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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 to blend into the Western teenage culture. This rebellion manifests in various ways, from experimenting with drugs and relationships to challenging norms and authority. These actions come with significant consequences, including strained relationships to challenging norms and authority. These actions come with significant consequences, including strained relationships to challenging norms and authority.
gains a deeper understanding of herself and the complexities of freedom. The struggle with identity and belonging is a central theme in Marjane's time in Europe. She battles with the conflict is highlighted through multiple narratives where
Marjane tries to reconcile her dual identity. She swings between embracing her Iranian roots and wanting to fully integrate into the European lifestyle. This struggle is emblematic of a larger search for self-understanding and a place where she truly belongs. Eventually, Marjane makes the momentous decision to return to Iran, influenced by a myriad
of factors including family ties and a sense of duty to her homeland. However, reintegrating into an Iran that has changed significantly both politically and socially poses new challenges. Marjane must navigate a society that has undergone transformation while she was away, reconciling her European experiences with the expectations and norms of
Iranian culture. This period is characterized by a tense readjustment process, as Marjane strives to find her footing in a radically altered environment. Despite the challenges, Marjane's pursuit of higher education in Iran becomes a cornerstone of her journey towards independence and self-reliance. She channels her experiences and insights from
Europe into her academic and personal growth. Marjane rediscovers her strengths, values, and aspirations, blending her newfound understandings with the familiar backdrop of her homeland. This journey is one of rediscovery and consolidation, as she works towards carving out a space where she can thrive. In conclusion, Marjane's journey is a
tapestry of personal growth and the embrace of a complex identity. From the initial cultural dissonance in Europe to the reintegration into a changed Iran, each step is marked by profound lessons and experiences. Marjane emerges with a deeper understanding and acceptance of her multifaceted heritage, embodying the resilience and adaptability of
someone who has navigated disparate worlds. The narrative of "Persepolis 2" underscores the beauty and challenges of embracing a complex identity shaped by diverse cultural influences. Marjane is 14 when she arrives in Vienna, thrilled that she escaped the Iran-Iraq War and the religious fundamentalism of her home country, Iran. She expects to
live with a family friend named Zozo and attend school at the local French school. But after 11 days together, Zozo drops Marjane off at a Catholic boarding house. This living situation is okay with Marjane, because it makes her feel independent and more like an adult. But when Marjane meets her roommate, Lucia, the girls realize they have a
problem: Marjane doesn't speak German, while Lucia doesn't speak French or Persian. School is a challenge Marjane hasn't speak French in a few years, so students either tease her for her rusty language skills or ignore her altogether. Eventually, an older girl named Julie takes an interest in Marjane and introduces her to her friends Momo,
Thierry, and Olivier. Momo is obsessed with death and war, so Marjane is an intriguing addition to their friend group. When Christmas vacation rolls around, none of Marjane feel welcome and
loved. However, Marjane isn't thrilled when weeks later, she learns that there's going to be yet another vacation. Momo insists that Marjane should learn to enjoy vacation and take the opportunity to educate herself. Though Marjane should learn to enjoy vacation and take the opportunity to educate herself. Though Marjane should learn to enjoy vacation and take the opportunity to educate herself.
reading. Near the end, though, the Mother Superior catches Marjane eating pasta out of a pot and comments that Iranians don't have manners. When Marjane insults the Mother Superior kicks Marjane and is rude to her mother,
which are behaviors that Marjane finds shocking—in Iran, parents are considered sacred, while sex is taboo. When Armelle leaves on a work trip, Julie throws a party. Marjane tries to impress her friends by pretending to smoke joints, but
she feels like she's betraying her culture and values. Marjane then moves to a communal house inhabited by eight young gay men. Around this time, she also undergoes puberty at a shocking speed. When Mom comes for visit a visit, she doesn't even recognize Marjane because she's grown so much. And to Marjane's surprise, Mom's hair is gray. They
spend 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 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 her. 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 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 would 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 walks out and spends the next two months on the streets. It's winter, so Marjane develops bronchitis and 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. After the doctor gives her a clean bill of health, Marjane arranges with her parents for her to
come home, as long as they promise not to ask about what happened. Mom and Dad don't recognize Marjane when she finds them at the airport. On her first day back in Tehran, Marjane walks the streets and is disturbed—now, the streets are named for martyrs. That evening, Dad explains what happened in the final weeks of the war: after Iranian
militants tried 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 "Vienna was inconsequential." This makes Marjane feel like what happened to her in Vienna was inconsequential.
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 Wnited 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 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 guickly begin planning a future together. Though Reza wants to leave Iran, the couple decides instead to attend art school in Iran. They guickly begin planning a future together seems secure. This sense of security leads
Marjane and Reza to start picking on each other. Because Reza doesn't think Marjane wears enough makeup, Marjane makes herself up heavily for one of their dates. But as she waits for Reza, she sees the Guardians of the Revolution coming—and knows they'll arrest her for wearing makeup. To save herself, she accuses a strange man of yelling
obscene things at her. When she tells Reza about it, he thinks this is hilarious. Later, when Marjane a "selfish bitch." At school, Marjane befriends several female classmates. Several weeks into the school year, all university students gather for a lecture on "moral and religious conduct." The
speaker insists that women must dress conservatively to honor the martyrs, but Marjane pushes back—the university seems obsessed with policing women's clothing, not with ensuring its students' morality. Fortunately, a religious school administrator allows Marjane to design uniforms for the female art students' morality. Fortunately, a religious school administrator allows Marjane pushes back—the university seems obsessed with policing women's clothing, not with ensuring its students' morality.
