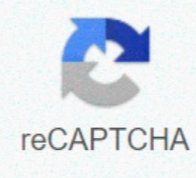




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What happened to marij's mom at the end of persepolis

"Ah, there's nothing like Iranian tea!" Oh yes, especially with a cigarette. Do you want one?" "Mom!!!"
"Wharf? You know the proverb: 'prosperity consists of two things: tea after a meal, and a cigarette after tea.'" It was the first time that my mother had spoken to me in this tone; in her eyes now, I had become an adult. The Veil: In 1979 a Revolution took place which was later called the "Islamic Revolution". Then in 1980 it became mandatory to wear the veil at school. Marjane (narrator) wasn't very fond of wearing the veil. In 1980 all Bilingual school were closed down because they were a symbol of capitalism. At the age of six Marjane was sure she wanted to be a prophet because of three main reasons, which were that her maid didn't eat with her, her father had a Cadillac(she wanted everybody to have a car), and because her grandmother's knees always ached (she did not want old people to suffer.) Every Night Marjane would have a big discussion with god. One day at school when the teacher asked her what she wanted to be she said a prophet. The teacher thought she was disturbed and called her parents. But when her parents asked her what she wanted to be she said a Doctor. She felt guilty towards god. At night she told god that she still wanted to be a prophet she just didn't want her parents to know.The Bicycle:The Cultural Revolution failed. Marjane received books about the Revolution to enlighten her on what was happening. These books taught her about the children of Palestine, Fidel Castro(Cuban Dictator) and the Revolutionaries of her country. God came to Marjane and asked her if she still wanted to be a prophet. When he asked, she tried to change the subject to avoid having to answer. That night, the Rex Cinema burned down. Police were there, not allowing people to go in and rescue those who were trapped and they attacked the people who tried to enter. The BBC(British Broadcasting Corporation) said there were four-hundred victims in the burning. The Shah tried to make the people believe that the massacre was planned by a group of religious fanatics, but the people knew that the Shah was responsible. Marjane heard of a demonstration that was supposed to take place the next day and she wanted to go. She claimed she was "sick and tired of doing it in the garden." Marjane also said "for a revolution to succeed the entire population must support it", but her parents did not allow her to participate in the demonstration. The Water Cell:Marjane and her parents were among the many people who demonstrated against the king.Things started to degenerate. The army shot at them and they threw stones at the army. After marching and throwing stones all day Marjane's parents would return home with aches all over their bodies. Marjane loved the king because she believed that the king was chosen by god but her father told her otherwise. The truth is that 50 years ago the father of the Shah, who was a soldier, organized a putsch to overthrow the emperor and install a republic. At that time the republican ideal was popular in the region but everybody interpreted it in his own way. Gandhi from India believed the Hindus and the Muslims must make peace to overthrow the British. Ataturk from Turkey believed the Turks are secular westerners. So the father of the Shah wanted to do the same. But he was not as smart as Gandhi, who was a lawyer, nor was he a leader of men like Ataturk, who was a general. He was an illiterate low ranking officer. He became king by aid of a very influential british man, and the Shah's son obtained his father's power. The emperor that was overthrown by the father of the Shah was Marjane's grandfather. He was then made Prime Minister. He had studied in Europe, he was a very cultivated man. He had even read Marx. Once he was sidetracked from his princely destiny, he began to meet intellectuals. He soon became a Communist. He was often sent to prison, and sometimes they put him in a cell filled with water for hours. Prison destroyed his health. Persepolis: This chapter starts off with Marjane coming home from school, figuring out that her grandma was home in their guest room. Marjane, who was still curious about her grandpa, asked grandma questions about her life without him. Grandma, at first, tried to avoid the question, but she finally gave in. "I lived in poverty." Grandma's life without grandpa was hard. She was so poor that she only had steal bread to feed her family. She even pretended to cook by boiling water to fool the neighbors. Grandma learned how to sew in order to make clothes for her family. Marjane looked at Grandma's family picture and did not see Grandpa because he was in jail at the time of the photo. Grandma goes on with her story and states that the current Shah is ten times worse then his father and the current kept none of his