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After leaving Iran, Marjane finds herself navigating the complexities of adolescence in an entirely foreign land, Vienna, with its Western culture and customs, presents a stark contrast to the world she has known. The initial period in Vienna is marked by a profound struggle as Marjane tries to adapt to her new surroundings. She faces significant cultural shock, experiencing both the freedom and the alienation it brings. The identity crisis that ensues is intense: Marjane is caught between two worlds, belonging wholly to neither, which leaves her feeling disoriented and disconnected. The separation from her family and homeland exacerbates Marjane's sense of isolation and loneliness. The distance from her family creates an emotional void that is challenging to fill. Familiar sights, sounds, and the comforting presence of her loved ones are missing, which takes a significant toll on her psychological well-being. Marjane employs various coping mechanisms to manage her homesickness, including forming new friendships, delving into academia, and trying to immerse herself in her new environment. However, these efforts are often undermined by the persistent yearning for her home and family. In Europe, Marjane's life as a teenager becomes a tumultuous journey of rebellion and quest for freedom. She makes earnest attempts to fit in with her peers, adopting new styles and behaviors that Marjane finds shocking—in Iran, parents are considered sacred, while sex is taboo. When Armin leaves on a work trip, Julie throws a party. Marjane doesn't enjoy the party and is shocked when she hears Julie and her latest partner having sex. After this, Marjane tries to impress her friends by pretending to smoke joints, but she doesn't smoke. She spends their visit walking and talking, and Mom helps Marjane rent an apartment from an ugly woman named Frau Doctor Heller. Marjane realizes that her parents have no idea how difficult life is for her in Vienna. Living with Frau Doctor Heller is a challenge—for one thing, she doesn't think it's a problem that her dog poops in Marjane's bed. By this time, Marjane's friends have all moved away. Fortunately, she has an older boyfriend named Enrique. He's a real anarchist and invites her to a party at a commune. Marjane is excited until she discovers that the anarchists play games like hide-and-seek. That night, she decides to lose her virginity, but nothing happens between her and Enrique. In the morning, Enrique tells Marjane a secret: he's gay. Following the breakup, Marjane spends more time with her friend Ingrid and the anarchists at the commune. To cope with her loneliness, she starts doing more drugs and throws herself into finding someone to have sex with. Just as she's ready to give up, Marjane meets Markus. Things are rocky from the start. Markus's mother is racist and refuses to allow Markus and Marjane to spend time together in her home. Meanwhile, Frau Doctor Heller accuses Marjane of prostitution. Marjane and Markus spend a lot of time smoking in Markus's car. When Markus asks Marjane to purchase drugs for him, she complies—and becomes her school's drug dealer. The next school year is difficult for Marjane. Though she stops selling drugs, she takes more drugs herself and barely passes her final exams. She's disappointed and knows her parents will be, too. On her 18th birthday, Marjane discovers Markus in bed with another woman. Later that morning, when Frau Doctor Heller accuses Marjane of stealing, Marjane wanders out and spends the next two months on the streets. It's winter, so Marjane develops pneumonia and barely ends up in the hospital. She decides it's silly that she almost let love kill her when she survived war and revolution in Iran. She decides to give up drugs and get a clean bill of health. Marjane arranges with her parents for her to go to Vienna for a long time. Marjane's mother and Dad don't want Marjane to go, but she finds that she has to. The next morning, Dad explains Marjane's situation. Marjane's mother had a vision of Marjane as a militant trying to overthrow the Iranian regime, the government executed thousands of imprisoned intellectuals. This makes Marjane feel like what happened to her in Vienna was inconsequential. She vows to never talk about her "Viennese misadventures." Grudgingly, Marjane agrees to see family members and friends. Her grandmother is the only family member she really wants to see. After most of Marjane's friends turn out to be shallow, Marjane seeks out Kia, one of her best childhood friends. He served in the war and is now disabled, but he's as funny as ever. After Kia leaves Iran to seek medical treatment in the United States, Marjane's depression worsens. She wants to tell everyone what happened in Vienna so they'll pity her, but she stays silent. Eventually, Mom forces Marjane to join her friends on a skiing trip. Her friends