

Laughing Without an Accent: Adventures of a Global Citizen

By Firoozeh Dumas

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NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER • "There's such warmth to Dumas' writing that it invites the reader to pull up a seat at her table and smile right along with her at the quirks of her family and Iranians and Americans in general."—*Booklist

In the *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Funny in Farsi*, Firoozeh Dumas recounted her adventures growing up Iranian American in Southern California. Now she again mines her rich Persian heritage in *Laughing Without an Accent*, sharing stories both tender and humorous on being a citizen of the world, on her well-meaning family, and on amusing cultural conundrums, all told with insights into the universality of the human condition. (Hint: It may have to do with brushing and flossing daily.)

With dry wit and a bold spirit, Dumas puts her own unique mark on the themes of family, community, and tradition. She braves the uncommon palate of her French-born husband and learns the nuances of having her book translated for Persian audiences (the censors edit out all references to ham). And along the way, she reconciles her beloved Iranian customs with her Western ideals.

Explaining crossover cultural food fare, Dumas says, "The weirdest American culinary marriage is yams with melted marshmallows. I don't know who thought of this Thanksgiving tradition, but I'm guessing a hyperactive, toothless three-year-old." On Iranian wedding anniversaries: "It just initially seemed odd to celebrate the day that 'our families decided we should marry even though I had never met you, and frankly, it's not working out so well.'" On trying to fit in with her American peers: "At the time, my father drove a Buick LeSabre, a fancy French word meaning 'OPEC thanks you.'"

Dumas also documents her first year as a new mother, the familial chaos that ensues after she removes the television set from the house, the experience of taking fifty-one family members on a birthday cruise to Alaska, and a road trip to Iowa with an American once held hostage in Iran.

Droll, moving, and relevant, *Laughing Without an Accent* shows how our differences can unite us—and provides indelible proof that Firoozeh Dumas is a

humorist of the highest order.

Praise for *Laughing Without an Accent*

“Dumas is one of those rare people: a naturally gifted storyteller.”**—Alexander McCall Smith**

“*Laughing Without an Accent* is written . . . as if Dumas were sharing a cup of coffee with her reader as she relates her comic tales. . . . Firoozeh Dumas exudes undeniable charm [as she] reveals a zeal for culture—both new and old—and the enduring bonds of a family filled with outsize personalities.”***—San Francisco Chronicle***

“[Dumas is] like a blend of Anne Lamott and Erma Bombeck.”***—Bust***

“Humorous without being sentimental, [Dumas] speaks to the American experience.”***—The Plain Dealer***

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
Dumas' builds on her first memoir, Funny in Farsi (2003), offering more amusing tales from her life in this follow-up. Like her first outing, her latest is a collection of anecdotes from different points in her life: stories from her youth in Iran mix with memories of her experiences as a wife, mother, and author. Dumas' parents remain a big influence in her life, whether she's dealing with her mother's frequent and sometimes, in the case of one bright red comforter, unsightly gifts, or trying to understand her father and his brothers' fixation on The Price Is Right. In one of the funniest chapters, Dumas recalls the time she and her kids decided to try to sell a potato shaped like a cross on eBay, hoping to make a whopping sixty grand. There's such warmth to Dumas' writing that it invites the reader to pull up a seat at her table and smile right along with her at the quirks of her family and Iranians and Americans in general. --Kristine Huntley

Review
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About the Author
Firoozeh Dumas was born in Abadan, Iran, and moved to California at the age of seven. After a two-year stay, she and her family moved back to Iran and resided in Ahvaz and Tehran. Two years later, Dumas returned to California, where she later attended the University of California at Berkeley.

Funny in Farsi was a finalist for both the PEN/USA Award in 2004 and the Thurber Prize for American Humor, and has been adopted in junior high, high school and college curricula throughout the nation. It has been selected for common reading programs at several universities including: California State Bakersfield, California State University at Sacramento, Fairmont State University in West Virginia, Gallaudet University, Salisbury University, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse and the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Dumas is also the author of *Laughing Without an Accent,* a collection of autobiographical essays published in May 2008. She currently lives with her husband and their three children in Northern California.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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