promises, which was that he would make Iran the most modern country of all time and that the people will regain their splendor. He spent all of the country's money on celebrations to impress heads of state, but the population did not need these celebrations. Grandma was about to explain her reason why she liked the revolt against the Shah, but Marjane interrupted and said she was hungry. Marjane was upset because Grandma would not talk about Grandpa. When they reach the kitchen, they see that Marjane's mother looks very worried. She was afraid that her husband has been arrested because he illegally takes pictures of the demonstrations. They went to a table and waited for hours for his return. There was dead silence. Marjane starts to think that her father had been shot at the demonstration. In the thick of the silence, you hear, "Hello, I'm Home!" Marjane's father has returned and he starts to give his explanation for the reason he was late. He went to the Rex Hospital with his camera and he seen people who were demonstrating come out the hospital carry the dead body of a young man, who was shot by the army. He was honored like a Martyr (Hero). After that, he seen an old man, carried out on a stretcher, put into the ambulance. The demonstrators went to him to go honor him. The widow of the old man was yelling stop at the demonstrators. It turns out that the old man died of cancer. The demonstrators did not care. One of them told the widow that he is her own anyway, so do not worry, do not do worry. Father finished his story by telling everyone that even the widow joined in the protest chanting "The King is A Killer!" Everyone is laughing except for Marjane because she does not understand the joke, but she decides to follow in the laughter. When she laughs, the room goes silent and all eyes are on her. Marjane goes into her room and starts to read "The Reasons For The Revolution." When Marjane does not understand anything she reads books. The Letter:Marjane favorite author was Ali Ashraf Darvishan. He told stories of how children had to work at young ages. For example Reza became a porter at age 10, Lella wove carpets at age five, and Hassan cleaned car windows at age of three. While reading these stories she finally understood the same reason for her shame and for the revolution it was the difference between social classes. Marjane had a maid named Mehri. She came at the age of eight to work for Marjane family. Mehri worked for Marjane 's because Mehri's parents had 14 or 15 kids including her. Mehri would be better fed at Marjane's house. Marjane and Mehri got along well. In 1978, (beginning of the revolution) she fell in love with the neighbor son at the age 16. Every night they looked at each other from the window of Marjane room, until the day he slipped her a letter. Due to the fact that Mehri was illiterate, Marjane wrote the letters for Mehri. One each week for six months. Mehri had younger sister that worked at Marjane uncle's house. Her sister was very envious of the fact that Marjane had a fiance (the boy from the window) so she told Mehri to stop writing to Marjane's uncle, and the news spread to Marjane's father. Eby(Marjane's father) went to clarify the situation with her neighbor (Mehri fiance) he told him that Mehri was not her daughter (she pretended to be) but her maid. When Hossein (Mehri's fiance) heard the news he gave back all the letters he received back to Marjane's father. (He no longer wanted to see her). Marjane got in trouble for writing the letters. Eby told Marjane that her love was impossible because in their country (Iran) they were supposed to stay within their own social class. When Marjane understood the reason for the revolution she made a decision to do demonstrate with Mehri even though they were supposed to. They demonstrated on "Black Friday." Which was a very bad day to demonstrate because many people were killed in the neighborhood that a rumor spread that Israeli soldiers were responsible for their deaths. When they finally got home they got both got slapped in the face by Marjane's mother. The Party:Many people were killed in a massacre after Black Friday. The Shah was nearing the end of his reign. One day, he made a public declaration that they would try to march towards democracy. The Shah began testing prime ministers. He tested over a dozen over a few months, but none were working out and the people were getting more angry. The only thing they wanted was for him to be gone. The day he finally left, there was a celebration, the biggest in the history of the country. The Shah was then welcomed in Egypt by the president Anwar Al-Sadat. During this period, schools closed, and reopened. The teachers told the students to tear all the pictures of the Shah out of their yearbooks. Marjane was very frustrated and planned to get back at Ramtin, who was the son of a man in the Savak, a part of the Shah's secret police. His father killed a million people. She planned to attack him