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**DEBUT NOVEL BY IRANIAN BORN AUTHOR
REVEALS A TRUE & PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF IRAN'S CULTURE,
RELIGIOUS FANATICISM, AND VIOLENCE AND ABUSE OF WOMEN**

“When I tell you that freedom is the most important value in my life, I speak from experience. From the day I was born in Iran, I have had to fight for everything I have achieved in my life; including: my education, my choice to marry when I chose, my voice as a woman, and my career.”

--Fae Bidgoli--

Oakland, CA – October 18, 2005 – Using her own personal story as inspiration, Fae Bidgoli shows how strength and courage can help stamp out inequality and cultural abuse of women. Now a successful entrepreneur with a Master Degree in Economics, Fae reveals what it was like living in Iran prior to the revolution in 1978 by presenting a intimate portrait of her native country in her new novel *Cracked Pomegranate* (Regent Press cloth: \$24.95).

”...*Cracked Pomegranate* ultimately is a wake up call to those of us who are lucky enough to live in a free society, to never take that freedom for granted...I highly recommend this gem of a book to anyone who wishes to live an inspired, meaningful life filled with passion and joy!”

- Jill Lebeau, MA, MFT-

Psychotherapist, Author and Motivational Speaker

The novel takes the reader on a journey into the lives of two thirteen-year old girls, both born in the rural village of Abadi. Through parallel stories set in different eras, readers can witness their experiences and mistreatment at the hands of family and uncompromising religious leaders, and discover the ties that bind the two young women together.

Raised to be a wife and mother, Fati marries at the age of thirteen and looks forward to a contented life. However, on the brink of happiness, she endures a traumatic rape attempt, leading the Abadi religious leader and followers to accuse her of adultery, and to order her to death by stoning.

Fast-forward thirty years to the world of Mina. Finding the first cracked pomegranate in her garden signals the start of a new school year and her birthday. But this year will be different. She will turn thirteen, the age of “womanhood” and marriage. Her childhood and formal education will come to a halt, just as they did for her two older sisters. Determined to continue her schooling, Mina courageously resists her father’s marriage plans.

Reflected in Fae's narrative is her ardent opposition to the inequality between men and women and her belief that education leads to freedom. Using writing as an outlet for these convictions, she hopes to motivate women worldwide to become more empowered.

About the Author:

Born and raised in Iran, Fae Bidgoli left the country in 1978 as a young adult, hoping to find in the United States the freedoms she longed for throughout childhood and adolescence. In Iran, writing was an outlet for those longings. In the United States, she is free to follow her dreams and to write her stories.

Fae is the mother of two daughters, a successful businesswoman, and a world traveler. She owns and operates RE/MAX East Bay Hills, a real estate franchise in Montclair Village, Oakland, California.

In 2003, Fae returned to Iran. She visited the home that was in her family for generations. To her dismay, it had been demolished. Instead of the desperately needed hospital, school, or library, another mosque had been built in its place. The childhood memories of the home, her life in Iran, and her dreams of freedom served as the inspiration for the novel, *Cracked Pomegranate*

For more information on Fae Bidgoli and *Cracked Pomegranate* check out www.faebidgoli.com or www.regentpress.com.

CRACKED POMEGRANATE

My Birthday Was When the Pomegranates Grew Ripe

By: Fae Bidgoli

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