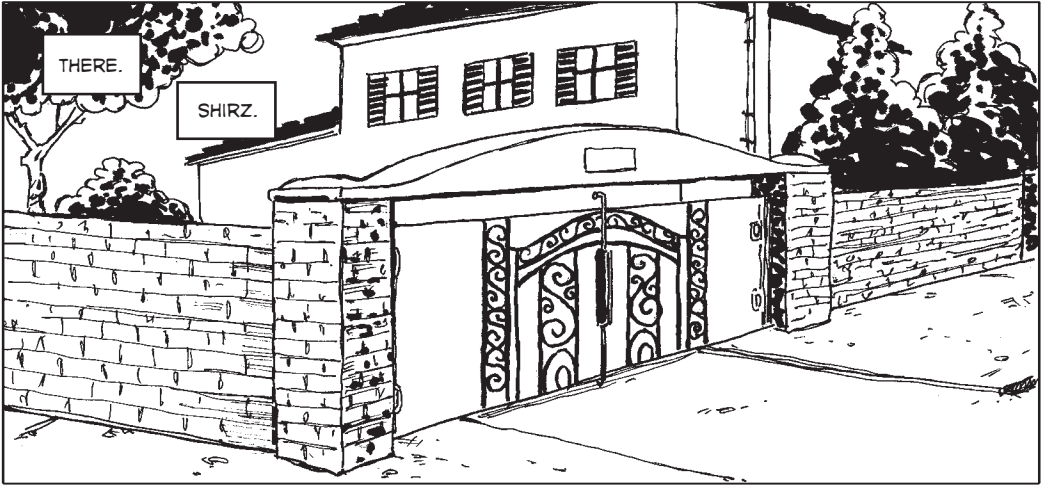


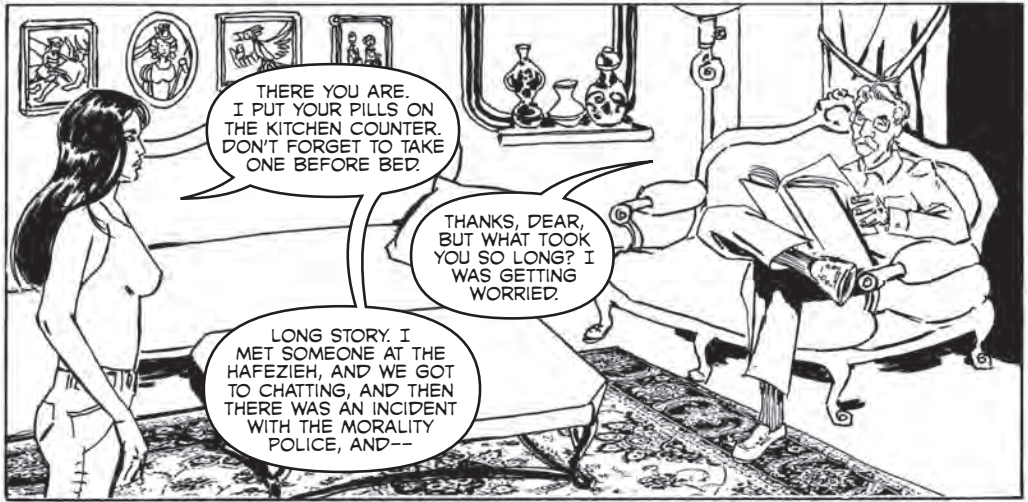












THERE YOU ARE. I PUT YOUR PILLS ON THE KITCHEN COUNTER. DON'T FORGET TO TAKE ONE BEFORE BED.

THANKS, DEAR, BUT WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? I WAS GETTING WORRIED.

LONG STORY. I MET SOMEONE AT THE HAFEZIEH, AND WE GOT TO CHATTING, AND THEN THERE WAS AN INCIDENT WITH THE MORALITY POLICE, AND--



PARDON THE INTERRUPTION, BUT I WANTED TO LET SIR KNOW THAT DINNER IS READY, AND I'LL BE LEAVING FOR THE EVENING.