with nails, but her plans were ruined when her mother found out. Marjane's mother told her that she needed to be forgiving toward Ramin 's father and not take her anger out on Ramtin.The Heroes:The political prisoners were liberated a few days later. There were 3000 of them. Marjane and her family knew two of them. Siamak Jari, and Moshen Shakiba. Siamak was the husband of Marjane's mother's best friend. He was a journalist he got arrested for writing subversive articles in the Keyhan. His mother's name was Laly. Moshen was a revolutionary he got arrested for being a revolutionary. After the revolution they invited Siamak and his family as well as Moshen over to their house soon after they were released from prison. They were in prison fo 6 years. They were tortured for a long time. They were whipped with electric cables as well as having cigarettes put on their backs and thighs. Moshen even got his nails pulled out. One of their friends named Ahmadi was assassinated. Since he was a member of the guerrillas, he suffered hell. He always carried cyanide on him in case he was arrested, but because they took him by surprise he never got a chance to use it. Therefore he suffered the worst torture. They even burned him with an iron at some point. In the end he was chopped into pieces. Those stories later on gave her new ideas for games. They played a game of torture the torture they did was mustard on fire, the twisted arm, and the mouth filled with garbage. Marjane became overwhelmed because she felt like she was doing the wrong thing because when she looked in the mirror she saw horns come out of her head like the devil. Marjane's mother tells her "Bad people are dangerous but forgiving them is too. Don't worry, there is justice on earth." Marjane does not know what justice is, and now because the revolution was over she abandoned Dialectic Materialism of her comic strips. The only place she felt safe was in the arms of her friend god. Moscow: This chapter starts off with Marjane thinking that her father is not a hero because he did not go to prison like her friends' father. She lied to her friends and told them that her father had his leg and his arm cut off. To Marjane's luck, her parents told her about, the only one of her father's brothers that she never met. Uncle Anooosh: Marjane never met him because he was in prison. Since Uncle Anooosh was in prison for a long time, Marjane considered him a hero and loved him "immediately." Marjane wanted to learn more about her uncle, so she asked him many personal questions; such as, "Are you married? Do you have any children? How old are you?" Her father did not want Marjane to bother him since was tired, but Uncle Anooosh said it was fine. After Marjane is tucked in, Uncle Anooosh begins to tell his stories. When he was eighteen, his Uncle Fereydoon and his friends proclaimed the Independence of the Iranian Province of Azerbaijan. His uncle elected himself Minister of Justice. Anooosh agreed with what his uncle that justice is the basis of democracy and that all men should be equal in the eyes of the law, but his father stayed by the Shah's side and told Anooosh to join up with his brother, so they can both get executed. Anooosh became his uncle's Secretary and they both planned to free Iran "Province by Province." One night Anooosh had a nightmare where he seen blood and dead people. He went to his uncle to go confront him about this nightmare, but when he arrived, the Shah's soldiers were outside his uncle's house. Uncle Fereydoon was arrested and Anooosh fled to his parents house. They took him and nursed till he was alright. Anooosh was still being searched for by the Shah's police; as a result, he swam across the Aras River and arrived in the U.S.S.R. As for Uncle Fereydoon, he willing gave himself up and was imprisoned with the right to one visitor before his execution. His visitor was his girlfriend and she wanted to have his child. She became pregnant that night and left for Switzerland soon after. . Marjane she was a little creeped out from this story's ending. She wanted to hear a story about what Anooosh did in the U.S.S.R. so while he told his story, she made him a hot chocolate. Anooosh first went to Leningrad, then to the capital city of Moscow, where he became a student and received his doctorate in Marxism-Leninism or what Marjane put simply as Dialectic Materialism. Anooosh wanted to know where she heard this from and she told him that she read a comic book on it. He continued his story by recalling his marriage with a Russian woman and his two daughters. The picture showed two girls and the scribbled head of his ex-wife. Marjane wanted to know why the head was scratched out, so Anooosh just said, as he started to cry, that Russians are not like them because they have no hearts and do not know how to love. After the divorce, Anooosh felt very lonely, he missed his country and family. Anooosh disguised himself and got a false passport but the Shah's army