art students more freedom to move around. This project helps Marjane make up with her grandmother. Meanwhile, the administration and the Guardians of the Revolution constantly police women who are concerned about the
dress code are too preoccupied to think about their education or the political situation. Around this time, Marjane makes friends with her more liberal classmates and they begin throwing parties. The Guardians of the Revolution regularly break these up, but it doesn't worry Marjane much until one friend dies during a raid. By Marjane's second year
of college, Marjane and Reza decide to marry. Marjane talks her decision over with Dad, who she learns later knew that Marjane and Reza would go on to get divorced. The wedding is a huge, lavish affair. Marjane immediately regrets getting married—but it's too late. It only takes a month before Marjane and Reza are at each other's throats. They set
up separate bedrooms and never go out together. Around the same time, Marjane's friends and parents acquire satellite dishes that allow them to watch Western television. Marjane sees that Dad is right. She makes new friends
and reapplies herself to her education. One of Marjane and Reza's advisors assigns them a joint final thesis. They spend seven months designing a theme park inspired by Iranian mythology and don't fight at all. Though their thesis earns full marks, Tehran's deputy mayor refuses to let Marjane and Reza take the project past the design stage—the
government only cares about religious symbols, not Iranian mythology. After this failure, Marjane begins to think seriously about getting a divorce. One friend tells Marjane to stay married unless Reza is abusive, while Marjane gets a job as an
illustrator for a magazine. Like most of her colleagues, she's enraged when the government arrests one coworker for a supposedly offensive cartoon. She thinks of her coworker as a hero. But when Marjane divorces Reza and applies to an
art college in France. She spends her final months in Iran with her parents and her grandmother, who are supportive of her move. Though leaving Iran gives Marjane her freedom, that freedom, that freedom comes at a cost—Marjane only sees her grandmother once more before her grandmother once more b
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
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and the complexities of freedom. The struggle with identity and belonging is a central theme in Marjane's time in Europe. She battles with the conflicting influences of her Iranian heritage and the Western culture she is now immersed in. This internal conflict is highlighted through multiple narratives where Marjane tries to reconcile her dual identity.
She swings between embracing her Iranian roots and wanting to fully integrate into the European lifestyle. This struggle is emblematic of a larger search for self-understanding and a place where she truly belongs. Eventually, Marjane makes the momentous decision to return to Iran, influenced by a myriad of factors including family ties and a sense
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The narrative of "Persepolis 2" underscores the beauty and challenges of embracing a complex identity shaped by diverse cultural influences. Quick Summary: Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return continues the poignant narrative of Marjane Satrapi, exploring her return to Iran after years in Europe and the challenges she faces adapting to a country
that has changed dramatically since her departure. Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return Book Summary Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return is the continuation of Marjane Satrapi's autobiographical graphic novel series, which presents an insightful and personal account of life during and after the Islamic Revolution in Iran. In this sequel, Marjane
returns to Iran after spending years in Europe, where she experienced Western culture, education, and independence. The story picks up as she struggles with her identity and re-adjusts to a society that has become more oppressive and strict than she remembers. The graphic novel explores various themes, such as the effects of war, cultural
transformation, and the complexities of identity. One of the most striking aspects of the book is Marjane's internal conflict; she often feels torn between her yearning for freedom and the harsh realities of living in a repressive regime. She is confronted by societal expectations for women, which contrast sharply with the experiences she had in
Europe. As Marjane navigates her new life, she finds solace in her education and family. Her parents play a crucial role by providing her with emotional support and encouraging her to be true to herself despite the difficulties she faces. However, the shadows of her past and the burdens of her family's history often haunt her. The contrast between he
rebellious spirit and the reality of the restrictions imposed on her becomes more pronounced, leading to moments of frustration and despair. In addition to her personal struggles, the narrative sheds light on historical events in Iran during this time. Marjane's story overlaps with the socio-political climate, providing readers with a glimpse of the
broader ramifications of the Islamic Revolution on daily life. The brutalities of war, the censorship of media, and the oppression of personal freedoms serve as a backdrop to Marjane's story, making the graphic novel a powerful commentary on the impact of political upheaval on individual lives. As she reintegrates into Iranian society, Marjane
encounters old friends and relatives, some of whom have also been affected by the regime in different ways. The bonds of friendship and connection become central to her survival and resilience, as she learns from their experiences while sharing her own. Through these relationships, Marjane discovers the strength of community and the importance
of solidarity in times of crisis. The artwork in Persepolis 2 continues Satrapi's distinctive style, using black and white illustrations to convey complex emotions and themes with simplicity and directness. The visual storytelling enhances the narrative, making the reader more immersed in Marjane's world. Any hurdles that she might encounter are
captured effortlessly, delivering a profound impact through the combination of visuals and text. Overall, Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return is a compelling with the weight of her cultural heritage. It is a powerful reflection on the
effects of war, gender roles, personal freedom, and resilience in the face of adversity, encouraging readers to think critically about the struggles many face in oppressive societies. Personal experiences but also addresses themes that resonate on a
global scale. The narrative provides insight into the everyday life of those living under a repressive government while exploring the nuances of choices made in times of crisis. Marjane's experiences in Europe contrast sharply with her life in Iran, establishing a profound sense of loss and longing for the freedoms she had briefly enjoyed. The
challenges she faces, from adapting to societal expectations to dealing with personal relationships, resonate with readers on various levels. One of the significant strengths of the book lies in Marjane's characterization. She is depicted as a strong-willed, passionate individual who is determined to forge her own path. Her journey reveals the struggles characterization.
