

A Bitter Veil By Libby Fischer Hellmann **Book bitter almonds** She shows willingness of “good” people in Iran to perform orgies of killing through the process of identifying the “other” and then vowing to eradicate that other in order to purify society. **Book bitter almonds** Both make it an uplifting read not a depressing one.

Book bitter almonds

Libby Fischer Hellmann left a career in broadcast news in Washington DC and moved to Chicago a long time ago where she naturally began to write gritty crime fiction. **Book bitter almonds** Libby began her career as an assistant film editor for NBC News in New York before moving back to DC to work with Robin McNeil and Jim Lehrer at N PACT the public affairs production arm of PBS. **Book bitter almonds** Retrained as an assistant director when Watergate broke Libby helped produce Libby Fischer Hellmann left a career in broadcast news in Washington DC and moved to Chicago a long time ago where she naturally began to write gritty crime fiction. **Book bitter almonds** Libby began her career as an assistant film editor for NBC News in New York before moving back to DC to work with Robin McNeil and Jim Lehrer at N PACT the public affairs production arm of PBS. **Book bitter almonds** —where she says “When you’re sitting around the dinner table gossiping about the neighbors you’re talking politics”—Libby earned a Masters Degree in Film Production from New York University and a BA in History from the University of Pennsylvania. **Book bitter almonds** Libby’s best selling novels have won widespread acclaim since her first novel AN EYE FOR MURDER which was nominated for several awards and described by Publisher’s Weekly as “a masterful blend of politics history and suspense”. **Book bitter almonds** AN EYE FOR MURDER introduced Ellie Foreman a video producer and single mother who went on to star in five novels in a series described by Libby as “a cross between Desperate Housewives and 24. **Book bitter almonds** Libby’s second series (Easy Innocence Doubleback Toxicity Nobody’s Child High Crimes DoubleBlind) follows Chicago PI Georgia Davis a no nonsense hard boiled detective operating in the Northern suburbs and beyond. **Book bitter almonds** In SET THE NIGHT OF FIRE A BITTER VEIL WAR SPIES AND BOBBY SOX and HAVANA LOST respectively we meet young activists during the late Sixties a young American woman who marries and moves to Tehran three women forced to make dire choices during WW2 and a female Mafia boss who chases power at the expense of love. **Book bitter almonds** Under the Ayatollah Khomeini and the Republican Guard life becomes increasingly restricted and Anna must learn to exist in a transformed world where none of the familiar Western rules apply. **Book bitter almonds** In the Author Note at the end of the novel Hellmann explains how the idea for the book came to her – her fascination with a story of one woman’s struggle against seemingly insurmountable obstacles. **Book bitter almonds** English Iran is in the news these days and the issues are important to us all so it was with interest that I picked up Libby Fischer Hellman’s new novel A Bitter Veil set in the midst of the Iranian revolution that brought Khomeini to power. **Book bitter almonds** In a viscerally effective tale she brings that key moment to life and we see it in a nuanced way that we would do well to carry into our understanding of the current crisis. **Book bitter almonds** How do they react? Do they simply surrender? Become victims? Or can some survive even triumph over their travails?”Anna Hellman’s main character hangs in a delicate balance throughout the novel and we don’t know how she’ll manage when extremist Islam traps her inside Iran under a veil. **Book bitter almonds** The mama in me wanted to give them a lecture about strength of character and making decisions that are wise for you in the long run rather than decisions that feed into your weakest sides. **Book bitter almonds** So what happens to a woman and not an extraordinarily strong woman when her freedoms are taken away one by one and her life is threatened multiple times and submission to extremism seems like the only way out? I’ll let you read and find out. **Book bitter almonds** It’s about Anna a college student in Chicago the daughter of a German physicist father and a French mother (her parents were divorced and she lived with her father mainly) who meets Nouri Samedi a wealthy Iranian engineering grad student. **Book bitter almonds** At first her life in Iran is wonderful her in-laws embrace her her husband is loving and

doting and Anna starts to make friends with another American woman also the wife of an Iranian.

Book bitter almonds I was wary of Anna marrying Nouri and moving to Iran from the beginning as I immediately thought about the book *Not Without My Daughter* and knew what dangers Anna would face once married and living in that society and how her rights as a woman would be eroded.