soon recognized and got put in prison for nine years. Anooosh suffered terribly like Laly's father. The Sheep: Marjane heard political discussion of the highest order, she says that Anooosh stayed at her house. She heard things like how the leftist revolution would be called Islamic. Sometimes Marjane would say her opinion. She said "99.99% of the population voted for the islamic republic." Her father got mad and said the results were faked. Marjane went outside to play. Marjane found out that the boy she had a crush on was moving to the U.S. in about a month because his parents said it was impossible to live under an islamic regime. Marjane was devastated about the fact that he was leaving to the U.S. After he left, most of Marjane family left the country too. Marjane father did not want to leave the country because he didn't want to lose the good jobs him and his wife had. Later that that Eby got a tragic phone call. They found out that Moshen has been murdered because only his head was found underwater in the bathtub. Things just kept getting worse, but this time Siamak 's sister was executed in his place. Marjane later found out that Siamak and his family crossed the border, hidden among a flock of sheep. Marjane found out that Anooosh had been arrested. Anooosh was only allowed to have one visitor, and he wanted to see Marjane. Anooosh told Marjane that she was the little girl he always wanted to have, and that one day the Proletariat will rule. He gave her another Bread-Swan. That was the last time Marjane saw her uncle. He was falsely executed for being a russian spy. After that incident Marjane banished god from her life. It was the beginning of the war. Marjane had to run to the basement because they were being bombed. The Trip:The Fundamentalist students occupied United States embassy by taking Americans hostage. A public announcement was made by The Ministry of Education stating that all schools would be closing. The schools were closed for two weeks. One day, Marjane had to go with her father to pick up her mother because her mother's car broke down. When they arrived, her mother was hysterically crying. She says she was misled by two Fundamentalist. They took her home, where she was in bed for several days. The Fundamentalist made the men and women dress how they wanted her to look. They made the women were fully covered from head to toe, except for their faces. The men were also had more facial hair. Marjane went with her parents to the demonstration, where she passed out because they were being attacked by the Fundamentalist. Things continuously got worse and abruptly. Marjane's parents planned a vacation to Italy and Spain for three weeks. Marjane's grandmother picked them up from the airport and informed them that they were at war. She said they had just officially announced it two days prior to her picking them up, but in actuality, it's been going on for a month. The F-14s: A few days after they returned from their trip to Italy there was a loud boom. For the first time in Marjane's life she saw F-14s. Her father knew that they were enemy planes because he was an engineer. They quickly turned on the radio and heard that the planes had bombed Tehran. Marjane and her father headed straight home. While in the car Marjane asked her father if he was gonna fight in the war but he replied no. They got home to find Marjane's mother(Taj) in the shower. She had no idea about the bombing. There was a plan to bomb Baghdad but the pilots of the fighter jets were all in prison from a failed coup d'etat. One of the pilots was the father of Marjane's friend Pardise. While she was in her room downstairs on the television they began to play the Iranian National Anthem. It had been replaced by the new government's Islamic hymn. It had been more than a year since they heard it they were overwhelmed. As they thought 140 Iranian F-14s carried out bombing raids on Baghdad. Her father confirmed it by listening to BBC. They soon found out that President Bani Sadr has ordered the release of the military pilots jailed after the failed coup. They agreed to attack Iraq if the government had broadcasted the National Anthem. They also found out about the Iranian losses which were very heavy.... half of the planes in the mission did not return. After two weeks Marjane found out that Paradise's father died. In class, the teacher asked the students to write a report about a war. Paradise's father was by far the best. It was a letter to her father in which she promised to take care of her family. At recess, Marjane tried to console her. Paradise replied back saying "I wish he were alive and in jail rather than dead and a hero." The Jewels:This chapter starts off with Marjane and her mother shopping in an, almost empty, supermarket during war. They see two women fight over a box of supplies or food. Marjane's mother tries to solve the conflict, but the two women tells her to mind her own business. Marjane tells her mom to