make her depression even worse when they learn she's had sex with more than one man. They ask if she's any different from a whore. Thus, Marjane returns home more depressed than ever. When antidepressants and counseling fail to help, attempts suicide. When she survives, she decides it's a sign that she's supposed to live. Marjane remakes herself into a coiffed, sophisticated woman. Not long after, Marjane meets her future husband, Reza, at a friend's party. They're both painters—and Reza served in the Iran-Iraq War. Despite their many differences, they complement each other. They quickly begin planning a future together. Though Reza wants to leave Iran, the couple decides instead to attend art school in Iran. They study hard for their entrance exams and both get in. Once they receive their admissions decisions, their future together seems secure. This sense of security leads Marjane to stop smoking and to stop selling drugs. Marjane's mother and father are overjoyed to see her home, spending the rest of the night on the bed with the lights turned off. The next day, Marjani tries to search for her old tapes to no avail. Her mother tells her that she sold it, however, the exchange makes her realize that her mother no longer regards her as a daughter. Marjane's mother and father are overjoyed to see her home, spending the rest of the night on the bed with the lights turned off. The next day, Marjani tries to search for her old tapes to no avail. Her mother tells her that she sold it, however, the exchange makes her realize that her mother no longer regards her as a daughter. Marjane's mother and father are overjoyed to see her home, spending the rest of the night on the bed with the lights turned off. 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makes her stay at their house for days just to watch the programs. This worries Ebi to the point where she asks her about her wellbeing and her marriage's well-being. Her criticism on the wastage of her talents against the house, which she leaves gladly, and though she is upset, she realises the wisdom of her words. She takes the time to reflect. Realising the truth, she apologises the next day, and he does as well, as he hasn't meant to hurt her feelings. He gives her three books on Iranian history and global politics, which she accepts happily and finishes in the next ten days. The books awaken a new interest in History in her, and she starts making new friends with similar interests. She comes to the conclusion that she must again educate herself to become better. The end of their fourth year in university brings a proposal to her and Reza's for a project to create a theme park from their professor. It interests them enough to work together well, temporarily bringing an end to their arguments. It finishes so well that they get full grades from the professor. However, when trying to bring the project to reality, Marji faces more than several challenges along the way due to the criticisms from the mayor's deputy that are all based on religious grounds, such as unveiled women in her drawings. He tells her that the project is unachievable, as the government does not care. Afterwards, Marji meets up with her childhood friend, Farnaz, to whom she opens up about the state of her marriage with Reza. Marji wishes to divorce, however, Farnaz informs her about the reality of a divorced woman in Iran and tells her to stay with him as long as it isn't too bad. Marji disagrees, however, and goes to meet her grandmother, who assuages her fears about divorce; she tells her to think about it well and get divorced if she wants to, which makes Marji feel better and leave with a smile. Marji gets a job as an illustrator at an economics magazine. Though initially going well, an illustrator at another magazine had made a drawing the regime disagreed with and was consequently arrested. From then on, the press was monitored closely, up to the point where Marji and Reza's friend, Behzad, was arrested for making an unwise choice of drawing a bearded man in his illustration about alarm systems. Behzad is released after a few days, and Marji and Gila, the magazine's graphic designer, go to visit him. He has been beaten up, and states that the cost of freedom of expression is high in their regime. Marji admires him for the quick moment before she witnesses his treatment of his wife, and her feelings quickly turn into disgust. In the car, she says this to Gila, who states that the Spanish diplomat she had dated was the same. When she gets home, Marji is confronted by Reza, who wants to talk about their relationship. She tells him that she does not love him anymore, and rejects his proposal to go to France to try better their relationship, stating that there is no hope and that it would be a 'waste of time'. Marji goes to her parents a few days later to announce that her departure to France. Contrary to her parents' assumptions, she