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## Hedayat The Blind Owl And Nationalism

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Three Drops of Blood and Other Stories  
Modern Library

The Myth of Creation [Afsaneh-ye Afarinesh] is one of the earliest works by Iran's best-known twentieth-century writer, Sadeq Hedayat, whose popularity outside Iran is due mostly to his short novel, *The Blind Owl*. Little has been written in critical literature about this work, perhaps because critics find the subject matter too sensitive for its generally Jewish, Christian and Moslem audiences. Given the

general plot line of this story, Hedayat demonstrates an open skepticism towards the three major Middle Eastern religions, particularly Islam, by casting the characters of his story in the form of puppets. This suggests that even the "creator," as perceived by these three religions, is a mere puppet controlled by unseen hands.

### The Blind Owl Dial Press

An opium addict spirals into madness after losing a mysterious lover in this "extraordinary work" of modern Persian literature (*The Times Literary Supplement*, UK). Sadeq Hedayat was Iran's most renowned modern fiction writer, and his spine-tingling novel *The Blind Owl* is considered his seminal work. A classic of modern Iranian

literature, this edition is presented to contemporary audiences with a new introduction by Porochista Khakpour, one of the most exciting voices from a new generation of Iranian-American authors. A haunting tale of loss and spiritual degradation, *The Blind Owl* tells the story of a young opium addict's despair after losing a mysterious lover. Through a series of intricately woven events that revolve around the same set of mental images—an old man with a spine-chilling laugh, four cadaverous black horses with rasping coughs, a hidden urn of poisoned wine—the narrator is

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compelled to record his obsession with a beautiful woman even as it drives him further into frenzy and madness.

The Myth of Creation W. W. Norton & Company

“ The marvelous and the horrific, the mythic and the mundane overlap and intermingle in this wonderfully inventive novel. ” —The New York Times Winner of the E. M. Forster Award In a fantastic world that is and is not seventeenth-century England, a baby is found floating in the Thames. The child, Jordan, is rescued by Dog Woman and grows up to travel the globe like Gulliver—though he finds that the most curious oddities come from his own mind. The spiraling tale leads the reader from discussions on the nature of time to Jordan ’ s fascination with journeys concealed within other journeys, all with a dizzying speed that jumps from epiphany to shimmering epiphany. From the New York Times – bestselling author of Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit and Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?, Sexing the Cherry is “ a mixture of The Arabian Nights touched by the philosophical form of Milan Kundera and told with the grace of Italo

Calvino ” (San Francisco Chronicle).

“ Those who care for fiction that is both idiosyncratic and beautiful will want to read anything [Winterson] writes. ” —The Washington Post Book World

The Hospital Palgrave Macmillan

The Iranian writer Sadeq Hedayat is the most influential figure in twentieth-century Persian fiction--and the object of a kind of cult after his suicide in 1951. His masterpiece *The Blind Owl* is the most important novel of modern Iran. Its abrupt, tortured opening sentence, "There are sores which slowly erode the mind in solitude like a kind of canker," is one of the best known and most frequently recited passages of modern Persian. But underneath the book's uncanniness and its narrative eccentricities, Michael Beard traces an elegant pastiche of familiar Western traditions. A work of advocacy for a disturbing and powerful piece of fiction, his comprehensive analysis reveals the significance of *The Blind Owl* as a milestone not only for Persian writing but also for world literature. The international, decentered nature of modernist writing outside the West, typified by Hedayat's European education and wide reading in the Western canon, suggested to Beard the strategy of assessing *The Blind Owl* as if it were a Western novel. Viewed in this context, Hedayat's intricate chronicle challenges the very notion of a national literature, rethinking and reshaping our traditions until we are compelled, "through its eyes," to see them in a new way.

Originally published in 1990. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

Censoring an Iranian Love Story

Mazda Pub

"Gharbzadegi was written in 1962 when the Pahlavi regime seemed to have control over Iran's destiny. For the author, the result was total national submission to the West and its technology. The Iranian monarchy is portrayed in this work as no more than a native brokerage for Western influence, with no aims and identity of its own. Al-e Ahmad sought to rediscover an Iranian identity based on historical and religious criteria, defined in part by a tradition of conflict with the West"--Book

jacket.

