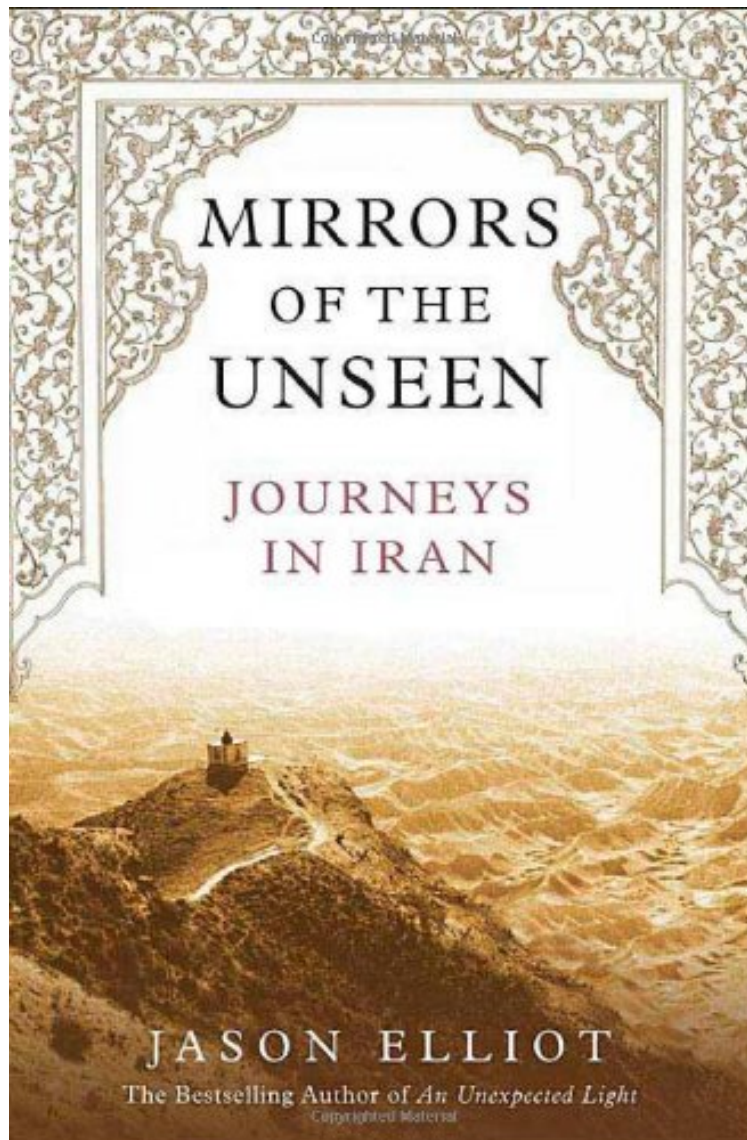


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## Mirrors of the Unseen: Journeys in Iran

Jason Elliot

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#508174 in Books 2006-10-03 2006-10-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.17 x 1.36 x 6.73l, #File Name: 031230191X432 pagesCream colored hardcover with gilt lettering, and jacket in cream colorsEastern design and scene of landscape. 415 pages, 6 inches x 10 inches. | File size: 36.Mb

**Jason Elliot : Mirrors of the Unseen: Journeys in Iran** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mirrors of the Unseen: Journeys in Iran:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Now THIS is a travelogue!By Arash MohebbiNo cosmopolitan musings about the relative merits of multiple swank laden hotels and resorts. No pointless stereotypical dwellings on the geo-politics of Saddam Hussein vs Khomeini. No histrionic rubbish about Thermopylae. Not a dull moment in the

whole book. This book truly made me re-think the way I view my heritage as a kid of Iranian descent. All the dull crud my parents and grandparents mentioned suddenly emerged from the pages of Mr Elliot's book, burnished anew to a dazzling sheen. I cannot recommend this book more highly for its insight into Iranian culture and the Persian civilisation(s) on which it's built. Truly a timely and poetic read:) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but maybe it will get better. I am interested in the region and am ...By Gale Gillespie I actually have not completed it yet. It's a bit of a crawl to me, but maybe it will get better. I am interested in the region and am willing to read it for that. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Lizurej, Marzena Excellent!