is going alone, as she and Reza are getting divorced. While her mother disagrees with what she thinks are Ebi's manipulations, they do agree that Marji has learned the lesson through experience and that it is good that Marji is leaving for France. They admit that they were scared of the marriage, thinking it would ruin her, however, they support her decision now that she is going to France. Before leaving, Marji goes on a trip with her grandmother, memorizing Tehran, visits her grandfather's grave and the prison where her uncle, Anoush, was buried, promising to him that she would try her best to be as honest as possible. She does her best to enjoy her time left with her family, and they accompany her to the airport on the day of her departure. Her mother forbids her to come back and they all share a hug with Marji. Marji remarks upon the difference between her previous departure and the present one, noting her change into an adult. In the voiceover, Marji remarks that this would be the second to last time she would see her grandmother, as she would die in January 4, 1996, ending with the statement that 'Freedom had a price'. Persepolis 2 is a compelling graphic memoir written by Marjane Satrapi, which delves into the journey of identity and resilience. The book picks up where Persepolis 1 left off, following Marjane's life as a young adult navigating cultural assimilation, coming-of-age, and personal growth. In this article, we will provide a concise book summary of Persepolis 2, exploring the narrative arc, major themes, and character development that makes this memoir a must-read. Key Takeaways: Persepolis 2 is a continuation of Marjane Satrapi's story, exploring themes such as identity and cultural assimilation. The book showcases unique artistic style and visual representations that add depth to the story. Persepolis 2's reception has been highly positive, with critical acclaim and cultural significance since its publication. Comparisons can be drawn between Persepolis 2 and its predecessor, Persepolis 1, in terms of themes, style, and character development. Overall, Persepolis 2 is an impactful memoir that offers insights into the human experience and personal resilience. Introduction to Persepolis 2 Persepolis 2 is a poignant graphic memoir by Marjane Satrapi that continues the story of her childhood in Iran during the Islamic Revolution and her experiences in Europe as a young adult. Satrapi is a renowned Iranian graphic novelist, illustrator, and animated filmmaker, widely recognized for her exceptional style. Persepolis 2 is a notable example of a graphic memoir, a genre that combines the use of visual art with the written word to tell a personal story. Satrapi's storytelling employs black-and-white illustrations in a comic book format to explore the nuances of her experiences, adding depth and emotion to the narrative. Marjane Satrapi was born in Iran in 1969 and grew up in Tehran. She moved to Europe at the age of 14 to escape the political turmoil in her home country, studying at the Lycée Français in Vienna before settling in Paris. Satrapi's experiences as an Iranian immigrant in Europe play a significant role in her writing, making her a unique voice in contemporary literature. The powerful combination of autobiographical storytelling and striking visual elements makes Persepolis 2 a standout graphic memoir. In the following sections, we will explore the continuation of Marjane's story, the themes explored in the book, the artistic style, the historical and cultural context, character development and relationships, impact, and reception, and comparisons with its predecessor, adding insightful commentary on the book's relevant elements. The Continuation of Marjane's Story Persepolis 2, the sequel to Marjane Satrapi's debut graphic memoir, continues to explore the author's journey of identity and resilience. The storyline picks up where the first book ended, as Marjane is sent away from Iran to continue her education in Austria. The continuation of Marjane's story in Persepolis 2 delves deeper into the challenges of navigating cultural differences and adapting to life in a foreign country. Marjane struggles with homesickness and feelings of isolation as she tries to find her place in a new environment. Throughout the book, the narrative arc follows her various experiences, from reconciling with her family to navigating new relationships and exploring her independence. As with the first book, Persepolis 2 carries a strong autobiographical tone, painting a poignant portrait of the author's life experiences. The continuation of Marjane's story adds greater complexity to her character, highlighting her flaws, vulnerabilities, and resilience in equal measure. The continuation of Marjane's story also informs and deepens the reader's understanding of the events of the first book. The depiction of Marjane's development and emotional growth