MMMM, I KNEW I SMELLED *GORMEH SABZI*\*. I SWEAR, ZAINAB, I'M GOING TO GET SO FAT OFF YOUR COOKING THAT NOBODY WILL WANT TO MARRY ME.

\*SAVORY GREEN HERB STEW, SERVED OVER RICE.



OH NO, MA'AM. YOU'RE A VISION OF BEAUTY, JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER, MAY GOD REST HER SOUL.

YOU'RE TOO SWEET, ZAINAB. WE'D BE LOST WITHOUT YOU.



WELL, AT LEAST MY FATHER WOULD. I'M PRETTY SURE I STILL KNOW HOW TO USE AN OVEN AND A VACUUM CLEANER.

OH! YOU SHOULDN'T SAY SUCH THINGS ABOUT SIR. YOUR FATHER IS A LEARNED MAN.



MINOO, DON'T TEASE POOR ZAINAB. NOT EVERYONE IS CONVERSANT IN YOUR PARTICULAR BRAND OF **SARCASM**.

OH, **RELAX**, DAD. SHE KNOWS I'M KIDDING.



OH, IT'S FINE, SIR. I KNOW MA'AM HAS A LIVELY SPIRIT.

I WILL SEE YOU TOMORROW. GOOD NIGHT.

BYE ZAINAB, AND THANKS AGAIN FOR DINNER.



HONESTLY, MINOO, DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO FACETIOUS ALL THE TIME? ZAINAB'S A SIMPLE WOMAN, SHE TAKES THE THINGS YOU SAY SERIOUSLY.

**COME ON**, DAD. SHE'S KNOWN ME SINCE I WAS A **CHILD**, SHE KNOWS WHEN I'M JOKING.



**YOU'RE** THE ONE WHO ALWAYS TAKES ME TOO SERIOUSLY.

COME ON, LET'S JUST HAVE DINNER BEFORE IT GETS COLD.

HOLD ON, NOW. WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE SAYING EARLIER, ABOUT THE MORALITY POLICE?





IT WAS NOTHING. THEY WERE HARASSING A GIRL ABOUT HER HIJAB, AND I HELPED HER GIVE THEM THE SLIP

NOTHING, HUH? YOU GOT INVOLVED WITH THOSE GOONS OVER SOMEONE YOU **DON'T EVEN KNOW?** ARE YOU CRAZY?

LOOK, I SAW A WOMAN BEING **BULLIED**, AND DECIDED TO HELP HER. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

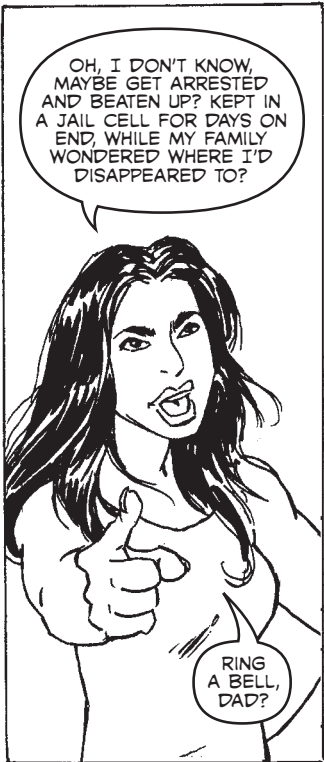


I MEAN, ISN'T THAT WHAT **YOU'VE** TAUGHT ME ALL MY LIFE? TO STAND UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT, TO HELP OTHERS WHEN I CAN?



YES, OF COURSE, BUT...BUT THIS IS **DIFFERENT**. YOU'RE A YOUNG WOMAN, AND THESE GUYS ARE THUGS WITH GUNS AND A CHIP ON THEIR SHOULDER.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THEY **CAUGHT** YOU?



OH, I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE GET ARRESTED AND BEATEN UP? KEPT IN A JAIL CELL FOR DAYS ON END, WHILE MY FAMILY WONDERED WHERE I'D DISAPPEARED TO?

RING A BELL, **DAD?**