In our current climate of war and suspicion, Iran is depicted as the "next" rogue nation that America and the world must "deal with." But the rhetoric about nuclear weapons and jihad obscures the real Iran: an ancient nation and culture, both sophisticated and isolated, which still exists clandestinely in major cities as well as the country's remote mountains and deserts. Jason Elliot has spent the last four years traveling in Iran, and in this remarkable book he reveals the many sides of the culture, art, architecture, and people that Westerners cannot see or conveniently ignore. Part close reading of symbols and images, part history, and part intimate interviews with Iranians of many different kinds--from wealthy aristocrats at forbidden parties to tribal horsemen in the most remote mountain villages, who have never seen a Westerner--*Mirrors of the Unseen* is a beautiful and thought-provoking book by one of the world's most acclaimed adventurers and authors.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Elliot (*An Unexpected Light*) traveled to Iran and returned with this finely detailed, timely portrait of a country and culture precariously balanced between East and West, dark and light, integration and Armageddon. Whether careening around the smog and traffic clogged capital city of Tehran in a battered cab or crawling through the rubble-strewn ruins of Persepolis, capital of the ancient Persian kings, Elliot's keen eye, supple mind and compelling way with words captures the rich, complex, contradictory essence of Iran, its history and people. Everywhere he travels, Elliot explores a central question will Iran, a country with a deep and abiding history of scientific innovation, fine art, high culture and beauty, step into modernity or will the revolutionary mullahs, the guardians and promoters of Islamic fundamentalism, take the country further down the road of isolation. In the cities, a culture of duality exists behind closed doors, liquor flows freely, music is enjoyed and women are free to express themselves fully. On the streets, however, religious extremism rules, manifested by squads of bearded enforcers looking out for infractions of their version of Islamic law. With Iran so central in the news, this is a good read for the armchair traveler and amateur geo-political strategist alike. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *The New Yorker* In this penetrating account of a series of journeys to Iran, Elliot reports on the "double life" of the Persians he meets, who unanimously denounce the ruling mullahs. One insists that you're nobody in Iran if you haven't been imprisoned; another rolls his eyes at the author's obsessive trawling of mosques, protesting, "People will think I'm with a fanatic." The book is replete with historical arcana (such as the second-century Parthian tactic of catapulting jars of bloodsucking flies at enemies), ruminations on the "turbulent calligraphies" of Islamic architecture, and labyrinthine footnotes that threaten to leap off into tomes of their own. Elliot is a travel writer of the old school: untethered to an itinerary, eager to be led astray, and as ardent an observer of the experience of travelling as of his destination. Copyright 2006 Click here to subscribe to *The New Yorker* From Booklist Briton Elliot is the author of the beautifully written *An Unexpected Light: Travels in Afghanistan* (2001), in which his trips to that war-torn country were relived with graphic detail and trenchant understanding. His new book, equally stylish and meaty and compassionate, documents his journeys around another uneasy country. Elliot went to Iran for the purpose of writing another travel book, his desire to witness contemporary Iranian society in light of the shadow but also inspiration cast over it by the wealth of ancient Persian culture. No year in Provence, this author's traveling experiences will make armchair travelers gulp at the lack of creature comforts; on the other hand, splendid visual evidence of political and religious pasts will perhaps stir that very armchair traveler into ticket-holding action. Elliot visited the major cities as well as the smaller ones; his journeys took him over hill and dale. He knows Iranian history and culture, obviously, and equally obvious is his good sense, in composing travel literature, to smoothly integrate factual background into swiftly moving narrative foreground. Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved