

Book Review by [Squeaky Clean Reads](http://www.squeakycleanreads.com/2/post/2011/8/book-review-persepolis-the-complete-version-by-marjane-satrap.html) on [Persepolis \(The Complete Version\)](http://www.squeakycleanreads.com/2/post/2011/8/book-review-persepolis-the-complete-version-by-marjane-satrap.html) by Marjane Satrapi 8/20/2011:

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Content Review:

PROFANITY: **Strong Instances Throughout Entire Story**

VIOLENCE: **Mild, Moderate, and Strong Instances Throughout Entire Story**

SEXUAL CONTENT: **Mild, Moderate and Strong Instances Throughout Entire Story**

MATURE THEMES: **Strong and Adult Themes**

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP: **21+**

Instances of **profanity** were found throughout the entire story with language found on almost every page. The language included religious exclamations, swear words, and strong coarse language. The first fourth of the book was, in general, free from profanity, but as the book progressed, instances became more routine. **The use and amount of profanity in this book would make it inappropriate for anyone under the ages of 21.**

Due to the fact that this books revolves around a cultural revolution and war, there are many instances of mild, moderate, and **strong violence**. For mild instances, two characters are slapped, talk of bringing "death to the king", a friend of a character comes back from fighting having lost limbs, mentions of group executions, and a man drowns. Moderate instances of violence include multiple violent demonstrations where people are shot or killed, a scene in which two women are executed, child soldiers and a discussion of the recruiting tactics used and the death or injuries they sustain in battle, and an instance when a man cuts himself on the head with a knife. **Strong instances of violence include graphic examples of prisoner torture (including water techniques and dismemberment), two attempted suicides, and an instance where a man is murdered.**

The first half of the book contains almost no **sexual content**. However, as the story progresses, there are large areas of the story involving sexuality, sexual intimacy, and relationships. Mild sexual content includes a crude sexual joke, **a mention of women prostituting themselves, self-inflicted pain (slapping) lead by schoolteachers among female students, a young character mentions how her grandmother's bosom looks, a female character mentions that she had 8 homosexual roommates (just mentioned, nothing more), a character's boyfriend discloses that he is gay, and two brief discussions of sexual intimacy, birth control methods, and birth control pills.** Moderate sexual content includes one mention of a **rape occurring, an instance where woman tries (unsuccessfully) to urinate standing up, and when a character sprays perfume between her legs to be attractive.** Strong sexual content includes a detailed story of a woman who is arrested and raped, and when a character overhears her roommate being sexually intimate with a man, and then sees the couple naked and makes a reference to sex and joke about male genitalia.

As for **mature themes**, the themes are strong and intended for an adult audience only. They include **many moderate scenes of drug, tobacco, and alcohol use, attempted suicides, sexually intimate relationships, war, death, and religious fundamentalism,** including the veiling of women.

Overall, the dialogue and storyline are very straightforward, but the use of graphics (although very simple) makes the impact of the above instances more powerful. *Since most of the above instances were related to real life and war, this book definitely holds intrinsic value, and exposes readers to the life experiences of a young Iranian girl.*

However, in the second half of the book, the instances of sexuality and profanities increased significantly, and we find all the instances of drug use. I would recommend that sensitive readers who are interested in experiencing this life-changing story get the first half of the book only, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood (recommended for ages 18+)*, as it would definitely be a valuable read for anyone who would like to avoid the more explicit parts of the book.

Due to the overall adult content and themes in this book, *The Complete Persepolis* is recommended for ages 21+.