forget about solving their argument, while her mom is yelling at the women and telling them how uncivilized they are. Marjane's mother only got two boxes of rice, as a result, she wants to try shopping at a different place. They start shopping at gas stations, but there was not much either. Marjane's father zooms in the gas station they are at and asks his wife for some Jerry Cans. His wife does not know what he needs cans for, so she never got them. He starts to yell at his wife when Marjane tells him not to yell at her mom. Her mother's only to yell in retaliation, as a result, Marjane starts to cry and her mother is telling him look what he done. Marjane's father begins to console her and explains the reason why he need those Jerry Cans was to fill the tanks. They eventually made up and got those cans. When they went to go fill them up with gasoline, the man at the gas pump tells them that they do not fill the cans because there is not enough gas for everyone. When Father asks about the war, the man says he knows nothing because the media will not say anything, but he does know that Abadan was bombed. Marjane's parents start to worry about their friend Mali and her family, who, live up there. They get home as soon as possible too call Mali. When Mali does not answer, Father suggests calling Mali's mother. She calls her, but still no answer, then she remembers that Mali's mom is deaf. After the bombing on Abadan, every border town that was thought to be targeted by bombers, fled north to avoid missiles. Later on that night, Marjane's family hears the doorbell ring. When they answer, to their surprise, it is Mali and her family at the door. Mali was crying as she told mother that everything was destroyed and her husband was showing father the few jewels that he saved. Marjane tries to be nice by offering to make hot chocolate for the two young sons of Mali, but they tell her that they do not like hot chocolate. Mali starts to explain to mother why she came to their house. She went to her mother's house first, but she did not hear them since she is deaf. Mali's husband was telling Father how much his house cost and how all that money, went up in smoke. Marjane thinks that Father does not like Mali's husband very much because he is too materialistic. Marjane recons on how nice Mali's house was though. Mother than address the house, telling everyone that "the house is your house." The kids go to sleep in Marjane's room and they seem bored because she does not have any toys like Star Wars. When she tells them that she likes Princess Leia, they tell her that she is ugly, so Marjane sends them to bed. The next day, the whole family (without the husbands) went to the supermarket to get food. Marjane was a little annoyed because the kids kept walking by items and yelling "I want that" as they go along. Mali sees a can of kidney beans and suggests making chili tonight. Marjane's Mother agrees and says we have too watch out for the flatulence. One of the boys asks what is flatulence and Mother tells them that it is farts. Everyone starts laughing when they notice two ladies talking about what problems the refugees cause Tehran. One woman says that they take all the food and she heard that they have been prostituting themselves. The other woman agrees and says soon it won't just be food we have to watch out for, but we will have to watch our own husbands. Marjane's family walks with all their heads down except for one child, who is laughing at farts, and Mother who told the women that what they are saying is not right. In the car, Mali felt sad because the spiteful words came from her own kind and that is worst then losing everything in an instant from the Iraqi Attack.The Key: The Iraqi army had conquered the city of Khorramshahr. Compared to Iraq, Iran had a huge reservoir of potential soldiers. According to site traditional, unmarried men dies, a nuptial chamber is built for him. That way, the dead man can symbolically attain carnal knowledge (many fighters died virgins). At school Marjane had to perform rituals, such as lining up twice a day to mourn the war dead. They also put funeral marches, and they had to beat their breasts. In certain religious ceremonies some people hurt themselves badly. After some time the torture session became a joke. Every situation offered an opportunity for laughs. For example when they had to knit winter hoods for the soldiers, they put the hoods on their faces and started to make silly faces. Another example was when they had to decorate the classroom, the decorated the classroom with toilet paper. As the teacher was scolding them, somebody said "poo poo", the teacher asked the person that said to come clean but the class said "we were completely united." This resulted in one week suspension for all. The teacher called the student's parents in. There was a dispute between the parents and the teachers. In the end the teacher said "Either they obey the law or they're expelled!" Boys had