**Blind Owl (Authorized by the Sadegh Hedayat Foundation - First Translation Into English Based on the Bombay Edition)**  
Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

BONUS: This edition contains a When Skateboards Will Be Free discussion guide. "The revolution is not only inevitable, it is imminent. It is not only imminent, it is quite imminent. And when the time comes, my father will lead it." With a profound gift for capturing the absurd in life, and a deadpan wisdom that comes from surviving a surreal childhood in the Socialist Workers Party, Saïd Sayrafiezadeh has crafted an unsentimental, funny, heartbreaking memoir. Saïd's Iranian-born father and American Jewish mother had one thing in common: their unshakable conviction that the workers' revolution was coming. Separated since their son was nine months old, they each

pursued a dream of the perfect socialist society. Pinballing with his mother between makeshift Pittsburgh apartments, falling asleep at party meetings, longing for the luxuries he's taught to despise, Saïd waits for the revolution that never, ever arrives. "Soon," his mother assures him, while his long-absent father quixotically runs as a socialist candidate for president in an Iran about to fall under the ayatollahs. Then comes the hostage crisis. The uproar that follows is the first time Saïd hears the word "Iran" in school. There he is suddenly forced to confront the combustible stew of his identity: as an American, an Iranian, a Jew, a socialist... and a middle-school kid who loves football and video games. Poised perfectly between tragedy and farce, here is a story by a brilliant young writer struggling to break away from the powerful mythologies

of his upbringing and create a life—and a voice—of his own. Saïd Sayrafiezadeh's memoir is unforgettable.

Sadeq Hedayat Amsterdam University Press

Maurice Blanchot is arguably the key figure after Sartre in exploring the relation between literature and philosophy. Blanchot developed a distinctive, limpid form of essay writing; these essays, in form and substance, left their imprint on the work of the most influential French theorists. The writings of Barthes, Foucault, and Derrida are unimaginable without Blanchot. Published in French in 1949, *The Work of Fire* is a collection of twenty-two essays originally published in literary journals. Certain themes recur repeatedly: the relation of literature and language to death; the significance of repetition; the historical, personal, and social function of literature; and simply the question what is at stake in the fact that something such as art or literature exists? Among the authors discussed are Kafka,

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Mallarmé; Hölderlin, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Sartre, Gide, Pascal, Valéry, Hemingway, and Henry Miller.

*Dakhmeh* Vintage

The Iranian-American author's award-winning debut examines an immigrant's coming of age with "punchy conversation, vivid detail [and] sharp humor" (The New York Times Book Review).

Growing up in the United States, Xerxes Adam's understanding of his Iranian heritage vacillates from typical teenage embarrassment to something so tragic it can barely be spoken. His father, Darius, is obsessed with his own exile, and fantasizes about a nonexistent daughter he can relate to better than his living son. His mother changes her name and tries to make friends. But neither of them helps Xerxes make sense of the terrifying, violent last moments in a homeland he barely remembers. As Xerxes grows up and moves to New York City, his

major goal in life is to completely separate from his parents. But after the attacks of September 11th change New York forever, and Xerxes meets a beautiful half-Iranian girl on the roof of his building, he begins to realize that his heritage will never let him go. Winner of the California Book Award Silver Medal in First Fiction, *Sons and Other Flammable Objects* is a sweeping, lyrical tale of suffering, redemption, and the role of memory in making peace with our worlds. A New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice

*My Uncle Napoleon* New Directions Publishing

What do we think of when we think of literary critics? Enlightenment snobs in powdered wigs? Professional experts? Cloistered academics? Through the end of the 20th century, book review columns and literary

magazines held onto an evolving but stable critical paradigm, premised on expertise, objectivity, and carefully measured response. And then the Internet happened. From the editors of *Review 31* and *3:AM Magazine*, *The Digital Critic* brings together a diverse group of perspectives—early-adopters, Internet skeptics, bloggers, novelists, editors, and others—to address the future of literature and scholarship in a world of Facebook likes, Twitter wars, and Amazon book reviews. It takes stock of the so-called Literary Internet up to the present moment, and considers the future of criticism: its promise, its threats of decline, and its mutation, perhaps, into something else entirely. With contributions from Robert Barry, Russell Bennetts, Michael Bhaskar,