many young women face as they fight against societal norms imposed by patriarchal societal expectations. The graphic novel also sheds light on the relationships between family members. Marjane's parents act as a source of
support, offering quidance as she balances her family's progressive values and the conservative norms of society highlights the
a dual purpose: it provides clarity while simultaneously leaving a lasting impact on the reader. The simplicity is disarming, making the harsh realities faced by Marjane and her peers even more poignant. Moreover, the historical context interwoven throughout the narrative enhances its depth. Readers gain a better understanding of the socio-political
landscape in Iran and its impact on the individual, making the storyline not just personal but also a broader commentary on the consequences of revolution and conflict. Marjane's experiences are a microcosm reflecting the struggles of many people living in turmoil during the Iranian Revolution. This book impacts the reader beyond entertainment; it
sparks conversations about identity, freedom, and resilience. It encourages readers to reflect on their own lives in relation to the experiences depicted in the novel. Readers become invested in Marjane's journey because her struggles are relatable, regardless of cultural background. Key Themes and Takeaways From Persepolis 2: The Story of a
Return1: Identity and BelongingThe quest for identity is a central theme in Persepolis 2. As Marjane returns to Iran, she grapples with her sense of belonging. Having lived abroad, she feels caught between two worlds: one that offers freedom but lacks familial connections, and another that roots her in culture but stifles her individuality. This conflict
highlights the challenges faced by many individuals in similar situations, emphasizing the complexities of identity. The narrative showcases how identity is multidimensional, shaped by culture, experiences, and personal choices. 2: Resilience in Adversity over a challenge faced by many individuals in similar situations, emphasizing the complexities of identity. The narrative showcases how identity is multidimensional, shaped by culture, experiences, and personal choices. 2: Resilience in Adversity over a challenge faced by many individuals in similar situations, emphasizing the complexities of identity.
strength shines as she navigates the challenges of returning to a changed Iran. Readers witness her resilience as she learns to adapt and find ways to express herself despite societal restrictions. The theme encourages readers to cultivate their strength and resilience in times of trouble, drawing inspiration from Marjane's journey as a testament to the
human spirit.3: The Impact of War and Government ControlPersepolis 2 effectively conveys the impact of war and government control on daily life. The narrative illustrates how political decisions affect personal freedoms, relationships, and overall well-being. The harsh realities of living in a repressive society serve as a cautionary tale about the
fragility of freedom. Through Marjane's lens, readers see the broader implications of societal changes on individual lives and masses. The importance of awareness and active engagement in one's society is a significant takeaway from the story. Who Should Read Persepolis 2: The Story of a ReturnThis graphic novel is suitable for a broad audience,
including teens and adults interested in graphic literature. Those who enjoy stories about personal growth, cultural identity, and historical events will find this book particularly enriching. It appeals to readers who appreciate diverse narratives that challenge traditional storytelling methods. Educators and parents may find it beneficial as a resource
for discussions around themes of resilience, identity, and the socio-political climate in different parts of the world. Final Thoughts & RatingPersepolis 2: The Story of a Return serves as a powerful continuation of Marjane's journey, delivering a compelling narrative that is both personal and universal. The engaging storytelling combined with its
accessible artwork creates a profound impact on readers. The graphic novel's exploration of themes such as identity, resilience, and the repercussions of war resonates strongly and encourages crucial conversations about society and personal experiences. Overall, Persepolis 2 is highly recommended with a rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars for its captivating
narrative, meaningful themes, and beautiful illustrations that invite readers to reflect on their own lives and the world they live in. If you are interested in stories of resilience, consider exploring more topics such as armor of God prayers for the homeless to continue reflecting on themes of strength, community, and identity. Table of
Contents What is Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return about? This graphic memoir continues Marjane Satrapi's journey as she adjusts to life in Vienna, Austria. Struggling with her identity, she faces isolation and cultural differences. After graduation, she returns to Iran, where she confronts her past and the changes in her country. Book Details Title
Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return Author: Marjane Satrapi Translator: Anjali Singh Published: January 1, 2001 Pages: 187 Genres: Graphic Novel, Nonfiction, Memoir, Biography, History, Iran Rating: 4.22 (Based on 276 ratings) Synopsis of Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return Author: Marjane's Life In "Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return, Iran Rating: 4.22 (Based on 276 ratings) Synopsis of Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return Author: Marjane's Life In "Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return Author: Marjane's Life In "Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return Author: Marjane Satrapi Translator: Anjali Singh Published: January 1, 2001 Pages: 187 Genres: Graphic Novel, Nonfiction, Memoir, Biography, History, Iran Rating: 4.22 (Based on 276 ratings) Synopsis of Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return Author: Marjane Satrapi Translator: Anjali Singh Published: January 1, 2001 Pages: 187 Genres: Graphic Novel, Nonfiction, Memoir, Biography, History, Iran Rating: 4.22 (Based on 276 ratings) Synopsis of Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return Author: Marjane Satrapi Translator: Marjane Satrapi Translator
