

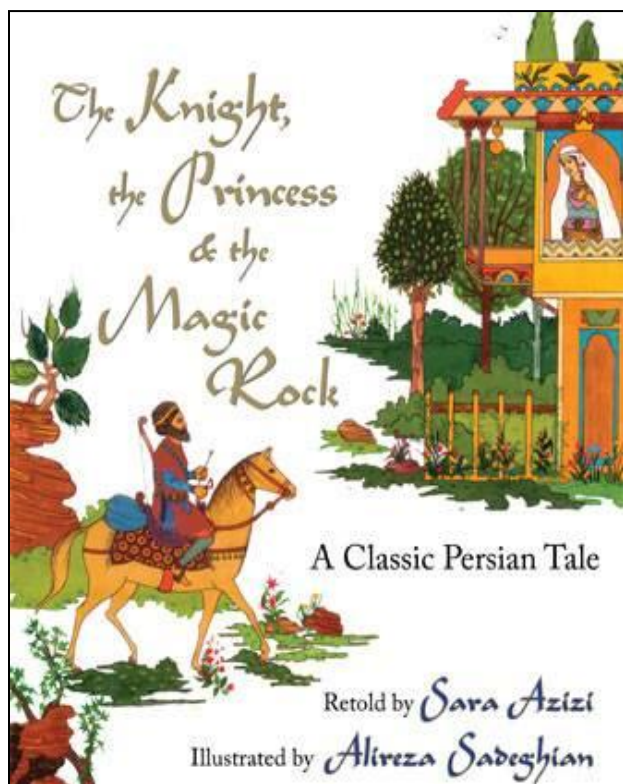


The Knight, the Princess & the Magic Rock

A Classic Persian Tale

Retold by Sara Azizi

Illustrated by Alireza Sadeghian



Long ago in the land of Persia, there lived the brave young knight, Bijan (Bee-JAHN). While on a mission for his noble king to save some poor farmers, he fell in love with the beautiful princess Manijeh (Mah-NEE-jeh), daughter of the neighboring king and an enemy of Persia! Soon, their secret love is discovered, and Bijan is imprisoned in a deep pit with a magic rock covering the entrance. The sad princess feels that her beloved knight is lost forever. In desperation, the King of Persia asks a famous warrior, the legendary Rostam, to risk his life and try to rescue Bijan from the enemy.

Rich in symbolism and filled with heroism, secret potions, and the king's all-knowing golden cup, this famous Persian tale, which has been rendered into films, operas, and plays, is now brought to life for a new generation of children in this wonderfully illustrated book.

The story of Bijan and Manijeh is originally found in the legendary "Book of Kings" (*Shahnameh*), written over a thousand years ago, which tells the story of the mystical past of ancient Persia.

This Book Features:

- ❖ An insightful background to the story of Bijan and Manijeh from the "Book of Kings".
- ❖ 32 beautiful color illustrations by Alireza Sadeghian, a professional artist and children's book illustrator.
- ❖ A section on the symbolic interpretation of the story.

Publication Details

- ❖ ISBN: 978-1-937786-01-4
- ❖ Pub Date: July, 2012
- ❖ Price: \$15.95
- ❖ Trim Size: 9.25x11
- ❖ Page Count: 32 hardback
- ❖ Ages: 6 and up



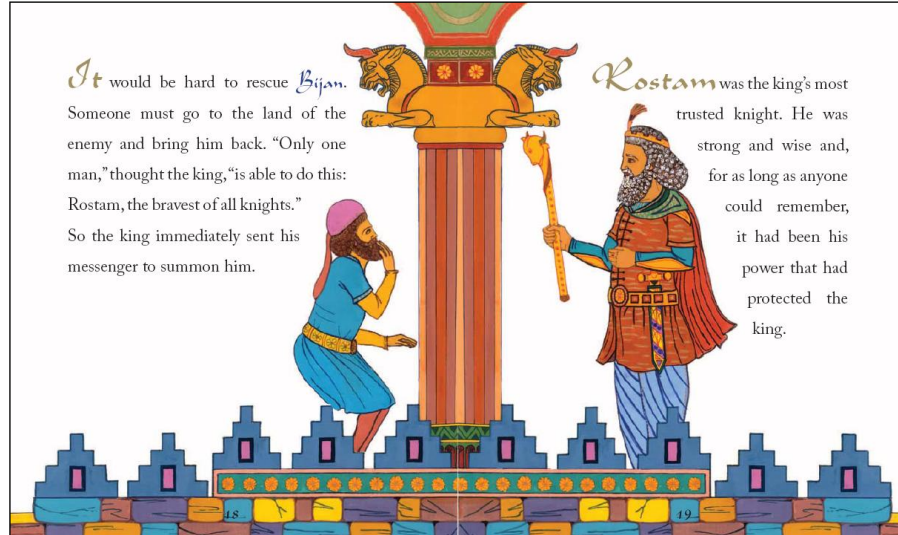
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“Azizi’s retelling of this major Persian tale emphasizes its mythopoeic themes; Sadeghian’s gorgeous color illustrations bring to vivid life both the tale and classical Persian art. Supplemental interpretive commentary gives more mature readers food for spiritual thought.”

