



# Tapestries of the Heart

by Nooshie Motaref

## PRESS RELEASE

*Authentic and powerful novel explores the ever-changing effects of religion and politics in Iranian society, told through the lives of four generations of Persian women, inspired by the author's personal experiences.*

**'A Persian woman had overcome all odds to leave her country behind. She was flying out of an oppressive dictatorship and into a free world. The 'Fasten Seat Belts' sign disappeared with a ding just as Baba's voice resounded in her ears: "Whatever we do, that is our fate and destiny!"**

A nine-year-old girl attracts the attention of a court eunuch, who wants to induct her into the king's harem. Despite the girl's tender years, most Iranian families would be thrilled to send their daughters to become

concubines of the king, but young Zahra's devoted mother refuses outright.

In a future generation, Mitra leaves her homeland to study in the United States, returning to Iran with the aim of sharing the new knowledge and western ideas she has acquired and now values. However, when she returns, she realises that Iran has actually regressed and that the government is enforcing a law that requires women to cover their heads. Mitra refuses to abide by this new dictate, and leaves Iran for good.

In her moving novel **Tapestries of the Heart**, Nooshie Motaref draws upon her own family's history as she artfully weaves the stories of four different generations of Iranian women between 1896-1996. Through the eyes of Mitra, her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Motaref explores Iran's treatment of women as third class citizens, subjected to the iron will of a religious, patriarchal society. In Zahra's nineteenth century era, women had to abide by the strict Muslim rules. As the Pahlvai dynasty began to take root, Iranian society began to modernise, a movement which would have the greatest impact on the quality of life that women experienced - and the freedom's they could now enjoy.

Motaref believes that many novels set in Iran do not realistically portray every-day Iranian culture and tradition, often are focusing on wealthy or royal families. **Tapestries of the Heart** is written for Western readers, partly to educate them on the Middle East and the Islamic faith, from the female perspective Nooshie Motaref, reminds readers that women have always lived, loved and suffered for what they believe in and that such women, regardless of victimisation or persecution have continued to fight, even when the odds have been completely stacked against them.

**About the author:** Nooshie Motaref grew up in Iran and received both her Master's and Doctorate degrees in American Literature from Florida State University. She lectures on humanities, literature and critical thinking and is certified by the Conflict Resolution Program Act to promote peacemaking efforts around the world. She currently lives in Oro Valley, Arizona. **Tapestries of the Heart** by Nooshie Motaref (published by Clink Street Publishing RRP £8.99 paperback, RRP£4.99 ebook) is available online at retailers including [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) and can be ordered from all good bookstores.

*For a review copy or interview request please contact:*

*Kate Appleton, Marketing & Publicity Executive at Authoright / 020 7993 4438 / [kate@authoright.com](mailto:kate@authoright.com)*