

# DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR MARRIAGE ON THE STREET CORNERS OF TEHRAN

1. The novel begins with Ateesh's memory of riding in the ambulance and the conversation between her grandma and modar. What impact did that particular memory have on her?
2. What correlation did you find between the title and the way the story unfolds?
3. Which characters in particular had an impact on you?
4. *Mardom chi megan* and *bi-aberue*, are two phrases repeated throughout the novel. What are their meanings and significance on the lives of Iranian women?
5. The story of struggle for independence is also an issue facing women in the United States and other parts of the world. Ateesh attained her independence through temporary marriage. What do you think of her struggle and her choices?
6. Iranian culture placed a great deal of pressure on Ateesh with significant consequences. Did this seem at all real? What are some of the cultural effects facing women here?
7. What were some of the religious pressures placed on Ateesh? Are there similar religious pressures and expectations here?
8. In your opinion what affected her life the most?
9. How do you assess the status of women in Iran? Give examples.
10. Do you believe that Ateesh gained independence through her temporary marriages or was she imprisoned by it?
11. How would you describe Nadia Shahram's style of writing? Did it strike you as unusual/different?
12. How would you have liked the story to end? If there is a sequel, where do you think it will begin? Why?

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