

SHADOWS OF TEHRAN



NICK BERG

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Nick Berg is an American author whose life is marked by tragedy and resilience. Born in Tehran to an Iranian mother and American father, he experienced Iran's vibrant culture and violent political upheavals. These events deeply influenced his worldview and literary voice. In his novel,

"Shadows of Tehran," Nick mirrors his life through the protagonist, Ricardo, reflecting struggles with identity, betrayal, and redemption.

Nick moved to the U.S., served in Special Operations, and transitioned to a successful tech executive career after an injury. Post-military, Nick focuses on writing, speaking, and coaching on diversity and servant Leadership. He is also a music enthusiast, finding creativity and renewal in producing electronic music. Nick's work bridges cultural gaps and emphasizes resilience and hope.

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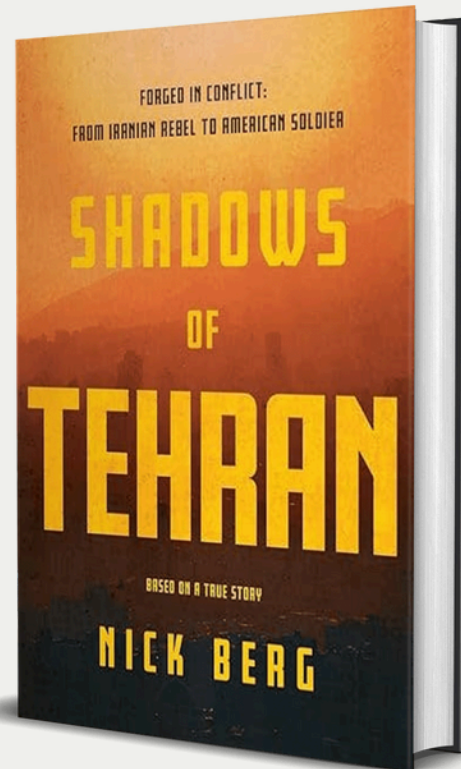
SHADOWS OF TEHRAN

“When you find yourself at the gates of Hell, keep walking.” —Churchill

Raised in Tehran but torn between two worlds, Ricardo’s young life is thrown into chaos when his American father abandons the family just as the Islamic Revolution of 1979 breaks out. As fundamental human rights are washed away in a tide of religious, anti-Western fanaticism, Ricardo’s mother remarries, introducing a stepfather with a dark secret.

At only 14 years old, Ricardo vows to take back what was stolen under the oppressive, authoritarian rule. He quickly becomes a rebel leader, earning himself renown as the Shadow Rider of Tehran. When his name is leaked and an execution order issued, he must flee the only country he has called home. But the fight is not over. Blessed with an indomitable will and unbreakable spirit, Ricardo becomes a US Special Forces soldier and, in a surprising turn of events, lands right back where he started.

Spanning continents and infused with heart-pounding action, *Shadows of Tehran* is more than just a story of war. It’s an exploration of one man’s refusal to break under abuse, abandonment, and loss—an affirmation that we, not the events in our lives, determine whether to be a victim or survivor. Based on a true story, this is an astonishing tale of resilience, rebellion, and the enduring human spirit—one that will inspire anyone facing their own shadows to keep pushing forward.



TARGET AUDIENCE

Readers drawn to powerful narratives of overcoming adversity, especially those set against the backdrop of significant historical events and cultural clashes, will find *Shadows of Tehran* deeply engaging. Its blend of intense personal struggle, rebellious spirit, and eventual military service will particularly resonate with those who appreciate stories of profound transformation and the strength of the human will.

SIMILAR TITLES

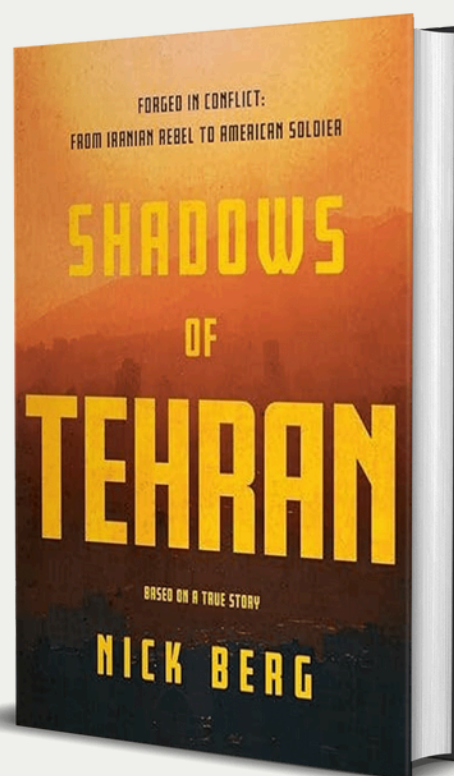
- *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *Reading Lolita* by Azar Nafisi
- *The Hunt for October* by Tom Clancy
- *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi
- *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan
- *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway

SHADOWS OF TEHRAN

Book Blurb

Tehran, 1979: Young Ricardo's world shatters with his American father's departure and the eruption of the Islamic Revolution. As freedoms vanish and a sinister stepfather enters his life, Ricardo, at just fourteen, rises as the Shadow Rider of Tehran, a rebel leader fighting the oppressive regime. But when an execution order forces his escape, his fight is far from over. Driven by an unbreakable spirit, Ricardo becomes a US Special Forces soldier, a path that astonishingly leads him back to the land he was forced to flee.

Inspired by a true story, *Shadows of Tehran* delivers a gripping tale of action and resilience, proving the human spirit can triumph over immense adversity.



“This line captures his ethos well: “You thought you could drown me in fear, but you only taught me how to breathe underwater.”

— Kirkus Reviews

BOOK INFORMATION

Shadows of Tehran

Forged in Conflict: From Iranian Rebel to American Soldier

Author

Nick Berg

Genre

Historical Fiction, Military Thriller

Dimensions & Page Count

6 x 1 x 9 inches & 300 Pages

ISBN (Hardcover) & ASIN

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Publisher

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Hardcover, Digital

Retailers

Amazon, B&N, Apple and more

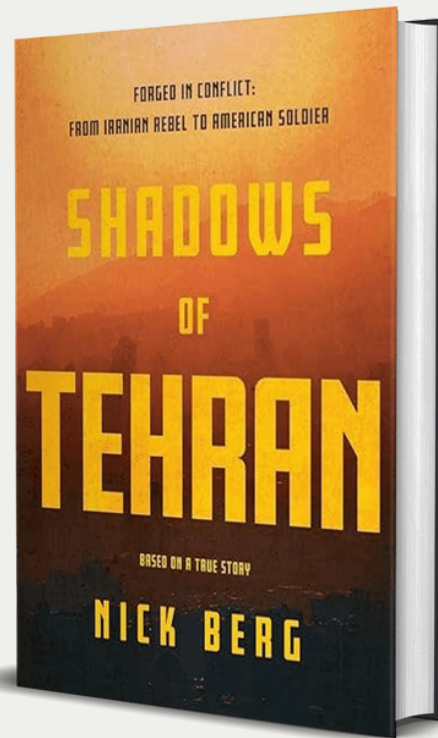
Distributor

Greenleaf Book Group

SHADOWS OF TEHRAN

Book Blurb

Ricardo is a boy born between two worlds—half American, half Iranian—coming of age in Tehran during the final days of the Shah’s rule and the violent rise of the Islamic regime. Betrayed by his father, abused by a ruthless stepfather, and suffocated by a society collapsing into extremism, he turns to rebellion as his only escape. From the underground resistance in Iran to a dangerous flight across borders, Ricardo’s journey is fueled by a promise he made to those he loved and lost—to fight back, to survive, and to never be silenced. Years later, in the ranks of the U.S. Special Forces, he still carries the weight of his past, navigating war zones that feel all too familiar. But no matter how far he runs, the shadows of Tehran are never far behind. Told with raw honesty and cinematic intensity, *Shadows of Tehran* is not just a story of war and exile—it’s a story of choosing to live, even when everything around you is trying to break you. With every shadow, a light flickers—and Ricardo is chasing it.



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“An eloquent tapestry of words that not only transports readers to another world but leaves an indelible mark on the heart, proving that some stories linger long after the final page is turned.”

— **Madison Alexander Day**, Best Selling author of *Despite it All*

“A poignant and insightful glimpse into life during the Iranian Revolution and beyond. Its powerful storytelling brings the struggles of conflict and oppression to vivid, relatable life.”

— **John West**, author of *The Psychiatrist*

“Gripping and heartfelt, this is thriller writing from one who has walked the walk and talks the talk. Nail-biting stuff, in the spirit of all highly experienced elite forces operators, this drips authenticity and tradecraft.”

— **Damien Lewis**, author of *The Paddy Mayne Trilogy*, *SAS Brothers in Arms*, *Forged in Hell & Daggers Drawn*

“Contains all the elements to succeed as its very core is a consideration on life itself—of family, of the past, and choices for the future and a lesson that no matter how many times you find yourself at the gates of Hell, you can still get out of there! A traumatic read at times, but a rich and inspiring book.”

