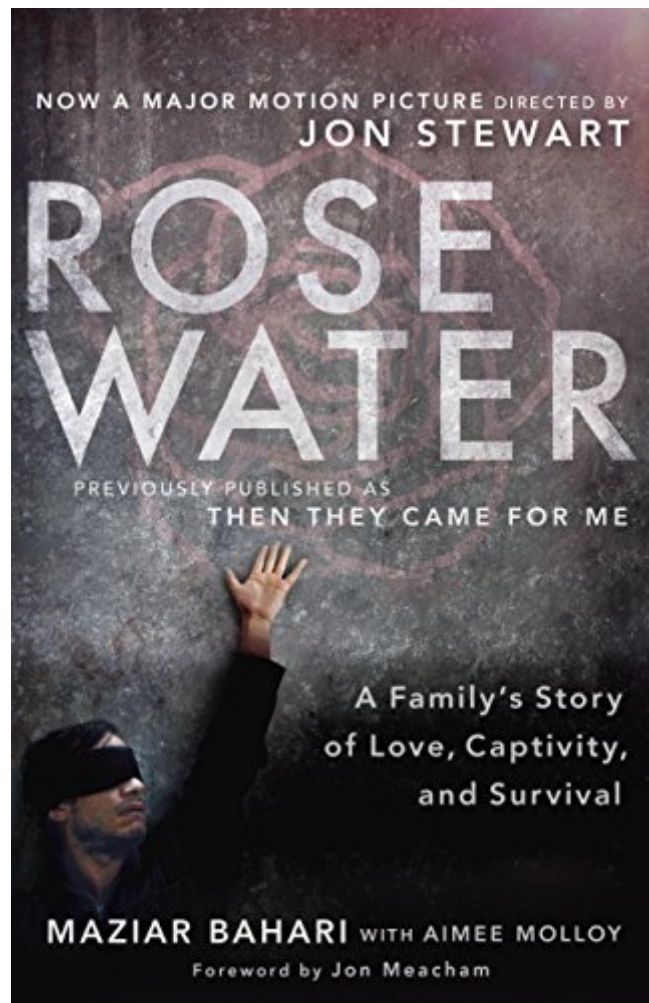




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# Rosewater (Movie Tie-in Edition): A Family's Story Of Love, Captivity, And Survival



## Synopsis

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE DIRECTED BY JON STEWART | Previously published as *Then They Came for Me* When Maziar Bahari left London in June 2009 to cover Iran's presidential election, he assured his pregnant fiancée, Paola, that he'd be back in just a few days, a week at most. Little did he know, as he kissed her good-bye, that he would spend the next three months in Iran's most notorious prison, enduring brutal interrogation sessions at the hands of a man he knew only by his smell: Rosewater. For the Bahari family, wars, coups, and revolutions are not distant concepts but intimate realities they have suffered for generations: Maziar's father was imprisoned by the shah in the 1950s, and his sister by Ayatollah Khomeini in the 1980s. Alone in his cell at Evin Prison, fearing the worst, Maziar draws strength from his memories of the courage of his father and sister in the face of torture, and hears their voices speaking to him across the years. He dreams of being with Paola in London, and imagines all that she and his rambunctious, resilient eighty-four-year-old mother must be doing to campaign for his release. During the worst of his encounters with Rosewater, he silently repeats the names of his loved ones, calling on their strength and love to protect him and praying he will be released in time for the birth of his first child. A riveting, heart-wrenching memoir, *Rosewater* offers insight into the past seventy years of regime change in Iran, as well as the future of a country where the democratic impulses of the youth continually clash with a government that becomes more totalitarian with each passing day. An intimate and fascinating account of contemporary Iran, it is also the moving and wonderfully written story of one family's extraordinary courage in the face of repression. "I really connected to Maziar's story. It's a personal story but one with universal appeal about what it means to be free." —Jon Stewart "An important and elegant book . . . a prison memoir enlarged into a family history." —*The New Republic* "Clear and compelling . . . engaging and informative" —a gripping tribute to human dedication and a cogent indictment of a corrupt regime. —*Washington Independent Review of Books* "[*Rosewater*] is not only a fascinating, human exploration into Bahari's personal experience . . . it also provides insight into the shared experience of those affected by repressive governments everywhere." —*Mother Jones* "A damning account . . . [*Rosewater*] turns a lens not only on Iran's surreal justice system but on the history and culture that helped produce it." —*The Washington Post* "[*Rosewater*] is a unique achievement. It is a story not just of political cruelty (a subject Bahari treats movingly), but also about the two poles of Iranian political culture, bent together in upheaval." —*The*

Guardian (UK) – “A beautifully written account of life in Iran, filled with insights not only into the power struggles and political machinations but into the personal, emotional lives of the people living in that complicated country. Maziar Bahari is a brave man and a wonderful storyteller.” – Fareed Zakaria From the Trade Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Mr. Bahari, let me advise you on this matter,” he said before exiting the room. “In our judicial system, it is the interrogator who makes the final decision. It is better if you cooperate with us, rather than rely on anyone outside of this room. You are here, and here, I am the only one who will make decisions about your life.”