Marjane Satrapi continues her profound narrative. This graphic novel follows her journey from Iran to Vienna, highlighting the turmoil during the Islamic Revolution. After fleeing fundamentalism and the war with Iraq, Marjane finds herself an outsider in a foreign land. At just 14, she is sent to Austria, navigating adolescence far from her roots
amidst cultural dissonance. Attempting to fit in, Marjane confronts the harsh realities of being an immigrant youth. The story skillfully intertwines humor, heartbreak, and the struggles of identity in a starkly different environment. Life in Vienna. The Search for Belonging In Vienna, Marjane grapples with isolation and homesickness. The vibrant city
offers freedom yet lacks the warmth of her family. She hops between friends' homes, collision with people who view her through racial stereotyping. Unfamiliar languages and cultural norms compound her feelings of alienation. Despite finding a group of fellow outsiders, she battles loneliness and depression. Marjane's social life spirals downward
leading her to substance use as an escape from her pain. Her experiences provide a candid look at the challenges many immigrants face, particularly during their formative years. Returning to Iran: Confronting Change After graduation, Marjane decides to return home. The reunion with Iran is anything but warm; her country and she have
transformed. Torn between two contrasting cultures, she feels an acute sense of displacement. Marjane's expectations clash with reality, revealing barriers to reintegration. The warm embrace she yearned for feels foreign and unwelcoming. Shame consumes her as she reflects on her perceived failure in Austria. It takes time to reconcile her past and
environment crushes her aspirations, compelling her to reassess her future. Despite discovering like-minded friends and making romantic connections, the looming specter of state-sanctioned chauvinism stifles her spirit. Marjane's tender yet tumultuous experiences are relatable and profound, shining a light on the universal quest for identity
Screams of Repression and the Fight for Freedom Marjane's narrative critiques the human cost of fundamentalism effectively. Each panel articulates the absurdity of her surroundings, rendered poignantly by her unique artistic style. The book does not shy away from the grim realities of life under authoritarian rule. Satrapi juxtaposes her persona
revelations against the historical backdrop of Iran, underscoring the plight of many women. Instances of heartbreak and humor meld to paint an authentic portrait of her life. Through resilience, Marjane navigates conflicting ideologies and personal desires, reflecting broader issues within Iranian society. Conclusion: A Cycle of Discovery In
"Persepolis 2," Marjane Satrapi offers a resonant examination of identity, belonging, and emotional turmoil. This powerful graphic memoir reveals how internal struggles mirror larger societal issues. The narrative encompasses themes of love, rebellion, and perseverance in the face of relentless adversity. As Marjane continues her quest for self, she
embodies the resilience that resonates with many readers. Ultimately, this poignant sequel complements its predecessor, inviting readers to share in her complex journey. Whether you relate to her experiences or not, "Persepolis 2" remains a notable exploration of the intimate intersection between personal and political narratives. From here you can
jump to the Spoilers section right away. Below you can search for another book summary: Alternative Book CoverComing soon... Quotes "Life is too short to be lived badly."—Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return "I finally understood what my grandmother meant. If I wasn't comfortable with myself, I would never be
comfortable."—Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return "We can only feel sorry for ourselves when our misfortunes are still supportable. Once this limit is crossed, the only way to bear the unbearable is to laugh at it."—Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return You want to give Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return a try? Here you
go! Characters Marjane Satrapi: The protagonist, a young Iranian girl navigating adolescence in two different cultures. Marjane's Parents: Supportive and liberal, they send Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane's Parents: Supportive and liberal, they send Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane's Parents: Supportive and liberal, they send Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane's Parents: Supportive and liberal, they send Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane's Parents: Supportive and liberal, they send Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane's Parents: Supportive and liberal, they send Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane's Parents: Supportive and liberal, they send Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane's Parents: Supportive and liberal, they send Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane's Parents: Supportive and liberal, they send Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war. Reza: Marjane to Austria to ensure her safety during the war.
friend Marjane meets in Vienna, showcasing the struggles of adapting to a new culture together. Svetlana: Another friend who embraces their shared outsider status in Vienna, adding to Marjane's support group. Markus: A love interest whose insensitivity reflects the complexity of her relationships during this tumultuous period. Key Takeaways
Identity Struggles: Marjane is torn between her Iranian roots and her life in the West. Cultural Isolation: Her experiences in Austria highlight the challenges of being an outsider. Family Support: Marjane's connection with her parents remains a vital source of strength. The Cost of Fundamentalism: The book critiques societal norms and the
oppressive environment in Iran. Art as Expression: Marjane's artistic journey symbolizes her need to navigate her complicated feelings. Spoilers Spoiler Alert! If you want to read the book, don't click "Show more" and spoil your experience. Here is a link for you to get the book. Return to Iran: Marjane's return reveals a changed society and her
alienation from her former life. Failed Marriage: Marjane's marriage to Reza ends as she struggles under societal pressures. Suicidal Ideation: Marjane battles depression, leading to a troubling moment of questioning her existence. Friendship and Heartbreak: Marjane battles depression, leading to a troubling moment of questioning her existence.