— **Karen Slater**, Best Selling author of *My Journey Through Hell*

“A literary masterpiece that weaves captivating storytelling with profound insights, making it a must-read for anyone seeking both entertainment and enlightenment”

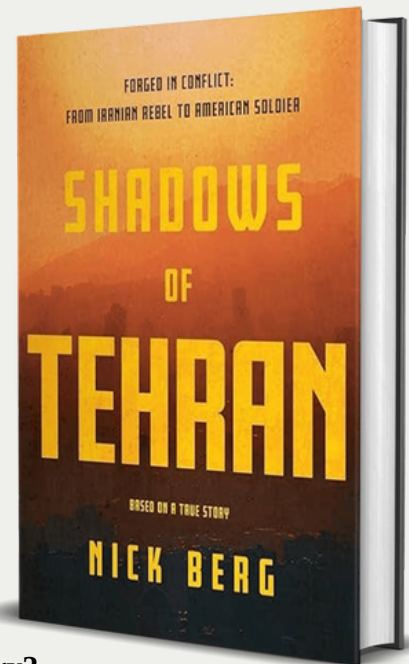
— **Peter S Saunders**, author of *The Truth, The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth*

“An exceptional read, truly honoured to have been one of the first to read this book”

— **Patricia M Wennell**, author of *Because it Didn't Stop When it Ended*

BOOK Q&A

Shadows of Tehran



How did you arrive at the title? Did it come to you early in the process, or did it evolve as the story took shape?

The title *Shadows of Tehran* didn't come to me right away—it emerged gradually, much like the story itself. Early drafts had working titles that never quite captured the mood I was aiming for. As I delved deeper into the characters' lives and the city's undercurrents—both literal and emotional—I kept coming back to this idea of "shadows" representing secrets, danger, and history lingering in the margins. The title finally clicked when I realized how much of the story hinges on what hides in plain sight and what remains unspoken.

When you were writing your book, who did you envision as your ideal reader? Who do you hope will connect with this story?

I wrote *Shadows of Tehran* for anyone who's ever felt caught between two worlds—culturally, emotionally, or morally. But more specifically, I imagined readers who have faced trauma, oppression, or betrayal and are searching for meaning in the chaos. I hoped young people questioning identity, soldiers wrestling with purpose, and survivors of political or personal violence would see themselves in Ricardo's journey. I wanted them to know they're not alone—and that resilience isn't about being unbreakable, but about rising every time you're shattered.

Is there anything you would like to say to those who are about to embark on this story with you? What do you hope they experience as they read?

First, thank you for picking up the book—it means more than I can say. As you step into *Shadows of Tehran*, I hope you feel the weight of truth behind the fiction. This isn't just a story about war or rebellion—it's about finding your voice when the world tries to silence it. I hope readers will feel the tension, the fear, the flickers of hope. And I hope they come away reminded that even in the darkest moments, we have the power to choose who we become. This story is raw, sometimes painful, but always honest. Walk with me—you might see parts of your own story reflected in mine.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

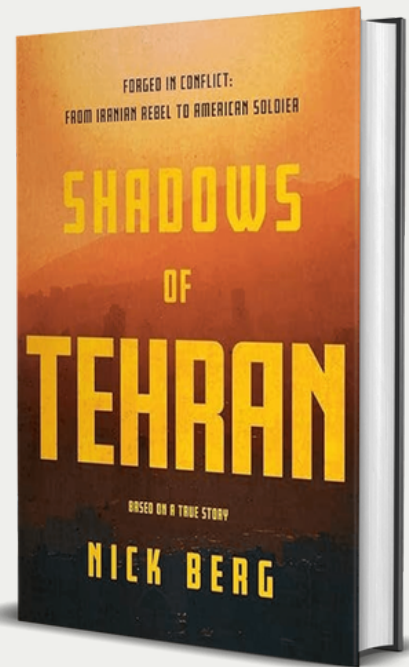
- What were your initial impressions of the book? Did they change as you continued reading?
- How effective was the author in building suspense and creating a sense of unease? Were there any specific techniques they used that stood out to you?
- How did the setting contribute to the atmosphere of the book? Did it enhance the sense of mystery or suspense?
- Did you find the protagonist's motivations believable? Did you empathize with them, even if they made questionable choices?

AUTHOR Q&A

Nick Berg

When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer, and what initially sparked that desire?

I never set out to be a writer—at least not in the traditional sense. For years, I carried these stories inside me like unfinished business. But I think the seed was planted when I was a kid in Tehran, scribbling thoughts in a notebook as a way to escape what was happening around me. Later, after escaping Iran and serving in the military, writing became a way to process everything I'd seen and felt. It wasn't about becoming a writer—it was about survival. About telling the truth before it disappeared inside me. Eventually, that truth took shape as *Shadows of Tehran*.



