

NOW BEING PUBLISHED BY MODERN LIBRARY PAPERBACKS WITH AN
INTRODUCTION BY AZAR NAFISI, AUTHOR OF *READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN*,
AND A NEW AFTERWORD BY THE AUTHOR, IRAJ PEZESHKZAD

“Let us imagine we are in the process of creating a much needed mandatory reading list for experts and analysts on Iran. I would put *My Uncle Napoleon* in a cherished place very near the top. One seemingly irreverent reason for this choice is that it is a great read. More pragmatically, I believe this novel provides its readers—in a delightful and deliciously politically incorrect manner—with many important insights into Iran, its culture and traditions, its present conflicts and past history, as well as its paradoxical relation to the West.”

--Azar Nafisi, excerpt from the Introduction of *My Uncle Napoleon*

MY UNCLE NAPOLEON

A Novel

Iraj Pezeshkzad

In April 2006, Modern Library will publish **MY UNCLE NAPOLEON** (Modern Library Paperbacks; On-Sale Date: April 11, 2006), by Iraj Pezeshkzad, a timeless and universal satire of first love and family intrigue with a new Afterword by the author and an Introduction by Azar Nafisi, author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. Originally published in Iran in the 1970s and adapted into a hugely successful television series, **MY UNCLE NAPOLEON** is widely regarded as the most important (and beloved) work of Iranian fiction of the last century.

Set in an extended Tehran household in the 1940s, **MY UNCLE NAPOLEON** is the comic story of a family dominated by a paranoid patriarch whom the children have nicknamed Napoleon. The novel opens with the narrator realizing he's fallen in love with his beautiful cousin, Napoleon's daughter. The narrator's exuberantly naive pursuit of Layli, and the uncle's doddering attempts to stop love, form the heart of the narrative. Pezeshkzad's send-up of a large extended household is both unique to Iranian culture and universal to anyone with a sprawling family with nosey aunts, lazy brothers, scheming sisters, out-of-touch parents, and loads of rivalrous love. Like *Reading Lolita in Tehran* and *Persepolis* it is an unexpected portrait of daily life in Iran and an important addition to our understanding of Persian culture and society.

~more~

Praise for the previous paperback edition from Mage Publishers (1996)

"*My Uncle Napoleon* is a surprising novel, a raunchy, irreverent, hilarious farce wrapped around a core of quiet sorrow. Iranian novelist Iraj Pezeshkzad embroils us in the zany antics of an upper-class Iranian family."

—*The Washington Post*

"A giddily uproarious mixture of farce and slapstick.... The novel is funny in an uninhibited, larger-than-life style seldom practiced today."

—*The Atlantic Monthly*

"Readers will gain a more balanced impression of Iran from this novel, which looks at life from the kind of humorous perspective few Westerners may associate with the current regime in that country."

—*Christian Science Monitor*

"A howlingly funny -- not to mention tender, salacious and magical -- Iranian import."

—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

About the Author:

Iraj Pezeshkzad was born in Tehran in 1928 and educated in Iran and France where he received his degree in law. He served as a judge in the Iranian Judiciary for five years prior to joining the Iranian Foreign Service. He began writing in the early 1950s by translating the works of Voltaire and Moliere into Persian and by writing short stories for magazines. He currently works as a journalist in Paris.

Introducer **Azar Nafisi** is the author of the bestselling memoir **Reading Lolita in Tehran**. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Translator **Dick Davis** was born in Portsmouth, England, and earned degrees at King's College, Cambridge and at the University of Manchester. He has taught at the universities of Tehran, Durham, Newcastle, and California (Santa Barbara) and is currently professor of Persian at Ohio State University. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

MY UNCLE NAPOLEON: A Novel

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