book ends with Marjane contemplating her future and the ongoing challenges in Iran. Let us know what you think about this book and the summary in the comment section at the end of the page. FAQs about Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return Key themes include identity crisis, cultural dislocation, and women's rights. The graphic novel contains
mature themes and may not be suitable for younger readers. Persepolis 2 focuses more on personal growth and less on political events. It fosters empathy and self-discovery. Reviews For a deeper look into Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return and to
explore insights from readers, visit our full review. Are you looking for a nice read that perfectly fits your current mood? Here is a free book suggestion tool. It gives you suggestions based on your taste. Also a likelihood rating for each recommended book. Would you like to find the book you will love later or now? Marjane Satrapi is an Iranian-born
French graphic novelist and filmmaker. She is known for her powerful autobiographical works, shedding light on her experiences during the Islamic Revolution and the complexities of cultural identity. Are you looking for a nice read that perfectly fits your current mood? Here is a free book suggestion tool. It gives you suggestions based on your taste
Also a likelihood rating for each recommended book. Would you like to find the book you will love later or now? Conclusion We hope you found this synopsis of Persepolis 2 enjoyable. This book's richness exceeds any summary, providing deeper insights into identity and resilience amidst cultural upheaval. Ready to explore further? Here is the link to
buy Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return. DISCLAIMER: This book summary and an analysis and not a replacement for the original work. If you are the original author of any book on our website and want us to remove it, please contact us. These notes were contributed by members of the GradeSaver community. We are thankful
for their contributions and encourage you to make your own. Written by people who wish to remain anonymous In the continuation of Satrapi's Persepolis: Story of a Childhood, Marjane Satrapi's Persepolis: Story of a Childhood, 
imagined. Her initial plan to stay with Zozo and her family falls through when their family seems to experience one problem after another due to their immigration to Austria. From financial problems to dropping in their social status, Zozo and her family represent what numerous high-status Iranians would have experienced when they relocated to
foreign countries. Shirin, their daughter, seem out-of-touch with the situation in Iranian, which inhibits Marji from befriending her for real. In fact, she seems to bond most with Houshang, Zozo's husband, most, who was often accused of 'gambling away' their capital by Zozo in their daily fights. The difference in domestic relationship is noted by
Marji, who compares them to her own parents, who she considers more competent. After ten days, Zozo finally caves in and sends Marji to a boarding school run by nuns. With her mother's permission, of course. There, she experiences a new kind of freedom, having to do her own parents, who she considers more competent. After ten days, Zozo finally caves in and sends Marji to a boarding school run by nuns. With her mother's permission, of course.
the German language. She shares a roommate with a girl called Lucia, who she'd initially pictured as someone like Heidi, the character. The language barrier poses less problem than it would with someone else. Marji embarks on a cultural exchange, or at least as much as possible considering the two don't speak a shared language. Similarly, Marji embarks on a cultural exchange, or at least as much as possible considering the two don't speak a shared language.
finds herself slightly lost with everything going on around her due to not being able to speak German. Arriving in the middle of the semester, Marji first established herself by earning a high grade in a math test, and also drawing caricatures of teachers, earning her attention from her peers. The attention brings her some trouble due to the language
barrier, but also, was the start of a friendship with Julie, who later introduces her to her other friends, who were intrested in Marji due to her experience with death, especially Momo. During Christmas along with her family in Tyrol. Marji is
warmly welcomed by her family, who invites her to come along for Christmas Mass. She meets other members of Lucia's family, who opposite from Marji finds herself enjoying their companion, even receiving gifts when she left. At the end, Marji's feelings for Lucia turns
warmer, their bond strengthening to sisterhood. Upon returning, Marji notices how out-of-depth she is with the topics her clique discuesses, and so she spends their next holiday reading while they went on vacation. When she was away from Bakunin and Sartre, Marji also read up on her mother's favorite book, The Mandarins and The Second Sex,
trying to educate herself on topics such as feminism. On a day where she decides to cook herself some spaghetti, she brings it to the refectory to eat it while watching TV, which had been forbidden at her parents' house. The Mother Superior criticises Marji for her behaviour, and her racist remark about Iranians triggers Marji to give a similar
aggressive response, calling them all prostitutes. She is expelled, and angry, she notes the extremists found in all religions. She leaves to stay with Julie, while the sisters write to Marji's parents to notify them. However, instead of telling the real story, they make up a lie, which they see through very quickly. At Julie's, Marji experiences a slight
culture shock. Julie is sexually open and also has a very different relationship with her mother, Armelle, compared to Marji ays is a little too much lenient. However, her intelligence and educated manner makes her easy to bond with, and she even called Marji's parents to reassure them. When Armelle
takes a trip out of town, Julie throws a party. She introduces Marji even overheards people having sex. She witnesses the half-naked couple, and has a flashback to a discussion about
testicles with her father, which makes her laugh, causing other people to think she is stoned. As time passes, Marji starts to mature. She starts experimenting with her appearance, even becoming the school's official haircutter for a period of time. Her interactions with Momo and her other friends gives a good comparison on how out-of-depth they are
