

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

# Funny in Farsi

A MEMOIR OF GROWING UP  
IRANIAN IN AMERICA



**FIROOZEH DUMAS**

Author of *Laughing Without an Accent*

# Funny In Farsi A Memoir Of Growing Up Iranian In America

**Michael Kearney**



## **Funny In Farsi A Memoir Of Growing Up Iranian In America:**

Funny in Farsi Firoozeh Dumas, 2004-01-13 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Finalist for the PEN USA Award in Creative Nonfiction the Thurber Prize for American Humor and the Audie Award in Biography Memoir This Random House Reader's Circle edition includes a reading group guide and a conversation between Firoozeh Dumas and Khaled Hosseini author of *The Kite Runner* Remarkable told with wry humor shorn of sentimentality In the end what sticks with the reader is an exuberant immigrant embrace of America San Francisco Chronicle In 1972 when she was seven Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here More family soon followed and the clan has been here ever since *Funny in Farsi* chronicles the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family her engineer father a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on Bowling for Dollars and in Las Vegas and later lost his job during the Iranian revolution her elegant mother who never fully mastered English nor cared to her uncle who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight loss gadgets and Firoozeh herself who as a girl changed her name to Julie and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman becoming part of a one couple melting pot In a series of deftly drawn scenes we watch the family grapple with American English hot dogs and hush puppies a complete mystery American traditions Thanksgiving turkey an even greater mystery since it tastes like nothing and American culture Firoozeh's parents laugh uproariously at Bob Hope on television although they don't get the jokes even when she translates them into Farsi Above all this is an unforgettable story of identity discovery and the power of family love It is a book that will leave us all laughing without an accent Praise for *Funny in Farsi* Heartfelt and hilarious in any language Glamour A joyful success Newsday What's charming beyond the humor of this memoir is that it remains affectionate even in the weakest most tenuous moments for the culture It's the brilliance of true sophistication at work Los Angeles Times Book Review Often hilarious always interesting Like the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* this book describes with humor the intersection and overlapping of two cultures The Providence Journal A humorous and introspective chronicle of a life filled with love of family country and heritage Jimmy Carter Delightfully refreshing Milwaukee Journal Sentinel *Funny in Farsi* brings us closer to discovering what it means to be an American San Jose Mercury News

**Funny in Farsi** Firoozeh Dumas, 2011-04-01 **Laughing Without an Accent** Firoozeh Dumas, 2008 In the bestselling memoir *Funny in Farsi* Firoozeh Dumas recounted her adventures growing up Iranian American in Southern California Now she again mines her rich Persian heritage in *Laughing Without an Accent* sharing stories both tender and humorous on being a citizen of the world on her well meaning family and on amusing cultural conundrums all told with insights into the universality of the human condition Hint It may have to do with brushing and flossing daily With dry wit and a bold spirit Dumas puts her own unique mark on the themes of family community and tradition She braves the uncommon palate of her French born husband

and learns the nuances of having her book translated for Persian audiences the censors edit out all references to ham And along the way she reconciles her beloved Iranian customs with her Western ideals Explaining crossover cultural food fare Dumas says The weirdest American culinary marriage is yams with melted marshmallows I don't know who thought of this Thanksgiving tradition but I'm guessing a hyperactive toothless three year old On Iranian wedding anniversaries It just initially seemed odd to celebrate the day that our families decided we should marry even though I had never met you and frankly it's not working out so well On trying to fit in with her American peers At the time my father drove a Buick LeSabre a fancy French word meaning OPEC thanks you Dumas also documents her first year as a new mother the familial chaos that ensues after she removes the television set from the house the experience of taking fifty one family members on a birthday cruise to Alaska and a road trip to Iowa with an American once held hostage in Iran Droll moving and relevant Laughing Without an Accent shows how our differences can unite us and provides indelible proof that Firoozeh Dumas is a humorist of the highest order From the Hardcover edition

