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PERSIA BLUES, Vol.2 “Love and War” “My Brother Used to Call Me Firehand.” The mysteries of Minoo Shirazi keep us riveted

The second installment in the *Persia Blues* trilogy focuses on the alternate lives of Minoo Shirazi- “Here” an adventurer in a fantasy world based on the tales of ancient Persia and “There” an exchange student studying architecture in America, fleeing from the strict and oppressive regime in Iran. The two stories run parallel but overlap in imagery and themes of independence, family, and identity. Headed to a convergence, both versions of Minoo have a fire inside them, warding off invading influences threatening their homes and struggling to keep their families intact.

“There,” Minoo is conflicted between telling her father, still in Iran, about her American boyfriend or adhering to old family traditions -the death of her mother and brother still fresh in her mind. “Here,” Minoo is battling for Persia while coming to terms with her love of her companion and her newly revealed royal heritage.

Persia Blues is another cross-cultural experience like NBM’s *Story of Lee*, rich with centuries of history and culture yet at the mercy of the current political climate of an oppressive regime. Minoo was born in simpler times of the not too distant past -she recalls the first time she was required to wear a hijab to school and the carefree ski trips with her family. Now, over “There,” women face harsh double standards and strict religious beliefs govern all life. Her rebellious attitude leads her to Columbus, Ohio, far from all she knows and holds dear.

The first volume in the series, “Leaving Home,” recently won the 2014 S.P.A.C.E. (Small Press & Alternative Comics Expo) prize for best graphic novel. Writer/creator Dara Naraghi, like Minoo, grew up in the repressive Iranian regime and immigrated to study and work in the US. His work for *Terminator* and *Witch & Wizard* licensed comics were NY Times bestsellers. Artist Brent Bowman has been published by Image and Caliber. Both, like Minoo, reside in Columbus, Ohio. Their goal with the *Persia Blues* trilogy was to showcase Iran’s rich culture, giving readers a sense of its thousands of years of history and tradition. The first book was the result of a successful Kickstarter campaign.

6 x 9, 112 pp. black and white paperback, \$12.99, ISBN: 9781561639779
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Naraghi and Bowman reside in Columbus, OH and are available for interviews. For this and more information, contact our publicist Stefan Blitz (publicity@nbmpub.com). Reviewers, please mention our website. Websites, please send us a link to your review. You can find more information and download art and cover on our website nbmpub.com at the ‘For Press’ page.

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