when discussing the subject of death compared to Marji. They introduce her to drugs, and she starts smoking, though it reminds her of her parents' discussion of her cousin who had gotten addicted and resembled a vegetable. Marji pretends to participate to fit in, however, doesn't actually let loose. She feels distant as a result, and every phone call
with her parents made her feel conflicting happiness and also shame. Her internal struggle comes to a peak when she pretends to be French in order to fit in. However, she recalls her grandmother's advice to stay true to herself and feels ashamed. When hears herself being gossipped about and outed as an Iranian in a restaurant, she finally realises
how foolish it was and breaks, shouting that she was Iranian and proud of it, before running out. Though she cries, she realises afterwards that her actions also provided her emotional relief and that she felt good for the first time in a communal
apartment. One day, her mother calls to inform her that she wants to visit, and Marji takes extra care to clean up. The day comes and Marji goes to pick up her mother at the airport. However, time has changed the two so much that it takes a second for them to recognise each other. She brings her mother to her apartment, where Taji learns about
her homosexual roommates. After the initial surprise, however, they start to get along. With her arrival, Taji also brings a letter from Marji's father. Taji remarks upon the difference in freedom in Austria, and informs Marji of the bits and pieces of the going-ons back in Iran. The trip allows the mother and daughter to bond. From sharing cigarettes, to
gossipping about Marji's tenant, Doctor Heller, who looks like a horse. When Taji finally leaves, the two share a hug in the airport and Marji remarks upon how the trip had given her enough love to strengthen her in the following months. With time, Marji's friends have all left the school, leaving Marji alone. She starts dating a guy called Enrique, who
had a passion for anarchy. He invites Marji to an anarchist party in the forest, which leaves Marji disappointed and also decreases her admiration of Enrique introduces her to a girl, Ingrid, before they go to bed. Marji, coming from a conservative culture,
is hesitant about sleeping in a bed together, however, her fears were unfounded as they did not do anything. This makes her insecure, jealous of Ingrid. But when Enrique pulls her aside to talk, he comes out as gay instead, and they promise to always be friends. As she loses touch with Enrique, she also delves deeper into the communal life, which
brings along with it substance use. It increases up to the point that her physics teacher, Yonnel Arrouas, worries about her and invites her to dinner, where she enjoys herself and plays with her kids. However, she is not invited back, which she figures is due to his wife, who had not taken to her as well as the others had. The breakup with Enrique had
left her doubting herself. Hence, when a classmate, Jean-Paul, invites her to grab a drink, she accepts, figuring it to be date. However, he ends up asking her questions about their studies, and the disappointment worsens her drug abuse. Around this time, she meets Markus, who invites her to a club. They end up dancing, though Marji is
uncomfortable. When the club closes, he offers to drive her home, however asking to split the bill for gas. He praises her 'rebellious side' and 'natural nonchalance', and the night ends with a kiss so surprising she doesn't close her eyes. Happy as Marji is with her first real boyfriend, Markus' mother is less so. Her racism echoes another encounter
Marji had experienced in the metro, and unsatisfied is an understatement to describe her attitude towards their relationship. They go back to Marji 's apartment, where they are again kicked out by Doctor Heller, who accuses Marji of 'secret prostitution'. Angered and frustrated, Marji holds back her tongue due to her mother. Once she
 was alone in her room, however, she cries and insults her in Persian. Due to the two hostile women at their respective places, Markus and Marji turn to joints as their form of amusement. Markus asks Marji to buy some hash at Café Camera, praising her once she did. At this point, Marji is also studying for her last exams of the French Baccalaureate
God visits her in a dream and tells her a question from the exam, which actually comes during the test, resulting to her getting the highest grade in the school. After school ends, Marji finds herself being defended by the
old lady chef. School starts again soon enough, and Marji finds herself being called into the principal's office for a talk about cannabis consumption, heavily implying that he knows she is responsible for a major part of it. But her intelligence lends her some leniency, which means she is let off without any punishment. It scares her enough that she
stops dealing drugs, but not enough to stop herself. Her own consumption increases, which bothers even Markus at one point that he starts distancing himself. Her health starts being affected as a consequence, and graduates only barely. In 1988, the election of Kurt Waldheim as president increases the concerns of rising Nazism. In response,
demonstrations were being held by students, which Marji sometimes joined. Her involvement in political issues increases, though Markus never seemed to take interest. This causes a rise in tension and conflict between the two, causing a rift in their relationship. The day before her birthday, Marji is celebrated to a friend's graz, which means they
won't get to spend it together. However, Marji misses her train the next morning, and decides to surprise Markus instead by going to his house to wake him up. When she arrives, she finds him in bed with another woman, which makes her angry. However, her angry incites his anger, and he shouts at her to get out, which she does, running down the
stairs in a hurry. Markus, who was the last person for whom she had an emotional connection to in Austria, was significant and needless, to say, she took the loss heavily. When Doctor Heller accuses her of stealing a brooch, Marji finally breaks and runs out of the house. Without a friend, Marji ends up sitting on a bench in a park, where she reflects
upon her relationship with Markus and starts to realise that he had been using her all along. Disillusioned about their relationship and his personality, she had spent her money on him and was now nearly broke. She ends up on a train, sleeping there for the night, and it becomes her daily schedule for the next month until her money runs out.