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Louis Bury, Lauren Elkin, Scott Esposito, Marc Farrant, Orit Gat, Thea Hawlin, Ellen Jones, Anna Kiernan, Luke Neima, Will Self, Jonathon Sturgeon, Sara Veale, Laura Waddell, and Joanna Walsh. *The Fiction of Sadeq Hedayat* Rebel Publishing Company

Presents a collection of short stories, memoirs, essays, and poems by both contemporary and historical Middle Eastern authors from such countries as Morocco, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and Pakistan.

### **Novel Folklore** OR Books

Homer is known to have authored the first known literature of Europe. Homer's epic chronicle of the Greek hero Odysseus' journey home from the Trojan War has inspired writers from Virgil to James Joyce. Odysseus survives storm and shipwreck, the cave of the Cyclops and the isle of Circe, the lure of the Sirens' song and a trip to the Underworld, only

to find his most difficult challenge at home, where treacherous suitors seek to steal his kingdom and his loyal wife. With real poetic power... his book is one no lover of living poetry should miss. —The New York Times

The Blind Owl Routledge  
Sadeq Hedayat is the most famous and the most enigmatic Iranian writer of the 20th century. This book is the first comprehensive study of Hedayat's life and works set against the background of literary and political developments in a rapidly changing Iran over the first half of the 20th century.

Katouzian discusses Hedayat's life and times and the literary and political circles with which he was associated. But he also emphasises the uniqueness and universality of his ideas that have both influenced and set Hedayat apart from other Iranian writers of the period

and that have given him a mystique that has been instrumental in his posthumous success with acclaimed works such as *The Blind Owl*. This second edition is fully revised and updated to reflect on recent debates and scholarship on Sadeq Hedayat.

Sons and Other Flammable Objects Iran Open Publishing Group

Set in Lisbon in the 1970s during the dissolution of Portugal's African colonies, a stunning novel combines Portuguese history with the unforgettable tale of Vasco da Gama who, along with his band of fellow heroes, starts to reclaim Lisbon by winning it, piece by piece, in fixed card games. Reprint.

*Novel Folklore* Calder Publications Limited

The story is narrated by a young man, a painter of miniatures, whose name is never given. He feels an

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overbearing need to recount the experience he went through that has shattered his whole existence. A beautiful woman, an old man and a cypress tree are the recurring motifs.

*The Blind Owl and Other Stories* Grove Press

As he did in New York Times bestseller *Robopocalypse*, Daniel Wilson masterfully envisions a stunning world where superhuman technology and humanity clash in surprising—and thrilling—ways. It's the near future, and scientists have developed implants that treat brain dysfunction—and also make recipients capable of superhuman feats. Exploiting societal fears of the newly enhanced, politicians pass a set of laws to restrict the rights of "amplified" humans, instantly creating a new persecuted underclass known as "amps." On the day that

the Supreme Court passes the first of these laws, twenty-nine-year-old schoolteacher Owen Gray is forced into hiding, only dimly aware of the latent powers he possesses. To escape imprisonment, and to find out who he really is, Owen seeks out a community in Oklahoma where, it is rumored, a group of the most enhanced amps may be about to change the world—or destroy it.

**Sadeq Hedayat** Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

The most beloved Iranian novel of the twentieth century "God forbid, I've fallen in love with Layli!" So begins the farce of our narrator's life, one spent in a large extended Iranian family lorded over by the blustering, paranoid patriarch, Dear Uncle Napoleon. When Uncle Napoleon's least-favorite

nephew falls for his daughter, Layli, family fortunes are reversed, feuds fired up and resolved, and assignations attempted and thwarted. First published in Iran in the 1970s and adapted into a hugely successful television series, this beloved novel is now "Suggested Reading" in Azar Nafisi's *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. My Uncle Napoleon is a timeless and universal satire of first love and family intrigue.

