Mahru Ghashghaei

Mahru was born in Ardebil, Iran near the Russian border in 1946, during the Azerbaijan Crisis.   Her mother was the daughter of a well-to-do businessman and community leader. Her father was an officer in the army, but like many of his generation, a member of the secretive, underground Communist party. After her father gave away most of her mother's wealth to the cause, and escaped to Russia, Mahru moved to Tehran with her mother and two sisters. Once a family of privilege, the mother became the servant of a wealthy family, and Mahru lived between the worlds of servitude and entitlement. This unique vantage point allowed Mahru to witness the rapidly changing Iranian society. Her mother struggled to navigate the responsibilities of a servant, while raising three daughters in a man's world.

Mahru went to school, graduated from nursing school, and became a medical professional. Her social life was rich and she had many Western-type experiences. She traveled around the world, and decided to stay in America just before the Iranian Revolution. She returned to Iran during the Revolution chaos to help the country. The war inspired her patriotism for country to do her duty by teaching medical professionals behind the battlefield lines. When the time came that she would have to send her own son into battle, she again made the choice to leave Iran, and moved back to the United States. In many years of conflict and pain, she was separated from and reunited with family members and her country.   With open eyes and a sympathetic heart, she put everything behind her to discover a new life in the United States.

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