Book bitter almonds I could hardly wait for my daily commute to/from work each day just so I could listen! Kudos to the author for a wonderful believable story about true events that I remember so well happening in my youth.

Book bitter almonds But why??? oh why??? did the ending include a hokey murder mystery stereotyped Scooby-Doo-like reveal of the villain with the last minute gunshot and the finger of blame pointed at our protagonist? I walked away feeling like the book was ruined.

Book bitter almonds The young complicated character the one I was interested in following to the next book reduced to an and if it hadn't been for you I would have gotten away with it stick figure.

Book bitter almonds If I ignore the murder mystery subplot I come away with a great sense of tragedy sadness for Nouri's family and people and hope for Anna in that surviving she would be stronger and able to forgive her husband for his weaknesses.

Book bitter almonds Will their relationship weather the violent changes to the country led by the Ayatollah Khomeini? Will they survive the new regime? *Bitter Veil* was a fascinating look into culture preconceptions power belief and the chaos that comes from revolution.

Book bitter almonds When Nouri decides to return home to a job Anna agrees to marry and go with him but the timing proves disastrous as Iran falls under anti-American leadership the newly free venting their fury on the upper classes with random arrests and even torture.

Book bitter almonds Anna's horror at who her German father might have been provides a powerful background to who her new friends become and this story is simultaneously enthralling scarily real and deeply thought-provoking.

Book bitter almonds English I don't think I was prepared for *A Bitter Veil* to be such an ambitious intelligent emotionally-charged- (satisfying-page-turning) important mystery-fiction book! Libby Hellmann writes a gripping heart-rending incredible tale that feels like a true story.

Book bitter almonds The best way to read this story (IMO) is know little about it! I can't imagine ANYONE NOT taking to this book! It is damn hard to put down! EVEN if you think you know this story (know the history)---which I did ---(I was in Iran during the 70's before the 'fall') it doesn't matter.

Book bitter almonds Think 'our' country might ever move 'backward'? Are 'we' ever THAT sure? WHY would ANY country move BACKWARD -- Lost of freedom? Libby will leave you thinking (maybe crying) --[Such terrible acts men are capable of -- yet they teach us lessons of humanity] My enemy's enemy is my best friend, I won't tell you how—it will spoil some of the plot—but she creates a subtle and effective parallel between the Iranian extremism and Germany under the Nazis:

Book bitter almonds Hellman includes amongst the “good” villains those allied with the Islamic revolution and those just trying to survive,

Book bitter almonds Isn't that precisely why such villainy works? No need to be a true believer to become tangled in the darkness.

Book bitter almonds There's a hopeful message to this book and a deep cross-cultural sympathy,

Book bitter almonds Sixteen novels and twenty five short stories later she claims they'll take her out of the Windy City feet first,

Book bitter almonds She has been nominated for many awards in the mystery writing community and has even won a few,

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Book bitter almonds She has been nominated for many awards in the mystery writing community and has even won a few.

Book bitter almonds Her newest work is *DOUBLEBLIND* the 6th Georgia Davis thriller:

Book bitter almonds Retrained as an assistant director when Watergate broke Libby helped produce PBS's night time broadcast of the hearings,

Book bitter almonds She went on to work for public relations firm Burson Marsteller in Chicago in 1978 where she stayed until she left to found Fischer Hellmann Communications in 1985.

Book bitter almonds In addition to writing Libby writes and produces videos and conducts speaker training programs in platform speaking presentation skills media training and crisis communications:

Book bitter almonds Libby is known for her portrayal of strong female characters:

Book bitter almonds " JUMP CUT an espionage thriller featuring Ellie and her daughter was released in 2016.

