

FILM GUIDE

Hidden Half (Nimeh-ye Penhan)

Basic Movie Information:

Director:	Tahmineh Milani	Release Date:	2001 (Iran)
Writer:	Tahmineh Milani	Genre:	Drama

Background/Cultural Insights:

During times of revolution, the social atmosphere is generally very precarious and tense. In certain regimes, it is unsafe to speak one's mind against the government or current state of affairs. The revolution in Iran was no exception. In this film, we see young women who are part of a pro-Communist group gather together to discuss their societal situation and clandestinely work against it. They face many obstacles, are put in dangerous situations, and must be extremely cautious when meeting or operating in order to not put their friends and families in danger.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How does freedom of speech differ here in the U.S. and Iran (as portrayed in the film)? Think of instances when societies in the U.S. and around the world were in similar positions.
- 2) How did the main character's experiences shape her? Think of other renowned individuals or revolutionaries whose lives changed due to their societal/political situations.
- 3) What do you think motivated the main character to get involved with the Communist group? Would you perceive her differently if she were a man? Why or why not?
- 4) Do you find the love story in the film necessary? Could the film offer the same message if it were omitted?