**Funny in Farsi** Firoozeh Dumas, 2007-12-18 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Finalist for the PEN USA Award in Creative Nonfiction the Thurber Prize for American Humor and the Audie Award in Biography Memoir This Random House Reader's Circle edition includes a reading group guide and a conversation between Firoozeh Dumas and Khaled Hosseini author of The Kite Runner Remarkable told with wry humor shorn of sentimentality In the end what sticks with the reader is an exuberant immigrant embrace of America San Francisco Chronicle In 1972 when she was seven Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here More family soon followed and the clan has been here ever since Funny in Farsi chronicles the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family her engineer father a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on Bowling for Dollars and in Las Vegas and later lost his job during the Iranian revolution her elegant mother who never fully mastered English nor cared to her uncle who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight loss gadgets and Firoozeh herself who as a girl changed her name to Julie and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman becoming part of a one couple melting pot In a series of deftly drawn scenes we watch the family grapple with American English hot dogs and hush puppies a complete mystery American traditions Thanksgiving turkey an even greater mystery since it tastes like nothing and American culture Firoozeh's parents laugh uproariously at Bob Hope on television although they don't get the jokes even when she translates them into Farsi Above all this is an unforgettable story of identity discovery and the power of family love It is a book that will leave us all laughing without an accent Praise for Funny in Farsi Heartfelt and hilarious in any language Glamour A joyful success Newsday What's charming beyond the humor of this memoir is that it remains affectionate even in the weakest most tenuous moments for the culture It's the brilliance of true sophistication at work Los Angeles Times Book Review Often hilarious always interesting Like the movie My

Big Fat Greek Wedding this book describes with humor the intersection and overlapping of two cultures The Providence Journal A humorous and introspective chronicle of a life filled with love of family country and heritage Jimmy Carter Delightfully refreshing Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Funny in Farsi brings us closer to discovering what it means to be an American San Jose Mercury News *Laughing Without an Accent* Firoozeh Dumas, 2009-08-11 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER There s such warmth to Dumas writing that it invites the reader to pull up a seat at her table and smile right along with her at the quirks of her family and Iranians and Americans in general Booklist In the New York Times bestselling memoir Funny in Farsi Firoozeh Dumas recounted her adventures growing up Iranian American in Southern California Now she again mines her rich Persian heritage in *Laughing Without an Accent* sharing stories both tender and humorous on being a citizen of the world on her well meaning family and on amusing cultural conundrums all told with insights into the universality of the human condition Hint It may have to do with brushing and flossing daily With dry wit and a bold spirit Dumas puts her own unique mark on the themes of family community and tradition She braves the uncommon palate of her French born husband and learns the nuances of having her book translated for Persian audiences the censors edit out all references to ham And along the way she reconciles her beloved Iranian customs with her Western ideals Explaining crossover cultural food fare Dumas says The weirdest American culinary marriage is yams with melted marshmallows I don t know who thought of this Thanksgiving tradition but I m guessing a hyperactive toothless three year old On Iranian wedding anniversaries It just initially seemed odd to celebrate the day that our families decided we should marry even though I had never met you and frankly it s not working out so well On trying to fit in with her American peers At the time my father drove a Buick LeSabre a fancy French word meaning OPEC thanks you Dumas also documents her first year as a new mother the familial chaos that ensues after she removes the television set from the house the experience of taking fifty one family members on a birthday cruise to Alaska and a road trip to Iowa with an American once held hostage in Iran Droll moving and relevant *Laughing Without an Accent* shows how our differences can unite us and provides indelible proof that Firoozeh Dumas is a humorist of the highest order Praise for *Laughing Without an Accent* Dumas is one of those rare people a naturally gifted storyteller Alexander McCall Smith *Laughing Without an Accent* is written as if Dumas were sharing a cup of coffee with her reader as she relates her comic tales Firoozeh Dumas exudes undeniable charm as she reveals a zeal for culture both new and old and the enduring bonds of a family filled with outsize personalities San Francisco Chronicle Dumas is like a blend of Anne Lamott and Erma Bombeck Bust Humorous without being sentimental Dumas speaks to the American experience The Plain Dealer *Iranian Diaspora Literature of Women* Leila Samadi Rendy, 2020-08-10 No detailed description available for Iranian Diaspora Literature of Women **Not Light, but Fire** Matthew Kay, 2023-10-10 Do you feel prepared to initiate and facilitate meaningful productive dialogues about race in your classroom Are you looking for practical strategies to engage with your students Inspired by Frederick Douglass s abolitionist call to action it is not light that is

needed but first Matthew Kay has spent his career learning how to lead students through the most difficult race conversations. Kay not only makes the case that high school classrooms are one of the best places to have those conversations but he also offers a method for getting them right providing candid guidance on how to recognize the difference between meaningful and inconsequential race conversations how to build conversational safe spaces not merely declare them how to infuse race conversations with urgency and purpose how to thrive in the face of unexpected challenges how administrators might equip teachers to thoughtfully engage in these conversations. With the right blend of reflection and humility Kay asserts teachers can make school one of the best venues for young people to discuss race. Inside the Islamic Republic Mahmood