adds depth and dimension to her character, adding greater meaning and resonance to the narrative as a whole. Themes Explored in Persepolis 2 Persepolis 2 delves into various themes that resonate with readers across generations. Marjane Satrapi masterfully weaves these themes into the story, providing insightful commentary on their significance. Identity One of the central themes of Persepolis 2 is the exploration of identity. Marjane struggles to reconcile her Iranian heritage with her Western-influenced upbringing. The memoir depicts the complexities of cultural identity and the sense of belonging to multiple communities simultaneously. Coming-of-age As Marjane navigates her teenage years, she confronts difficult life events, including family struggles, death, and relationships. Through these experiences, she transforms and evolves to become a confident young adult. The memoir provides a poignant reflection on the process of coming-of-age and the challenges that accompany it. Cultural assimilation Another important theme explored in Persepolis 2 is cultural assimilation. Marjane moves to Austria to attend a French high school, making her an outsider in both cultures. The memoir examines the difficulties of adapting to a new environment and the sense of dislocation that comes with leaving one's home country. The exploration of these themes makes Persepolis 2 a powerful and thought-provoking memoir that offers insight into the universal human experience. Artistic Style and Visual Representation Marjane Satrapi's iconic graphic memoir, Persepolis 2, features a distinctive artistic style that utilizes simple black and white drawings to convey the story's complex emotional and political themes. Satrapi's use of a limited color palette and stark contrasts creates a powerful visual language that amplifies the impact of the narrative. Moreover, Satrapi's use of the graphic format enables her to depict scenes and situations through a unique lens that would have been challenging to capture in a traditional novel. The visual representation of characters and their emotions often speaks louder than words, making the book's messages more memorable and poignant. Overall, the artistic style and visual representation of Persepolis 2 play a crucial role in the book's success and importance as a cultural and literary masterpiece. Historical and Cultural Context Persepolis 2 is set against the backdrop of Iran's political landscape in the 1980s and 1990s, as the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution reverberated throughout the country. The book explores the impact of this tumultuous period on the lives of ordinary Iranians, especially women. The Iranian Revolution, also known as the Islamic Revolution, was a popular uprising that took place in 1979, resulting in the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of an Islamic republic. The revolution had far-reaching consequences, both in Iran and the international community, shaping the country's politics, culture, and economy for years to come. Women's Rights and Religion Persepolis 2 offers a nuanced exploration of the intersection between women's rights and religion in Iran. As Marjane struggles to reconcile her feminist ideals with the expectations of her traditional family and the conservative government, she exposes the contradictions and complexities of Iranian society. The book also sheds light on the role of education and popular culture in shaping attitudes towards religion and gender in Iran. Impact of the Iran-Iraq War The Iran-Iraq War, which lasted from 1980 to 1988, was a major influence on the events depicted in Persepolis 2. The war, which was fought between these two neighboring countries, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and had a profound impact on Iran's society and economy. The book showcases the personal toll of the war on Marjane and her family, highlighting the ways in which it disrupted and reshaped their lives. Overall, Persepolis 2 provides a thought-provoking and insightful perspective on Iran's historical and cultural context, conveying the complexity and diversity of Iranian society throughout the years. Character Development and Relationships Persepolis 2 is a poignant exploration of character development and relationships. Throughout the graphic memoir, Marjane Satrapi portrays her growth from a rebellious teenager to a resilient adult grappling with identity, culture, and societal norms. One of the most remarkable aspects of the narrative is Marjane's complex relationships with her family, friends, and lovers. Her tumultuous romance with Markus highlights the challenges of maintaining an intercultural relationship, as well as the damaging impact of stereotypes and prejudice. Meanwhile, her strained relationship with her mother underscores the generational divide in Iranian society and the struggles of balancing tradition and