Book bitter almonds In

addition to her popular series Libby has also written five standalone thrillers in diverse settings and historical periods that demonstrate her versatility as a writer, **Book bitter almonds** And in A BEND IN THE RIVER she takes a break from her thrillers to write an award winning story of two Vietnamese sisters trying to survive the Vietnam war. **Book bitter almonds** Anna and Nouri both studying in Chicago fall in love despite their very different backgrounds. **Book bitter almonds** Anna who has never been close to her parents is more than happy to return with Nouri to his native Iran to be embraced by his wealthy family. **Book bitter almonds** Beginning their married life together in 1978 their world is abruptly turned upside down by the overthrow of the Shah and the rise of the Islamic Republic. **Book bitter almonds** Random arrests and torture become the norm women are required to wear hijab and Anna discovers that she is no longer free to leave the country: **Book bitter almonds** As events reach a fevered pitch Anna realizes that nothing is as she thought and no one can be trusted...not even her husband. **Book bitter almonds** 5***For this historical thriller Hellmann has chosen the time frame of 1977-1980 during the Iranian Revolution, **Book bitter almonds** Anna Schroder meets fellow grad student Nouri Samedi in a Chicago bookstore: **Book bitter almonds** They share a love of poetry which is what begins their relationship, **Book bitter almonds** Despite their different cultures they find in each other qualities which complete them and fall in love: **Book bitter almonds** But when they return to Nouri's native Iran Anna is confronted with a greater cultural and religious divide than she had anticipated. **Book bitter almonds** Hellmann has obviously done her research and she presents both sides of the many issues that resulted in the rise of the Ayatollah Khomeini (at least in my opinion): **Book bitter almonds** I found the lead characters rather naïve but I reminded myself of their youth and idealism and how each had been somewhat sheltered by his/her family and went with the flow. **Book bitter almonds** I was completely caught up in the story of Anna's increasing isolation the limited (or lack of) options and her resolve, **Book bitter almonds** But she says she felt stymied because the story had no crime and she writes crime fiction, **Book bitter almonds** So on the advice of a friend she invented a crime around which to build her plot, **Book bitter almonds** I have news for Hellmann - she does a fine job of writing fiction without the crime (which in this case I felt resolved a little too neatly): **Book bitter almonds** What I found most interesting about the book was Anna's journey from a naïve college student to a strong and resourceful young woman. **Book bitter almonds** I've passed the book on to my husband who loves reading about international issues and intrigue: **Book bitter almonds** English A terrifying thriller that will have your pulse pounding! Anna Schroder is a strong protagonist who readers will love immediately: **Book bitter almonds** You can tell the author did tons of research in crafting this and making it as real as possible and scary as hell: **Book bitter almonds** I certainly remembered the overthrow of the shah and the hostage crisis but I can't say I ever got inside that world until I read Hellman's book: **Book bitter almonds** It is perhaps a cliché to say that some themes transcend time and stay central to the human experience throughout the ages. **Book bitter almonds** But it's still a profound notion despite its common currency, **Book bitter almonds** A Bitter Veil develops two such universal themes (along with other lesser ones of course). **Book bitter almonds** One of those themes Hellman succinctly identifies in her author notes: "I am drawn to stories about women whose choices have been taken away from them. **Book bitter almonds** She's no superhero but she has to cope with extraordinary circumstances, **Book bitter almonds** When we meet her she's a college student in Chicago hunting down a copy of Rumi's poetry: **Book bitter almonds** She meets Nouri an Iranian engineering student when he recites lines of Rumi to her at the bookstore. **Book bitter almonds** They are pretty typical college kids—sexual attraction cultural exoticism intelligent discussions politics all that heady brew draw them together: **Book bitter almonds** They both seem in different ways too vulnerable for safety too needy and dependent: **Book bitter almonds** Hellman has done a superb job of creating these two people: **Book bitter almonds** If I want to lecture an author's characters she's clearly persuaded me they are real, **Book bitter almonds** But these are subtle problems that they suffer from the sort most of us have in one way or another. **Book bitter almonds** But instead they marry and go to Iran at the opening of its paroxysms. **Book bitter almonds** The other theme that Hellman gradually