Homeless and penniless, Marji has sunken to rock bottom as she finds herself smoking cigarette butts and tries to think of who to go to. Her situation worsens her health before anything, though, and it deteriorates until she finally passes out due to severe
bronchitis and wakes up in the hospital. Marji recalls her mother's words about Zozo owing her money, and once discharged, goes there to pick it up. At Zozo's, she finds out that her family had been worried, her uncle Massoud even coming to Austria to look for her. She receives a call from her parents, where she makes them promise to never ask
about her experiences in the past three months. Her mother tells her to go home, and she takes the offer. When the call ends, Marji goes back to her apartment, where she finds most of her things sold off to compensate for the 'stolen' brooch. Instead of arguing, she ends up staying at a hotel and smokes, despite the doctor's warnings. She reflects
upon her mediocrity in Austria, despite the sacrifices her parents had made. With the promise to her mother to go back home, she finally packs, puts on her veil and departs to Tehran. Upon her arrival, Marji finds herself back in a fundamentalist Iran. The security officer checks her luggage and ends with a note for her to fix her veil, reminding her
how out of practice she is with wearing it. Her parents pick her up at the airport, where again, they almost don't notice each other due to the changes the years had wrought upon both parties. During her stay in Austria, Marji finds that things have changed. Her father's Cadillac was no more, and the change reminds Marji of the better times in the
past. When she gets home, she notes the unchanged furniture and is overjoyed to be home, spending the rest of the night on her bed with the lights turned off. The next day, Marji tries to search for her old tapes to no avail. Her mother tells her that she sold it, however, the exchange makes her realise that her mother now regards her as a mature
adult. She takes it as a sign to start over and cleans up her room. More than herself, however, she finds that Iran has also changed a lot. Marji takes a tour of the city, finding it decorated with pictures of martyrs all around. It unsettles her enough that she hurries home to her family, which she also finds changed. With the war over, her father has a
new job and her mother seems to hold a new attitude towards life, one that Marji does not like. However, Ebi turns the conversation around by informing Marji instead on all the things she had missed, everything Marji had missed while she was.
Morbid and depressing as it is, though, the two bond over the conversation, resolving to move forward from the dark past. At the end of the night, Marji vows never to tell them about Austria, deciding that it would only make them suffer more. Meanwhile, the rest of the family had heard of Marji's homecoming and Marji has to bear the visits from her
relatives, close or distant. She meets her grandmother, and even meets up with her friends, who Marji notes have changed their appearances to fit Western standards. However, a guick conversation leads her to realise that she cannot really connect with them, and through it, realised that their Western appearance was only a way for them to rebel
and put up resistance against the regime. Marji tells her mother this when she goes home, and inquires about her other friends. She finds that one of them, Kia, had been sent to the front and had come back disabled. Marji quickly phones him and visits, wheres he finds him in a wheelchair. The awkward start quickly fades into something more
comfortable, to the point where Kia tells her a joke about a man coming back from the war, makes them both laugh. The experience makes Marji feel more at home and teaches her a lesson about misfortune, and when she leaves, it's with a more positive outlook for her future. The change in her attitude inspires her to start over. The suggestions from
her family and close relations, which compose of either marriage, study or exercise, sends her into a downward spiral, and she spends days at home doing nothing until her friends invite her to a ski trip to lift her mood. During one of their talks, Marji discloses her sexual encounters during her stay in Austria, which is received negatively by her
friends. Again, it makes her realise the differences between them, and she goes home still uninspired and confused. She goes through a list of psychotherapists to try and help her, even taking anti-depressants to help with her mood. The pills, while they made her feel drowsy, helped while they worked. But the withdrawal that came after only
deepened her slump and she decided to kill herself by slitting her wrist. However, the cut being too shallow, her attempt did not work, and so she took all of her anti-depressants in a second attempt. Marji doesn't die, though, but wakes up three days later with severe hallucinations. She tells her therapist, who is shocked at her miraculous survival, as
the dose she had taken was extremely high. From this, she vows to actually cahnge, and begins by changing her appearance into one more 'sophisticated'. Marji goes through several changes in her life to improve, ending up as an aerobics instructor at one point. The change brings to her a new car as a gift from her parents, new friends and
invitations to parties, where she finally meets a man called Reza. Reza is a painter, which Marji also relates with. She finds out from one of her friends that Reza is a ladies' man, however, it doesn't deter her from talking to him for the rest of the night. Opposite as they were, Marji and Reza found a way to make it work and they get serious enough to
start talking about the future. Reza's ambition to travel together is quickly banished due to the difficulty of obtaining a visa, so the two get in, finding their
names in the newspaper announcement. Overjoyed, Reza puts his hand on hers as a gesture of affection, and the two go back home to their respective families. Ebi reminds her of the ideological test, which is heavily influenced by the fundamentalist idealism. Marji ends up trying to study, to no avail, as she had not been raised by said ideology. She
goes to sleep with a prayer. During the interview, Marji responds with surprisingly honest answers. She almost regrets it, but is lucky enough that the examiner had liked her honesty, and passes her. She remarks that he had been a 'true religious man', which is a great compliment in Marji's standard. The results of the exam had made Marji and Reza
firmer on the idea of their shared future. During one of their rendezovus, she decides to give a little more effort by putting on makeup, which could get her taken away. Spotting a car full of guardians, she decides to use an innocent man as a scapegoat to draw their attention away from her. She tells the story to Reza, who finds it hilarious. Reza
shares a story about his friends who were questioned by the guardians and took them too lightly, resulting to getting beaten up. It reminds them of the actual danger of their situation, and results to them going home. Marji goes to tell the story to her grandmother also. However, she finds it significantly less funny than Reza, instead getting upset and