Monshipouri, 2016 Goes beyond the media stereotype of fashionable parties in North Tehran to examine the quotidian realities of how society has evolved in Iran since the 1979 revolution. Representing Post-Revolutionary Iran Hossein Nazari, 2022-06-30 Memoirs of diasporic Iranian American authors are a unique and culturally powerful way in which Iran its politics and people are understood in the USA and the rest of the world. This book offers an analysis of the processes of production promotion and reception of the representations of post revolutionary Iran. The book provides new perspectives on some of the most famous examples of the genre such as Betty Mahmoudy's Not Without My Daughter Azar Nafisi's Reading Lolita in Tehran A Memoir in Books and Fatemeh Keshavarz's Jasmine and Stars Reading More Than Lolita in Tehran. Hossein Nazari places these texts in their social historical and political contexts tracing their origins within the trope of the American captivity narrative teasing out and critiquing neo Orientalist tendencies within and finally focusing on modes of discursive resistance to neo Orientalist narratives. The book analyzes the structural means by which stereotypes about Islam and women in the Islamic Republic in these narratives are privileged by news media and the creative industries while also charting a growing number of counterhegemonic memoirs which challenge these narratives by representing more nuanced accounts of life in Iran after 1979. **Iran's Religious Leaders** Paul M. Shapera, 2009-08-15 Following the Iranian

Revolution in 1979 Iran's conservative Muslim religious leaders assumed all positions of power in the new regime. This timely and thorough book discusses Iran's ruling clerics and their immense influence in both Iranian public and private spheres.

*Dramatizing 17th Century Family History of Deacon Stephen Hart & Other Early New England Settlers* Anne Hart, 2005-02 Here is a step by step guide to writing historical skits plays or monologues for all ages from true life stories genealogy records oral history DNA driven anthropology social issues current events and personal history of early colonial era settlers. Put direct experience in a small package and launch it worldwide. You could emphasize the early New England 17th century settlers and their diaries of family life food clothing marriage spirituality customs or significant life events migrations work lifestyle or turning points. Write your life story or your ancestor's or favorite historical person in short vignettes of 1 500 to 1 800 words. Write a longer novel or a short play for school audiences. Write a children's book with illustrations. Write a skit a monologue or a play based on genealogy family history or significant events. You can focus on