unfolds is best summed up by Hannah Arendt's famous phrase "the banality of evil: **Book bitter almonds** " As Anna says at one point when describing Iran during the revolution "It's as if an entire country—an entire culture—slipped off its axis: **Book bitter almonds** " Arendt's notion that an ordinary person can be led to evil actions arose from her study of the Nazis despite the sadness: **Book bitter almonds** English I was sent this audio book for free by the author; thank you Libby! I forgot while reading this book that it was fiction as it felt like a real story. **Book bitter almonds** I was only slightly older than Anna when all these events happened in Iran, **Book bitter almonds** They fall in love and after her graduation they decide to go to Iran and get married and start a life there: **Book bitter almonds** Anna is hoping for a wonderful family life something she felt she never had with her own family. **Book bitter almonds** But political events are happening in Iran and the setting is just prior to the Shah's fall. **Book bitter almonds** As all the political upheaval starts to happen things change in the Samedi household and Nouri doesn't know how to cope with the change, **Book bitter almonds** He and his family turn against all things American including Anna: **Book bitter almonds** My only complaint is how quickly Nouri changes for the worst and without any explanation about why he suddenly falls out of love with Anna: **Book bitter almonds** He doesn't talk with her and I'm confused why everything is suddenly her fault and literally it happens almost overnight. **Book bitter almonds** I was just as distressed as Anna was over how horrible her life becomes, **Book bitter almonds** I was so angry with Nouri! The book is beautifully written and I feel like I learned so much about the time the politics and Iran as a country and about the people. **Book bitter almonds** English This was a 5 star book a work of literary fiction political thriller near-current historical fiction, **Book bitter almonds** It had everything drama young love revolutionary changes iconic characters and a reign of terror, **Book bitter almonds** Okay back to the first 91% of the book and the last 6%. **Book bitter almonds** It was lyrical sweet tragic and pulsing with a mixture of romance fantasy and tension: **Book bitter almonds** Nouri was Anna's dream come true a handsome charming man she met at a Persian bookstore, **Book bitter almonds** Their torrid love affair ended in a fairy-tale wedding and inclusion into a wealthy loving and accepting family. **Book bitter almonds** Anna's own family was broken rather early and in Nouri's family and country pre-Khomeini Iran she enjoyed a honeymoon with a culture people and land in transition, **Book bitter almonds** The book documents the way ordinary people adapt and are affected by traumatic change: **Book bitter almonds** Eventually Anna's life is reduced to that of a Islamic wife hidden behind a chador a virtual prisoner to her increasingly moody and fanatic husband: **Book bitter almonds** Her trials and escape were dramatic and filled with poignant detail. **Book bitter almonds** I thoroughly enjoyed the book "A Bitter Veil" by Libby Fischer Hellmann, **Book bitter almonds** The story starts with a chance encounter in a college book store where Anna is looking for a book of poetry and meets Nouri. **Book bitter almonds** Anna and Nouri are caught up in the demonstrations that spark the Iranian Revolution. **Book bitter almonds** As history tells us the ouster of the Shah creates the power vacuum for the Ayatollah Khomeini to return to Iran, **Book bitter almonds** As their studies are concluding Nouri proposes and they prepare to move to Tehran, **Book bitter almonds** Anna longs for a family to belong and welcomes the chance to make Iran her home with Nouri: **Book bitter almonds** It doesn't take long for the events in Tehran to deteriorate and Anna's life becomes difficult: **Book bitter almonds** Each page is filled with the tension that comes from the understanding of life in country of no rights, **Book bitter almonds** Even in light of the extreme political turmoil Anna comes to recognize her inner strength that wills her to survive, **Book bitter almonds** As current events unfold across the news sources today I enjoyed a story that made me more aware of the plight of women in the Middle East, **Book bitter almonds** Libby did a wonderful job of incorporating her extensive research on the Iranian Revolution into the life of Anna. **Book bitter almonds** It is 1977 and Nouri Samedi is alluring and wonderful sharing her beliefs about society and her passion for change. **Book bitter almonds** She is delighted to marry him and move with him to Iran to finally become part of a family: **Book bitter almonds** Leaving her Chicago home and her father she travels to Iran with her new husband to learn a new way of life and a new culture. **Book bitter almonds** Anna and Nouri know that the nation is on the brink of revolution: **Book**

