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Captive in Iran: A Remarkable True Story of Hope and Triumph amid the Horror of Tehran's Brutal Evin Prison

By Maryam Rostampour, Marziyeh Amirizadeh



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Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh knew they were putting their lives on the line. Islamic laws in Iran forbade them from sharing their Christian beliefs, but in three years, they'd covertly put New Testaments into the hands of twenty thousand of their countrymen and started two secret house churches.

In 2009, they were finally arrested and held in the notorious Evin Prison in Tehran, a place where inmates are routinely tortured and executions are commonplace. In the face of ruthless interrogations, persecution, and a death sentence, Maryam and Marziyeh chose to take the radical?and dangerous?step of sharing their faith inside the very walls of the government stronghold that was meant to silence them. In *Captive in Iran*, two courageous Iranian women recount how God used their 259 days in Evin Prison to shine His light into one of the world's darkest places, giving hope to those who had lost everything and showing love to those in despair.



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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

"For all we knew, this could be our last day on earth." "I hope you've been thinking carefully," the interrogator said, nibbling on a piece of bread. "Have you?" I wondered if he knew how hungry we were, or if he always ate in front of prisoners. "What should we have been thinking of?" Maryam asked. "About telling us what we want to know about you and your activities. I have checked your laptop and read all the evidence against you," he said sternly. "You must tell us everything about people you have contact with, which organizations you work with. Otherwise, we will lock your hands and feet together and beat you until you die." "Think about that as you prepare for your interrogation." Pushing back abruptly from the table, he walked out. Despite our earlier bravado, we were afraid. For all we knew, this could be our last day on earth. We held hands and prayed for strength. "If we are tortured, give us the power to stand fast."

From the Back Cover

Locked away, but not silenced . . .

Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh knew they were putting their lives on the line. Though Islamic laws in Iran forbade them from sharing their Christian beliefs, in three years they'd covertly put New Testaments into the hands of twenty thousand of their countrymen. They'd started two secret house churches, including one for prostitutes—many of them women who had been abandoned by their husbands and had no other way to support themselves and their children. Maryam and Marziyeh had almost been caught many times . . . it seemed like divine intervention when they were not.

But finally—perhaps inevitably—in 2009, the two young women were arrested and held in the notorious Evin Prison in Tehran, a place where inmates are routinely tortured, and executions are swift and sudden. But in the face of chilling interrogations and intimidation, and risking a death sentence, something remarkable happened: Instead of succumbing to fear, they chose to take the radical—and dangerous—step of sharing their faith inside the very walls of the government stronghold that was meant to silence them.

In *Captive in Iran*, Maryam and Marziyeh recount how God used their 259 days in Evin Prison to bring about a miraculous reversal: shining light into one of the world's darkest places, giving hope to those who had lost everything, and showing love to those in despair.

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If we are tortured, give us the power to stand fast.

About the Author

Marziyeh Amirizadeh & Maryam Rostampour were born into Muslim families in Iran — Maryam in the city of Kermanshah, and Marziyeh in Rafsanjan. They both became Christians as young adults and met while studying theology in Turkey in 2005. Deciding to work together, they returned to Iran and began sharing their faith. In 2009, Maryam and Marziyeh were arrested in Tehran for promoting Christianity — a capital crime in Iran. The official charges against them were apostasy, anti-government activity, and blasphemy, for which they faced execution by hanging. They spent 259 days in Evin, perhaps the world's most notorious prison, as many around the world prayed for their release. Following international pressure and after months of interrogation and abuse, they were freed in November 2009 and subsequently cleared of all charges. They now live near Atlanta, Georgia.

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