



The Lemon Grove.

Hosseini, Ali (author).

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[\(9780810128293\)](#).

[REVIEW](#). First published [July 18, 2012 \(Booklist Online\)](#).



From the start, the intimate relationships portrayed in this novel, set in contemporary Iran, provide as much drama as the turbulent politics that surround them. Behruz is passionately in love with Shireen, but so is his beloved twin brother, forcing Behruz to leave for the U.S. to allow the two people he loves to be together. Now, after the revolution, he is back in the lemon grove that was home. Are the people there friends or thieves who want the land? His brother, shell-shocked from the Iran-Iraqi War, is wandering in the desert. Terrible things have happened to Shireen, who was accused of adultery. Is Behruz to blame? Can he find her? His present-tense narrative does a fine job of contrasting Iran, unable to break from its past ("not just dragged behind but also controlling the future"), with the U.S., open to all nationalities and religions. Yet Behruz also sees the bitter irony of Americans "who won't hurt a dog or a cat but . . . wage wars on people thousands of miles away." The intensity of the story, global and personal, will spark discussion.— *Hazel Rochman*

This title has been recommended for young adult readers:

YA/Mature Readers: The young characters' love, war, and family drama will interest older teens. —*Hazel Rochman*