bitter almonds But their fervent belief that the country is headed for a peaceful transition to parliamentary democracy prevents them from fearing the change, **Book bitter almonds** Anna transitions from idealistic college student to undeceived prisoner of war, **Book bitter almonds** Her understanding of the world transforms as she faces the things she didn't understand before, **Book bitter almonds** The aspects of mystery Libby wove into the story brought excitement and suspense to an already tense story, **Book bitter almonds** I loved the way she handled the reader's gradual understanding of the truth to craft the mystery that trapped Anna in an Iranian prison. **Book bitter almonds** I love books about other cultures and I wasn't disappointed in this one, **Book bitter almonds** Details about Iranian life and culture made the story sparkle. **Book bitter almonds** The subject also resonates with all of the current events that deal with that area of the world. **Book bitter almonds** I love to understand other points of view and I appreciate the research and care taken with the subject: **Book bitter almonds** Libby didn't leave out the important gray areas of atrocity that make them real instead of just good guys vs: **Book bitter almonds** The parallels to many other nations' revolutions and dark periods were not forgotten. **Book bitter almonds** This work was an excellent contemplation on turbulent political times and what they do to families and individuals. **Book bitter almonds** English Iran before and after the fall of the Shah is the time period for this fast paced story, **Book bitter almonds** Anna and Nouri meet and fall in love in Chicago while attending college: **Book bitter almonds** So in love with one another they move in together then marry after graduation, **Book bitter almonds** For Anna moving to Iran is a heady but nerve wracking experience, **Book bitter almonds** But Nouri's family is welcoming and she finds the family she feels she has been denied in her own childhood. **Book bitter almonds** Nouri returning to the bosom of his family is confident that he will grow and prosper with Anna at his side. **Book bitter almonds** Even though he has given lip service to the need for change in Iranian society he naively believes that his cultured wealthy way of life will not be affected. **Book bitter almonds** The warning signs at first are subtle and easy for the couple to ignore. **Book bitter almonds** But the winds of change quickly escalate into the chaos that tornadoes bring, **Book bitter almonds** Hellman writes crime fiction but I read this as historical fiction: **Book bitter almonds** And while I have lived through this time I learned a lot about Iran's history and culture: **Book bitter almonds** Looking back at myself during that time I realize now what a narrow view I had of this country back then: **Book bitter almonds** For those that remember this time it is a fresh look back: **Book bitter almonds** And for all it is a vision of what happens when religion and politics mix: **Book bitter almonds** English American Anna meets Iranian Nouri in a bookstore in Chicago where they're both students. **Book bitter almonds** Sensitive and artistic Anna soon falls for Nouri's reading of Iranian poetry: **Book bitter almonds** Author Libby Fischer Hellmann blends excellent research into convincing story-telling with her novel *A Bitter Veil*, **Book bitter almonds** Avoiding condemnation she presents the tortuous mix of ideals and consequences through the eyes of a stranger to the world. **Book bitter almonds** Initially delighted to be welcomed into Nouri's family Anna falls in love with the countryside and people only to find her hopes betrayed. **Book bitter almonds** Fragile friendships might save or destroy and the darkness of Iran's revolution becomes not only painfully clear but also rationally predictable. **Book bitter almonds** In another age in another part of the world a people fell apart. **Book bitter almonds** Disclosure: I received a free copy of this novel from World Literary Café in exchange for my honest review: **Book bitter almonds** Even if you have seen 'other' movies on this topic-- It won't matter: **Book bitter almonds** You want others to hurry up and read it ---(so you can talk with them more about it) It's an 'excellent' discussion book, **Book bitter almonds** (great line you put in the book *Libby* at such a touching-sensitive moment): **Book bitter almonds** lol Isn't the cover beautiful? Draws ya in huh? (perfect for the story) English



[1]

And Hellman has Nazis in this book. It will be released March 8 2022. It will be released March 8 2022. Originally from Washington D.C. {site_link} It all began with a line of Persian poetry . . A Bitter Veil³. I'm sure he'll enjoy it as much as I did. There are undercurrents of concern. If things had gone as planned they'd have been fine. It's a good story. Black became white. White became black. Kind people were unkind. Good people were bad. The good story and characters make it an engaging read. The subject matter and setting make it an illuminating one. The book was obviously well- researched. I highly recommend this book and I loved the audio narration. There is denial anger bargaining and stultifying acquiescence. English A Story Poignant for the Times. It doesn't take long for them to fall in love. It definitely was a page turner. I highly recommend this book. English Anna is in love. Unfortunately their beliefs prove false. bad guys stories. The vast differences in culture overwhelm her at times. And there is no turning back. What was once would never be again. I could not stop reading this book. I understand that Ms. For those too young to remember it is a history lesson. Meanwhile Nouri joins protests against the Shah of Iran. I really enjoyed it and couldn't put it down. THIS book fills in the 'holes'. You become 'engaged' yourself. Magnificent Mystery Novel! I read this Kindle version. (but darn: I want a SIGNED COPY for KEEPS!)