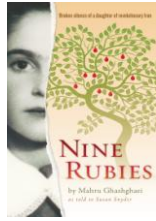


# Readers Respond to Nine Rubies



*"A Persian woman tells her family's story at once harsh and poetic across eight decades of turbulence in Iran: an achingly beautiful page-turner."*

**David Rust, New York City, former publisher at Pearson, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Scholastic**

*"Please, please help spread the word about this book. It is the story of Mahru Ghashghaei, her two sisters, and her mother—who, abandoned by her husband, fell in stature from being born into the wealthiest family in her hometown of Ardebil, Iran, to becoming a servant in a widower's household. (Servants were less respected than prostitutes in post-WW II Teheran.) Fast-forward thirty-two years. The shah's regime was being toppled, and Ayatollah Khomeini was being called "The New Gandhi of the East." Before coming to America Mahru had an audience with Khomeini in Paris. She had high hopes for his regime. But Iran was headed toward revolution.*

*Co-author Susan Snyder, who is Jewish, met Mahru, who is Muslim, at a parent event in Connecticut. They became friends, and Mahru began telling Susan, a writer and educator, almost unbelievable tales of her life. Each story was a metaphor for a larger human struggle for food and shelter, contentment, love, belonging, power and self-determination. It is an incredible story—truly movie material—an incredible, well written tale that needs to go out to a wider audience!"*

**Emily Kelting, New Canaan CT, award-winning photographer, author and contributor to The New York Times**

*"WOW! I just finished reading Nine Rubies and you took me on a wonderful ride. A ride that was mysterious, made me furious for the way Mahru or her mother/sisters were being treated, and in the end joyous. Thank you for your gift of writing and telling Mahru's story. Mahru, thanks for your courage, will, beauty, and love of family and countries. This was a marvelous story that was a joy to read."*

**Margaret "Peg" M., Jacksonville FL, educator and publishing executive**

*"The book is full of rich history as well as strong emotions that could happen in any time or any place. When the author introduces the characters, you get so close that you care deeply about them. These are the people you see everyday in your life, so you feel them as a family.*

*Because Mahru is a counselor, her voice invites you to see yourself in a mirror. When she goes to the garden you smell the flowers. You can imagine each individual as though you had a photograph in your head.*

*The writer would rather be free like rain than stagnant in a pond. She is not like a hermit crab—she escapes from the confining house to find freedom, and although she suffers from separation of family and country, freedom with pain is worth more than no freedom.*

*You will be amazed by the touching memories, filled with tender and powerful experiences that burst out of the pages. When she dances, you dance with her. When she cries, you cry with her. I recommend this book for adults of any age. The language is so soft that it sits in your heart."*

**Zahra Yousefi, Tehran, Iranian architect and writer**

*"The book has been excellent bed reading, it is an emotional read for me. I have not finished it because I have taken time to contemplate this woman's difficult upbringing and unbelievable strength and firm beliefs. It is amazing she has been able to recollect this past and channel into a loving balance in her life. Her sacrifice as a woman and watching her mother's struggles is painful and I hope the book ends with a huge triumph. Thank you for bringing this introspective writing to the public and I hope to see more of it. Please know it has also been an inspiration for me. I hope to share my own difficult upbringing as a way to let others know you can achieve against insurmountable odds. I hope it will be written with as much grace as Nine Rubies."*

**Magaly R, New York City, VP of Development, HITN (Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network)**