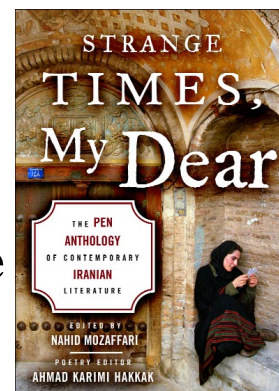


# STRANGE TIMES, MY DEAR

## The PEN Anthology of Contemporary Iranian Literature

Edited by Nahid Mozaffari

Poetry Editor: Ahmad Karimi Hakkak



**A rich and varied collection of contemporary short stories, extracts from novels, and poetry that will go a long way toward informing the English-speaking world of the latest developments in Iranian literature.**

Since the Iranian revolution of 1979, we have been virtually cut off from that country's culture. Despite severe difficulties imposed by social, political, and economic upheaval, war, repression, and censorship, there has been over the past 25 years a cultural renaissance in Iran, not only in literature, but also in music, art, and cinema. Now for the first time we have in translation selections from the work of over 40 men and women from three generations, which goes a long way toward filling that gap. This sampling—or to use the Persian term *golchine*, a bouquet—provides a window onto an important but sorely neglected segment of world culture. It will also serve to awaken further interest in the work and translation of Iranian novelists and poets.

- Arcade Publishing has sued the U.S. government, challenging the validity of the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control prohibiting publication in the U.S. of works from countries subject to U.S. trade sanctions.
- Publicity attendant upon this high-profile lawsuit—the central object of which is *STRANGE TIMES, MY DEAR*—has had important repercussions in the trade, with libraries, and with the reading public concerned about government censorship.
- The poetry section is edited and introduced by Ahmad Karimi Hakkak, professor of Persian literature at the University of Maryland.

“Ambitious . . . It seems remarkable that these writers have escaped the wrath of the authorities, given their candor. A diverse sampling of contemporary Iranian letters and a welcome tool for anyone seeking to understand a complex culture that has long been explained away as The Enemy.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Exile, uncertainty, the pain of the Iran-Iraq War, religious oppression, censorship—these are some of the subjects explored, in a dazzling array of styles, from realism to magical realism, along with traditional themes of love and loss, which take on new coloration in what for American readers is largely unknown terrain.”  
—NPR

“An all-too-brief look at the literature and culture of a country whose cultural contributions have been forgotten and ignored.”  
—*Forecast*

**NAHID MOZAFFARI** earned her Ph.D. in history and Middle Eastern studies from Harvard University. She has taught Middle Eastern history at the New School in New York, and at Cabot University in Rome.

\$27.50 • 6 1/8 x 9 1/4 • 504 pages