modernity. Moreover, Persepolis 2 delves into the development of secondary characters, such as Marjane's grandmother, uncle, and classmates, lending depth and complexity to the overall narrative. For instance, Marjane's grandmother provides a rich historical context to the story, regaling her with tales of Iran's past and instilling in her a sense of pride in her roots. Overall, the character development and relationships portrayed in Persepolis 2 add depth, nuance, and emotional resonance to Marjane's personal journey and the larger socio-political issues it explores. Impact and Reception of Persepolis 2 Since its publication, Persepolis 2 has had a significant impact on the literary world as a powerful memoir that explores themes of identity and cultural assimilation. It has been praised for its unique format, using graphic illustrations to tell the story of Marjane Satrapi's journey. The book received critical acclaim, with many reviewers commending the continuation of Marjane's story from the first book, Persepolis. It highlights how Persepolis 2 stands on its own as a poignant memoir that delves deeper into Marjane's struggles with cultural identity, and how it is informed by the events surrounding the Iranian Revolution. Persepolis 2 has remained an enduring part of popular culture, with adaptations in various forms, such as films and stage productions. The book has also been translated into several languages, showcasing its international appeal and significance. Overall, the impact and reception of Persepolis 2 have been overwhelmingly positive, cementing its status as a must-read memoir that resonates with readers across the world. Comparisons with Persepolis 1 Persepolis 2 is a continuation of the personal story of Marjane Satrapi, picking up where Persepolis 1 left off. While both books share similarities in terms of narrative, character development, and themes, there are also significant differences that set them apart. Narrative Style One significant difference in the narrative style between the two books is the approach to storytelling. Persepolis 1 is structured as a linear, chronological narrative, whereas Persepolis 2 employs a more episodic approach, jumping back and forth in time to explore different events and moments in Marjane's life. Themes Both books explore similar themes, such as identity, cultural assimilation, and coming-of-age, but Persepolis 2 delves deeper into the emotional impact of these experiences, highlighting the complexities of personal growth and development. Character Development Marjane's character undergoes significant growth and development throughout both books, but in Persepolis 2, we see a more mature and introspective version of Marjane, grappling with her past and exploring her identity in a more nuanced way. Comparison Persepolis 1 Persepolis 2 Narrative Style Linear, Chronological Episodic, Nonlinear Themes Identity, Cultural Assimilation, Coming-of-Age Identity, Cultural Assimilation, Coming-of-Age (Explored in greater depth) Character Development Marjane's growth and development is prominent but overall makes relatively quick progress. Marjane undergoes significant emotional maturation and self-analysis throughout the book. Despite their differences, Persepolis 1 and 2 both offer powerful insights into Marjane's life and experiences as an Iranian woman in France. Through her unique voice and artistic style, Satrapi captures the political and personal tumult of an era in vivid detail, offering readers a compelling and thought-provoking reflection on cultural identity and the human experience. Final Thoughts on Persepolis 2 In conclusion, Persepolis 2 by Marjane Satrapi is a captivating graphic memoir that continues to explore the significant themes of identity, cultural assimilation, and coming-of-age from the first book. The continuation of Marjane's story is both poignant and powerful, showcasing the author's skillful use of personal experiences to convey universal truths about the human experience. Through its unique combination of text and visuals, Persepolis 2 offers readers a compelling insight into the historical and cultural context of Iran's political landscape during the Iranian Revolution. The characters and their relationships are expertly developed, contributing to the overall narrative and Marjane's personal growth. Since its publication, Persepolis 2 has gained critical acclaim and become a cultural touchstone, with its impact extending far beyond the graphic novel community. Its significance as a powerful memoir is indisputable, and it is a must-read for anyone interested in exploring the complex themes of identity and cultural heritage. Overall, Persepolis 2 is a stunning follow-up to its predecessor, Persepolis 1, and a testament to Marjane Satrapi's raw talent as an artist and writer. We highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a thought-provoking and emotionally resonant read.