**Hedayat's 'The Blind Owl' Forty Years After** Vintage

Winner of the Shirley Jackson Award. "A Korean take on Misery." —Time Magazine, "Top 10 Thrillers to Read This Summer" In this tense, gripping novel by a rising star of Korean literature, Oghi has woken from a coma after causing a devastating car accident that took his wife's life and left him paralyzed and badly disfigured. His caretaker is his mother-in-law, a widow grieving the loss of her only child. Oghi

is neglected and left alone in his bed. His world shrinks to the room he lies in and his memories of his troubled relationship with his wife, a sensitive, intelligent woman who found all of her life goals thwarted except for one: cultivating the garden in front of their house. But soon Oghi notices his mother-in-law in the abandoned garden, uprooting what his wife had worked so hard to plant and obsessively digging larger and larger holes. When asked, she answers only that she is finishing what her daughter started. A bestseller in Korea, award-winning author Hye-young Pyun's *The Hole* is a superbly crafted and deeply unnerving novel about the horrors of isolation and neglect in all of its banal and brutal forms. As Oghi desperately searches for a way to escape, he discovers the difficult truth about his wife and the toll their life together took on her. "A masterwork of suspense, and a profound meditation on grief, solitude, and secrecy. At once unsettling and richly moving, *The Hole* is vital novel, a gift from a wildly inventive writer." —Laura van den Berg, author of *I*

*Hold a Wolf by the Ears*  
*Sexing the Cherry* Stanford University Press  
Combining southern warmth with unabashed emotion and side-splitting hilarity, Fannie Flagg takes readers back to Elmwood Springs, Missouri, where the most unlikely and surprising experiences of a high-spirited octogenarian inspire a town to ponder the age-old question: Why are we here? Life is the strangest thing. One minute, Mrs. Elner Shimfissle is up in her tree, picking figs, and the next thing she knows, she is off on an adventure she never dreamed of, running into people she never in a million years expected to meet. Meanwhile, back home, Elner's nervous, high-strung niece Norma faints and winds up in bed with a cold rag on her head; Elner's neighbor Verbena rushes immediately to the Bible; her truck driver friend, Luther Griggs, runs his eighteen-

wheeler into a ditch—and the entire town is thrown for a loop and left wondering, "What is life all about, anyway?" Except for Tot Whooten, who owns Tot's Tell It Like It Is Beauty Shop. Her main concern is that the end of the world might come before she can collect her social security. In this comedy-mystery, those near and dear to Elner discover something wonderful: Heaven is actually right here, right now, with people you love, neighbors you help, friendships you keep. Can't Wait to Get to Heaven is proof once more that Fannie Flagg "was put on this earth to write" (Southern Living), spinning tales as sweet and refreshing as iced tea on a summer day, with a little extra kick thrown in.

*The Odyssey* Penguin  
Arash, an idealistic young man driven by nostalgia and romantic notions of a country he left as a child, returns to Iran to start a new life and do

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his share to help rebuild the country. As he explores the streets of Tehran, he finds a society plagued by contradictions and confronts a disgruntled and cynical populace for whom the promises of the Revolution never materialized. With dwindling resources, he finds himself paralyzed in the face of a system he cannot change. A seemingly benign gesture of defiance draws the attention of the authorities and leads to his imprisonment in the notorious Evin prison. In this moving and often disturbing novel, Noori paints a dark and foreboding picture of the harsh realities of life in the Islamic Republic.

*When Skateboards Will Be Free*

University of Texas Press

This collection, previously unpublished in English, displays all the evocative force of Hedayat's writing, and confirms his place in the

literary canon. The title story follows the protagonist's increasingly unstable mental state through the repeated occurrence of three drops of blood, while 'Hajji Morad' depicts an almost Joycean epiphany in classically understated terms, as a man mistakes another woman for his wife. Written before the revolution of 1979, Hedayat's stories were banned by the Tehran authorities in 2006. Addressing themes such as marriage and divorce customs and the displacement of Iran's ancient Zoroastrian faith, they have acquired a new relevance in recent decades.