relations between families or early settlers and Native American tribes or on personal family history marriages and inter family issues [Tracing Your Baltic, Scandinavian, Eastern European, & Middle Eastern Ancestry Online](#) Anne Hart,2005-06-06 Are you online and ready for global smart card and database genealogy for virtual travelers Here s how to search family history for nations bordering the Baltic Sea the Balkans countries Scandinavia Eastern Europe and the Middle East The nations listed in this guide all faiths include Finland Sweden Norway Denmark Iceland Estonia Latvia Lithuania Poland Armenia Assyria Greece Lebanon Syria and many other lands in the Middle East the Balkans Croatia Macedonia Bulgaria Eastern Europe Hungary and more Collecting details about people is moving toward smart card technology and its offspring The new wave in genealogy is authentication technology Authentication begins with new wave technology used to gather population registers Compare the new technology to the old method of door to door census taking tombstone tracings and city directory publishing No genealogists are not using smart cards this year but smart card technology is being used to compile population registers in Europe The future holds a new wave of technology used for authentication for banking transactions being applied to other areas Currently this technology is used for collecting details for population registrars such as census taking The application for research is of interest to family historians librarians and governments It s already in use by private industry for electronic authentication Family history is now about intelligent connections whether it s a population registrar census detail or electronic identity for banking Smart card genealogy began in 1998 in Finland with governments seeking to put census and population registers in an electronic form that would be available to researchers and these applications are going global **Words, Not Swords** Farzaneh Milani,2011-05-16 A woman not only needs a room of her own as Virginia Woolf wrote but also the freedom to leave it and return to it at will for a room without that right becomes a prison cell The privilege of self directed movement the power to pick up and go as one pleases has not been a traditional right of Iranian women This prerogative has been denied them in the name of piety anatomy chastity class safety and even beauty It is only during the last 160 years that the spell has been broken and Iranian women have emerged as a moderating modernizing force Women writers have been at the forefront of this desegregating movement and renegotiation of boundaries Words Not Swords explores the legacy of sex segregation and its manifestations in Iranian literature and film and in notions of beauty and the erotics of passivity Milani expands her argument beyond Iranian culture arguing that freedom of movement is a theme that crosses frontiers and dissolves conventional distinctions of geography history and religion She makes bold connections between veiling and foot binding between Cinderella and Barbie between the figures of the female Gypsy and the witch In so doing she challenges cultural hierarchies that divert attention from key issues in the control of women across the globe [How to Publish in Women's Studies, Men's Studies, Policy Analysis, & Family History Research](#) Anne Hart,2007-04-16 Apply these strategies How to Publish in Women s Studies Policy Analysis Family Issues How to Earn a Practical Living Applying Women s Studies Family Research to Business Writing or Corporate Communications Training

Organizing Designing Publishing Life Stories Issues in the News Current Events and History Videos Board Computer Games Scripts Plays and Books How do you start your own Women s Studies policy analysis writing and communications business How do you earn income using practical applications of Publishing Producing Women s Studies Current Events or Family History Issues Research and Writing in the corporate world How do you train executives to better organize writing and interpersonal communications skills What specific projects would you use to organize communications publish your research or train others Use these vital platforms of social history to start 25 business and creative writing or publishing enterprises Apply practical communications Organize and improve communication and publishing projects in the corporate world or academia Open 25 different types of writing publishing or production businesses Train executives and entrepreneurs in how women s and men s studies family history and current issues in the news relate to business writing creative concepts producing multimedia and training others in interpersonal communications or policy analysis     Teaching the Literature of Today's Middle East Allen Webb,2012-03-15 Providing a gateway into the real literature emerging from the Middle East this book shows teachers how to make the topic authentic powerful and relevant Teaching the Literature of Today s Middle East Introduces teachers to this literature and how to teach it Brings to the reader a tremendous diversity of teachable texts and materials by Middle Eastern writers Takes a thematic approach that allows students to understand and engage with the region and address key issues Includes stories from the author s own classroom and shares student insight and reactions Utilizes contemporary teaching methods including cultural studies literary circles blogs YouTube class speakers and film analysis Directly and powerfully models how to address controversial issues in the region Written in an open personal and engaging style theoretically informed and academically smart highly relevant across the field of literacy education this text offers teachers and teacher educators a much needed resource for helping students to think deeply and critically about the politics and culture of the Middle East through literary engagements     100 Years of the American Dream Michael Kearney,2022-09-26 This collection offers examinations of the concept of the American Dream across a broad and diverse range of works The analytical methods utilized by the authors who are all clearly extremely knowledgeable experts in their fields are as unique as the content they examine is varied Each chapter offers innovative insights which while founded on literary critique transcend the field of literature and touch upon issues related to economics education gender immigration psychology race and religion to name but a few     **In Defense of Read-Aloud** Steven Layne,2023-10-10 As accountability measures for schools and teachers continue to grow instructional practice is under the microscope The practice of reading aloud to children may be viewed by some educators as an extra bit of fluff used solely for the purposes of enjoyment or filling a few spare minutes but researchers and practitioners stand in solidarity the practice of reading aloud throughout the grades is not only viable but also best practice In Defense of Read Aloud Sustaining Best Practices author Steven Layne reinforces readers confidence to continue the practice of reading aloud and presents the research base to defend the practice in grades