angry. She leaves with a remark to Marji to reflect upon her actions, which makes her realize the wrongness of what she did. She vows it to be the first and last time her grandmother yell at her. In September 1989, Marji enrolls in school. Reza and Marji keep their relationship a secret, as the university was heavily socially segregated between men
and women. When she comes home from her first day, her grandmother gifts her a cotton head-scarf, signifying her forgiveness. Marji's school starts getting more strictly segregated, on the basis of following proper religious conduct. New rules governing the women's clothing makes Marji stand up, however, and she points out the double standards
between men and women to the adminstration, earning her adminstration from her peers. Afterwards, she is summoned by the Islamic Commission. Her fears are unfounded, though he points out a flaw in her argument, and they come into the
agreement that she will be designing the women's uniforms to appeal to both the adminstration and the students. It is from this that she slowly regains her self-esteem and happiness, and on the way, gains back her grandmother's approval. In an anatomy class, Marji and her class are told to sketch a model heavily covered in clothing, which makes
their job difficult. From then on, they choose to use a male model instead. However, when a supervisor visits, he tells her that she is not allowed to look at the man while she draws, and though she points out the ridiculous demand, there is no winning for a
late dentist appointment due to the movements her behind makes as she runs, to which she yells back angrily in reply. The women's resistance against the regime takes many different form during this time, little gestures such as wearing makeup, laughing louder and having a walkman. Marji notes that this is the way the regime controls their
freedom of thought, busying their mind with trivial matters such as clothing regulations and their safety that they no longer use the time to question their authority. An exchange between Marji and her friend changes things, however. Marji tells her friend that she sleeps with her boyfriend - not disclosing Reza's name - and it brings half the class
against her. Again, Marji realises that they have changed only their appearance, and that they still hold the regime's views, However, she gains respect of the other half of the class, slowly becoming closer to the point where they would go to each other without their heavy clothings in a gesture of small resistance. The
numbers slowly grew, and they even showed their professor, who was not only glad, but also shared the thought that 'artists should defy the law. This makes Marji note the difference between the government representation and how the real people actually were, which led to the people leading double lives behind the regime's back. It's no surprise
that these same people would hold parties that were forbidden by the government. After their first arrest, they slowly got used to the danger, until one day, the breaking-up of a party leads to someone's death as he was trying to escape from the roof. It scares Marji for good, and also jars the rest of her friends. But after their initial fear turns into
anger, they resolve to party even more in a show of resistance against the regime. As time passes by, Marji's relationship with Reza grows close enough that they start to find it difficult to have so many things that allow them intimacy barred against them due to their unwedded status. Renting an apartment or a hotel are impossible as they do not
have a marriage certificate. Reza asks Marji if she wants to get married, which Marji feels confused about. She asks for time to think, as she thinks that she is the only one who knows what she wants, and a few days later, she finally announces her decision to get married. The
three of them, Ebi, Marji and Reza, have dinner at a restaurant, where Ebi tells Reza three conditions before he allows him to marry Marji: a right to divorce, to leave to Europe to continue their studies, and to stay together as long as they stay happy. In the voiceover, Satrapi the author states how her father had always known that the two would not
stay together for long as they were not made for each other. Marji soon calls her mother who is in Vancouver to inform her about the divorce. The reception is less than warm, as her mother who is in Vancouver to inform her about the divorce. They start making wedding
preparations before finally getting married in a traditional Iranian wedding. During the wedding, she finds her mother trying to put on a brave face. Taji finally admits that she had wanted Marji to be an independent woman who left Iran to become free, instead of marrying so young. Marji assures her that she knows what she is doing, and they hug.
When the wedding ends, Marji and Reza goes home with the well-wishes of their friends and family, however, she immediately felt regret once they arrive at their apartment, feeling like she had conformed to society's expectations when she had always wanted to be set apart from them. She realises the full consequences of marriage a little too late.
Marji starts to feel differently about their relationship after this. The differences between her and Reza feel more pronounced, and it is also due to the fact that Marji had changed herself while she was dating him. This difference puts a distance between them so far that they get separate bedrooms just after one month, and it feels like they are leading
their separate lives. Only the thought of their friends, who consider them to be the perfect couple, keep them together. In private, the number of their arguments increase and their relationship quickly deteriorates. The same year, Iran declares its neutrality in Iraq's attack against Kuwait immigrants fled to Iran, and the disparity between the
Kuwaiti's women rights and Iran's becomes apparent in a personal encounter between Marji and an immigrant, who had thought her a prostitute due to her freedom. Apart from this, though, their lives are relatively relaxed compared to the chaos happening in Europe, whose people were bracing for war and fearing for their countries. Marji and her
father laugh about it on the television, however, her mother points out the anti-Western ideology that the Iran media holds. Marji points out that one is not better than the other. The conversation moves to the fake 'liberators' of the country who are only there for
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profit, leading to Ebi's exclamation to the artificality of the proclamation to the artificality of the proclamation to the artificality of the proclamation of 'human rights' in the intervention of Kuwait. Of course, Marji notes how rare this type of thinking was, as most Iranians were just happy to be uninvolved and safe. Things start changing in January 1992, when a man called Fariborz installs a satellite antenna, which gives them the rare opportunity to look outside of Iran. As the number of satellites grow, the regime starts banning satellites instead, including Marji's parents. The arrival of the satellites to their home gives Marji access to television, which

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