to prepare to become soldiers. Mrs. Nasrine was Marjane families maid. They gave her son a plastic key painted gold at school. They told the boys if they went to war and were lucky enough to die, they would get into heaven. She was very sad because of the fact they didn't want to be cause of country, family, and etc. Marjane and her family were talking about Taher when they received a phone call saying that he suffered his third heart attack. Marjane and her family went to the hospital to see him. On the way to the hospital they saw a red crescent trucks that was calling for people to give blood for the war wounded. Inside the hospital there was a guy on the stretcher and as they were walking they saw a guy with an amputated leg. When they reached Taher room his wife told them that the police wanted to arrest some communist who were hiding near their place, and they threw a grenade. He had the heart attack after a grenade went off in the neighborhood. He needs heart surgery, and he need to go England to get heart surgery. To go to England he needs a permit. If the hospital director agrees Tasher will get a passport so he can go. The director was Marjane's aunt's former widow washer. The director tells her that "if God wills it", Taher will receive the passport. She was mad that the fate of her husband depends of the widow washer. After the director they went to see Dr. Fathi (chief of staff). Dr. Fathi tells Marjane's aunt that they will what they can but they are terribly short on cash by those who were victims of chemical weapons, and the germans still chemical weapons to Iran and Iraq. The wounded are then sent to Germany to be treated, but Marjane's aunt couldn't care less she just wanted her husband to get well. Marjane and her father left the hospital to visit her father's acquaintance Khosro. Khosro's brother and Uncle Anooosh were in prison together during the Shah. Due to the fact reign of the Shan shut down his publishing company, he has been printing fake passports. The passports were big sellers. Khosro is living in a 18 year old named Niloufar stay in her basement because the Shan police were looking for her because she's a communist. She was also the same age as Khosro daughter, Madana. Madana had left with her mother and her grandmother were really close and that if she didn't turn home, she'll kill her. She also said that her stepmother would burn her with an iron, and that she'll make her father put her in an orphanage. Mirrored, she didn't tell her mom what happened because if she did her mother would not let her out by herself. Marjane go off pretty easy considering the Taher was buried, and what was ironic was that his real passport arrived the same day. He never got to see his son again Kim Wilde: A year after Anosh died the borders were opened again. Marjane parents ran to get their passports. Marjane's parents wanted to go on a trip together to Turkey. Marjane told her parents that she wanted a denim jacket, chocolate, and two posters. One of Kim Wilde and one of Iron Maiden (Marjane father also liked them). First thing after they got to Istanbul, they went to buy the posters. Due the fact the posters were huge they had to think of a way to hide them. Marjane's mom got very idea. She tore out the lining of Eby's coat. Than placed the two posters behind it and then sewed it back in. Marjane and her grandmother came to pick up Marjane's parents from the airport. From Turkey Marjane's parents bought her Nike's latest model, posters, a Michael Jackson pin, and denim jacket. Marjane got dressed in her outfit, and went on Gandhi Avenue to buy some tapes. Her mother was very permissive. For a year now the growth of the black market resolved the food storage. Marjane brought two cases: Kim Wilde and Camel for 110 tumors. On the way home, Marjane got stopped by the Guardians of the Revolution, the women's branch. This group was added in 1982, to arrest women who were improperly veiled (like Marjane). Their job was to put women back on the straight and narrow path, by explaining the duties of the muslim women. Marjane got yelled at for wearing punk shoes, denim jacket, The Michael Jackson pin, and tight jeans. Marjane had no choice but to lie. She said that she wore those shoes because she was in the basketball team. She also said that Michael Jackson pin was Malcolm X (the leader of black muslims in America), and that her jeans were tight because they shrank. At the committee they could keep Marjane for hours and not inform her parents. Anything could happen there. So Marjane took action and lied again. She said that mother died during her grandmother was really close and that if she didn't turn home, she'll kill her. She also said that her stepmother would burn her with an iron, and that she'll make her father put her in an orphanage. Mirrored, she didn't tell her mom what happened because if she did her mother would not let her out by herself. 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