K12 Layne also offers significant practical insights to strengthen instructional practice answering the questions of Why should we and How should we and provides practical advice about how to use read alouds most effectively Leading researchers in the field of literacy provide position statements authors of professional books share insights on books they have loved leaders of the largest literacy organizations in the United States write about their favorite read alouds award winning authors of children s and young adult book Katherine Paterson Andrew Clements Lois Lowry to name a few share the powerful behind the scenes stories of their greatest books and real classroom teachers and librarians speak about books that have lit up their classrooms and libraries around the world Last but not least In Defense of Read Aloud features many great recommendations of books to share with children Read aloud is an essential practice in teaching literacy in grades K 12 In this book Steven Layne has provided everything needed to support sustain and celebrate the power of read aloud *My Life as a Traitor* Zarah Ghahramani,2009-01-06 At the age of twenty an Iranian student named Zarah Ghahramani was swept off the streets of Tehran and taken to the notorious Evin prison where criminals and political dissidents were held side by side in conditions of legendary brutality Her crime she asserts was in wanting to slide back her headscarf to feel the sun on a few inches of her hair That modest desire led her to a political activism fueled by the fearless idealism of the young Her parents begged her to be prudent but even they could not have imagined the horrors she faced in prison She underwent psychological and physical torture hanging on to sanity by scratching messages to fellow prisoners on the latrine door She fought despair by recalling her idyllic childhood in a sprawling and affectionate family that prized tolerance and freedom of thought After a show trial Ghahramani was driven deep into the desert outside Tehran uncertain if she was to be executed or freed There she was abandoned to begin the long walk back to reclaim herself In prose of astonishing dignity and force Ghahramani recounts the ways in which power seduces and deforms A richly textured memoir that celebrates a triumph of the individual over the state *My Life as a Traitor* is an affecting addition to the literature of struggle and dissent

Contemporary Middle East Adel Abdel Ghafar,Brenton Clark,Jessie Moritz,2014-06-16 This lucid and timely volume sheds a sober and thought provoking light on the immense social and political changes that have taken place in the Middle East and North Africa over recent years A range of emerging scholars and established academics at the cutting edge of their fields provide interpretations challenging conventional assumptions relating to governance social placidity the use of social media state driven reform and the role of traditionally marginalised groups in these strategically vital regions This volume offers a strong response to the often misinformed and underdeveloped mainstream conceptions of revolutionary change and reform in the Middle East and North Africa Seeking to recast and re evaluate the paradigms used to interpret change in the Arab Persian and Turkish worlds the chapters in this volume will spark debate and provide much needed clarity to the current issues rocking the Middle East and North Africa Islamic Studies Series Volume 17 **American Borders** Paula Barba Guerrero,Mónica Fernández Jiménez,2023-11-15 *American Borders* Inclusion and Exclusion in US Culture provides an

overview of American culture produced in a range of contexts from the founding of the nation to the age of globalization and neoliberalism in order to understand the diverse literary landscapes of the United States from a twenty first century perspective The authors confront American exceptionalism discourses on freedom and democracy and US foundational narratives by reassessing the literary canon and exploring ethnic literature culture and film with a focus on identity and exclusion Their contributions envision different manifestations of conviviality and estrangement and deconstruct neoliberal slogans analyzing hospitable inclusion in relation to national history and ideologies By looking at representations of foreignness and conditional belonging in literature and film from different ethnic traditions the volume fleshes out a new border dialectic that conveys the heterogeneity of American boundaries beyond the opposition inside outside

## Whispering the Secrets of Language: An Emotional Journey through **Funny In Farsi A Memoir Of Growing Up Iranian In America**

In a digitally-driven world where screens reign supreme and immediate communication drowns out the subtleties of language, the profound secrets and emotional subtleties concealed within phrases frequently get unheard. However, nestled within the pages of **Funny In Farsi A Memoir Of Growing Up Iranian In America** a interesting fictional treasure pulsing with fresh feelings, lies an extraordinary quest waiting to be undertaken. Written by a skilled wordsmith, this marvelous opus attracts viewers on an introspective trip, lightly unraveling the veiled truths and profound affect resonating within the cloth of each word. Within the mental depths of this poignant review, we can embark upon a honest exploration of the book is primary styles, dissect its captivating writing style, and fail to the strong resonance it evokes serious within the recesses of readers hearts.

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### **Funny In Farsi A Memoir Of Growing Up Iranian In America Introduction**

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