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[*5.0 out of 5 stars* Excellent collection - worth every star](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R39SJ91GRLJB2H/ref%3Dcm_cr_dp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=B06XDNMCPD)

Reviewed in the United States on June 6, 2017

This slender volume introduces the reader to literature by ten Iranian women authors, all successful in their country, despite censorship and other difficulties. Ranging from only a few pages to much longer, these often demanding stories run the gamut of genres: comical ("My Beloved New Zealand Buddhist Crocodile" and "Socializing with Thieves") to horror ("Aquarium Number Four" MITRA . DAVAR); fantastical ("Antiques") to just plain sad ("In the rain") and everything in-between.
Common to these stories is the multifaceted, strong women in the main roles. The literary voice in these stories is strikingly different from that typical for western literature – for me, another fascinating aspect of this book. Some images remain indelibly etched in my memory – the horrific last scene of "Aquarium Number Four" MITRA DAVAR, for example. But as a counterweight, there's the last line of "...New Zealand Buddhist Crocodile":
"Only if you ever come across some young people who are half crocodile and half human, remember that they are our children."
In this case, you don't have to see the film, you have to read the story!

The translation by Amir Marashi is excellent; his British English occasionally shows through in funny turns of phrase ('gob-smacked'!).

Because these stories have been arranged alphabetically according to the author's last name, there's no reason to read the stories in order. I recommend starting with shorter or lighter ones and working one's way through all of them.

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