—Publishers Weekly

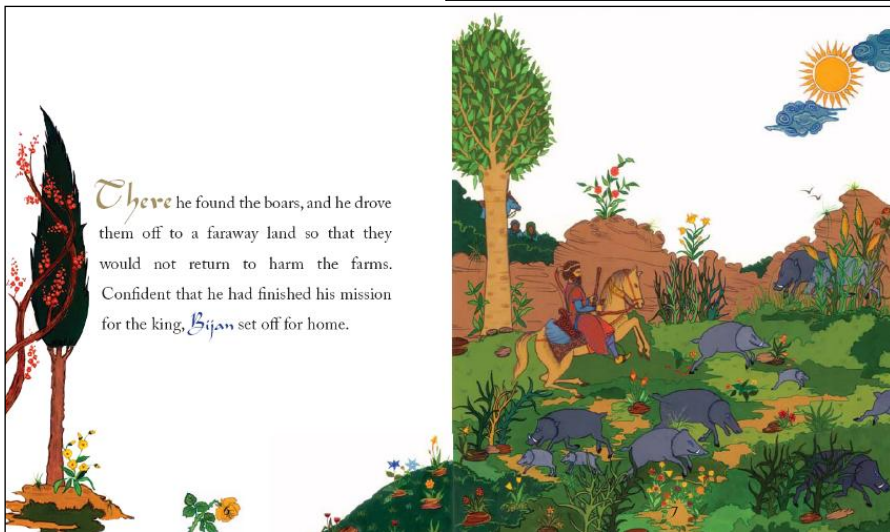


Sample Pages



It would be hard to rescue *Bijan*. Someone must go to the land of the enemy and bring him back. “Only one man,” thought the king, “is able to do this: Rostam, the bravest of all knights.” So the king immediately sent his messenger to summon him.

Rostam was the king’s most trusted knight. He was strong and wise and, for as long as anyone could remember, it had been his power that had protected the king.



There he found the boars, and he drove them off to a faraway land so that they would not return to harm the farms. Confident that he had finished his mission for the king, *Bijan* set off for home.

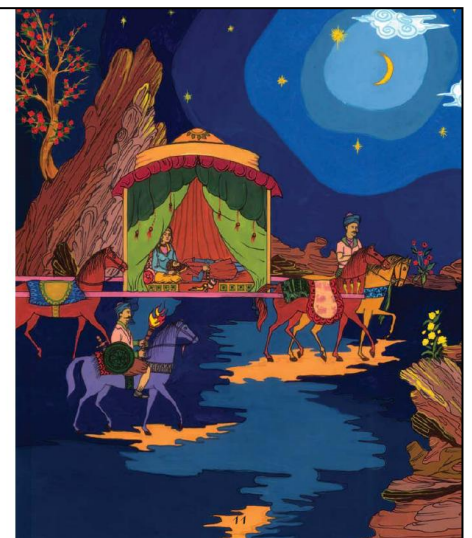
[*This*] is an easily read and enjoyable story with beautiful illustrations in the style of an ancient ethnic tale. What’s exceptional about this version (in the form of a children’s book) are the illustrations by Alireza Sadeghian. . . . The author, Sara Azizi, is careful to represent this “classic tale” as basically as possible and she does a good job.

—*Foreword Magazine*

“A wonderful and heavenly story with a hero and heroine and the triumphant power of faith. It contains beautiful classic illustrations in the Persian style!”

—*Demi*, best-selling author of *The Empty Pot*

She came up with a plan. She gave *Bijan* a magic potion which caused him to sleep, and then she had him secretly carried away to her father’s palace on a covered palanquin. When *Bijan* awoke, he found himself in his enemy’s fortress, though he did not care so long as he and *Manijeh* were together.



About the Author of *The Knight, the Princess & the Magic Rock*

SARA AZIZI is a writer and storyteller who has wide-ranging interests in the arts in general and traditional Persian literature in particular. The goal of her work is to bring the beauty of Persian culture to a wider Western audience. A native of Iran, she has lived and studied in Potsdam, New York, and Toronto. *The Knight, the Princess & the Magic Rock* is her first book to be published in the US.



About the Illustrator

ALIREZA SADEGHIAN is a professional artist and children's book illustrator. In addition to his design and illustration work, he has also taught art in his native Iran. He holds a degree in the preservation and restoration of historic sites and monuments, and lives in Isfahan, Iran with his wife and two children.