Are there any authors or books that have had a significant influence on your writing style or career?

Absolutely. Jane Gardam's work had a big influence on me—especially her ability to say so much with so little. Her characters are quietly powerful, and she writes with this understated intensity that always stuck with me. I also drew inspiration from memoirs and historical fiction—books that blend personal truth with the weight of world events. Writers like Tim O'Brien and Elie Wiesel shaped how I approached memory and trauma in storytelling. They reminded me that it's okay to write with scars showing. That truth, even when messy, is what connects us.

What does your typical writing day look like? Do you have a specific routine or schedule that you follow?

Writing isn't my full-time job, so I have to carve out time wherever I can—early mornings, late nights, or weekends. I usually write in short, focused bursts, maybe an hour or two at a time. I keep a notebook or voice recorder close, just in case something hits me during the day. When I sit down to write, I try to block everything out—no distractions, just music in the background, usually something ambient or electronic. I don't have a strict routine, but I've learned to treat those writing hours with respect. Even if it's just a few paragraphs, it adds up.

What do you find most challenging about the writing process, and how do you overcome those challenges?

For me, the hardest part is going back into the memories that hurt—reliving moments I'd rather leave buried. Writing *Shadows of Tehran* meant confronting trauma, betrayal, and loss. Sometimes I'd sit in front of the screen for an hour and write nothing, just wrestling with whether I was ready to go there again. What helps is stepping away when I need to, giving myself permission to take a breath. Music helps. So does reminding myself why I'm telling this story—to give voice to people and moments that deserve to be remembered. I write through the hard parts, one line at a time.

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Amir tried to make Hannah wear long garments and cover up whenever he was around since they were not blood-related. Poor Hannah feared him, and when he threw a long black dress at her one day and demanded she wear it, a punch on the nose from Ricardo ensured he would never act that way again. Reza was livid. Although his son was older and bigger than Ricardo, he had run crying to his father like a five-year-old child, and Reza's reaction was to be expected. He had cornered Ricardo in the kitchen and pushed him against the wall.

"You ever lay a finger on my son again, and you'll regret it, I swear to Allah."

It had been the moment Ricardo had been waiting for, and the words tumbled from his mouth as if spoken by another.

"Ah, Reza. Holier than-thou Reza. The fine, upstanding man of Islam. I wonder what your son would think of you if he knew what you are doing to me; what would the Imams think?"

Reza's eyes opened wide, and his grip on Ricardo's collar tightened.

"You . . ."

"And your god, Reza: Fear Allah and know Allah is seeing what you do. Isn't that what it says in your book?"

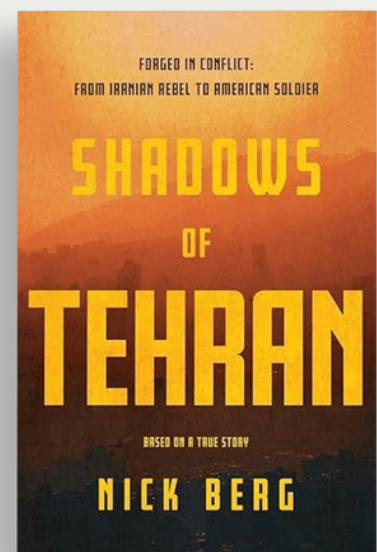
Reza was lost for words. Ricardo reached for his wrist and pulled it from his collar. He edged closer and spoke in a hushed whisper.

"You think you can break me, don't you? That your twisted games would be enough to tear me down? You don't know the fire that burns inside me, though. Everything you did left a mark, but not the kind you hoped for. You see, those marks—they hardened me, Reza. Whenever you tried to push me under, I fought my way back to the surface; you thought you could drown me in fear, but you only taught me how to breathe underwater. Do you think you can still hurt me after everything I've endured? You don't even know the meaning of pain. I've walked through hell and faced demons you can't even imagine. And you, you're just another shadow trying to darken my path, and I'm done with you."

He edged a little closer to Reza.

"So listen to me and listen well—it's over. You don't have any power over me. Your threats are empty now. I'm beyond them, beyond you. I'm done being your target, your victim. This ends today. You won't hurt me anymore because there's nothing left for you to hurt. I've faced more than you'll ever know, and I'm still standing. So take your cruelty, your anger, and find somewhere else to bury it because you've lost your hold on me. It's over, Reza; you come near me or my sister again, and I'll beat the living daylights out of Amir and Behrooz. I'll take them both at the same time, and if you want to join in, I'll take you on, too."

Reza stepped back, his mouth opened just slightly as if to speak, but no sound emerged. The words, thoughts, and emotions that had driven him this far all conspired against him, abandoning him at the final moment.



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