Rosewater This morning’s headline about the beheading of a British aid worker by the terrorist group ISIS filled me with dread, but especially honed in on this feeling of helplessness. I experienced those same feelings while reading *Then They Came for Me*. Bahari, an Iranian-Canadian journalist, is incarcerated in the infamous Evin prison in Tehran while reporting on the 2009 presidential election. Subjected to physical and psychological abuse by Rosewater, a

pseudonym Bahari uses for his interrogator and torturer, he never gives up hope that his family will continue to advocate for his release. In the meantime, he attempts to keep his wits about him by reflecting on the history of his country, its rocky politics, and even his own family's history of activism and captivity."I felt it was my job to provide accurate, well-reported information and, in doing so, help the world to have a better understanding of Iran and in my own way build a gradual path toward a more democratic future."I think that's what I loved most about this book. Bahari is so candid and knowledgeable about Iran, its people, and its even more complicated political mechanism. I feel like a better informed reader, even when parts of this book and the atrocities Bahri witnessed were hard to read. I highly recommend this book, especially for fans of *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* and *The Complete Persepolis*.

I did not know much about the situation that was going on in Iran. In fact, I really had no idea. This book was an amazing insight into everything that has been happening in the country, but it was not boring like many textbooks tend to be because they're written by people who most likely have never experienced the situation firsthand. Maziar Bahari actually experienced what he wrote about, and I commend him for writing about his experiences and trying to educate the world when many other people, if put in the same situation, would put it in their past without trying to bring the situation to light. The book drew me in from start to finish and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. It is definitely in my list of my top five favorite books. It helped me learn about Iran but it reminded me to always be mindful of people of different backgrounds and to never give up hope. Thank you to Maziar Bahari for putting your experiences into words and being brutally honest with your audience. Your book most definitely changed me and I absolutely recommend it to anyone.

Mr. Bahari's account of events surrounding the 2009 Iranian presidential election and his subsequent imprisonment and torture by the Iranian regime is an astoundingly good read. This gentleman is a skilled writer and unwinds his story so deftly that I, well, couldn't put the darn thing down. Ever since I read Orwell's *1984* as a kid, I find little scarier than the abuse of state power. This manages to be both a horrifying and weirdly endearing book. Very highly recommended.

Read this book. It is easy (after you get past the awfulness of the Iranian leadership) to read and well worth your time. I heard about this book on the John Steward Show and it captured my attention. This was written about a dark period in American history that most Americans probably still don't understand. We went from feeling like we wore a white hat & acted with good intentions to

being utterly baffled by the Iranian Hostage Crisis. This should have been a wake up call. I believe if Americans had a broader understanding of what was going on in the Middle East, as opposed to the filter media & government view point, we would have easily seen 9/11 coming. This book covers a period after the Iran Hostage crisis until 2005. It is a great window into the politics of Iran. It covers the various political "parties", their basic backgrounds & where they fit into the economic & religious puzzle. It clearly describes the author's experiences before, during & after the second election of Ahmadinejad in 2005 and his subsequent incarceration. It is difficult for anyone who has not undergone the same experiences to truly understand the horror, pain & fear. But they are clearly described, in some cases day-by-day. I cannot begin to imagine, as a free, law abiding American, EVER being treated remotely in the ways he was treated. I have suffered great pain, but it was not intentionally caused by other people. The author was an Iranian patriot with ties to the Western Median trying to report the truth without bias. This alone is difficult. Add to this a repressive government developing a hair-trigger sensitivity and you end up with innocence treated as criminality.

The only reason that I didn't give this 5 stars is the subject matter. I loved it but it's not for everyone. Maziar Bahari is an excellent journalist - a 'meat & potatoes' writer who doesn't mince words or use overly-flowery language and imagery to make his points. Brilliant - he put's everything in a cultural and historic view without bogging down the story! So the reader can easily put everything in context, even if he knows nothing of the area, history, people, etc. Best - This isn't a "That was the day I got out of prison. The End." book! Bahari explains what happened and why, as much as possible. The 1 thing I didn't like - it does get tough to read in the middle. But this is no fault of Bahari. It's a bad subject: false imprisonment & torture. But he gets you thru it as quickly as he can, while still telling his story. This is a great book - an emotional ride from an exceptional journalist!

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