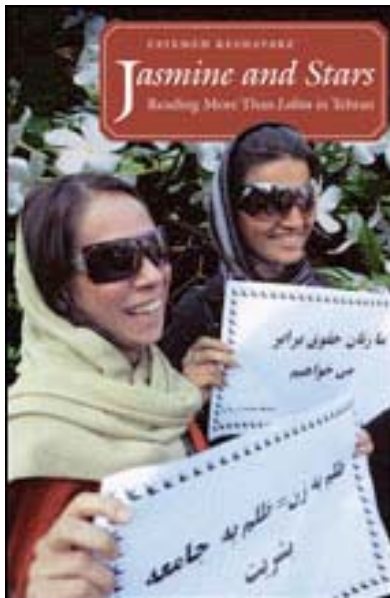


The University of **North Carolina** Press

Invitation to Meet the Author and Book Signing

American Academy of Religion Meeting
Sunday, Nov. 18, 2007, 4:30-5:30 pm
University of North Carolina Press Exhibit Booth #733
San Diego Convention Center

Since the publication of the book in March, Professor Keshavarz has appeared in 21 National Signings and 12 Radio and TV shows.



Jasmine and Stars

Reading More Than *Lolita* in Tehran
192 pp. ISBN 978-0-8078-3109-0

by **Fatemeh Keshavarz**

DESCRIPTION

In a direct, frank, and intimate exploration of Iranian literature and society, scholar, teacher, and poet Fatemeh Keshavarz challenges popular perceptions of Iran as a society bereft of vitality and joy. Her fresh perspective on present-day Iran provides a rare insight into this rich culture alive with artistic expression but virtually unknown to most Americans.

Keshavarz introduces readers to two modern Iranian women writers whose strong and articulate voices belie the stereotypical perception of Iranian women as voiceless victims in a country of villains. She follows with a lively critique of the recent best-seller *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*, which epitomizes what Keshavarz calls the "New Orientalist narrative," a view marred by stereotype and prejudice more often tied to current geopolitical conflicts than to an understanding of Iran.

Blending in firsthand glimpses of her own life (from childhood memories in 1960s Shiraz to her present life as a professor in America), Keshavarz paints a portrait of Iran depicting both cultural depth and intellectual complexity. With a scholar's expertise and a poet's hand, she helps amplify the powerful voices of contemporary Iranians and leads readers towards a deeper understanding of the country's past and present.



About the author:

Fatemeh Keshavarz is professor of Persian and comparative literature and chair of the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures at Washington University in St. Louis. She is author of four previous books, including *Reading Mystical Lyric: The Case of Jalal Al-Din Rumi* and a volume of poetry.