

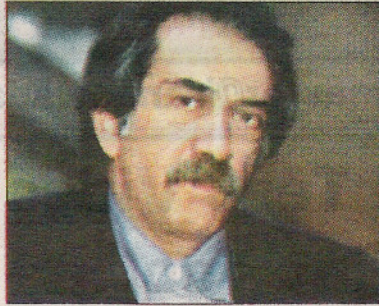
IRAN

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NEWS

## BOOK REVIEW

## 'A Dead Man's Soaked Beliefs'

**AUTHOR: MOHAMMAD  
MOHAMMAD-ALI****BY M. ALEXANDERIAN****Mohammad Mohammad-Ali**

Contemporary novelist Mohammad Mohammad-Ali has been the editor of several Iranian literary magazines. He has published 15 books including *There Are Wolves in Hindabad Valley*, *The Jinni*, *Copper*, *Retirement*, *The Hidden Image*, *Thunderstorm Without Rains*, *The Second Eye*, *A Dead Man's Soaked Beliefs*, *Adam and Eve* (in Biblical, Quranic and Avestan versions), *Alas for the Opposite*, *Five Years Before 1985*. *The Hidden Image* was translated into Turkish by Dr. Hashem Khosroshahi and published by Kapi Press in Turkey on the recommendation of Turkish Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk.

*A Dead Man's Soaked Beliefs* is the story of an employee who hires Moghanibashi (a well-digger) to dig a qanat to supply water for the company's housing complex in which he has a plot. The complex is located in a very dry district not far from the capital. A long time ago the ancient well digger was in love with a Qajar princess who resembled Mrs. Mir Jalali, the company secretary.

The writer profits from the strange and droll events in the story to dig a tunnel to his own soul and explore his origin. The characters in the story are representative Iranians and men of the street. Saboori has an ancient lithographed book which serves as the backbone of the story. The leading theme in this story is the Zoroastrian strong belief in the purity and sanctity of

water. Moghanibashi convinces Saboori that the well is male and must marry a female according to ancient beliefs and courts the company secretary whom Saboori secretly loves.

As the guests congregate in the mock wedding party, the aging bridegroom asks the bride to

descend to the well and bathe in it to make the water fertile. Moghanibashi's jealous brother stabs and murders the morbid groom.

Near the end the author discloses his ardent and hopeless love for Mrs. Mir Jalali, as if he wants to bring a concubine. He quarrels with his wife but Mrs. Mir Jalali marries the company boss and Saboori's wife returns home.

The leading subject in the story is water and the ancient rites the well digger performs to extract water out of the earth and his excessive respect for the liquid matter. Water represents the secret of creation, birth, death and revival, and the flowing liquid in fact pushes the story forward.

**"Fantastic" Director Eyes Another  
Comic Book Story****BY BORYS KIT**

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Director Tim Story, whose "Fantastic Four" sequel opens in theaters Friday, has signed a deal to shoot another comic book-based movie, the DC Comics adventure "The Losers."

The Warner Bros. project follows a highly trained and eclectic Special Ops team that is set up, betrayed and left for dead. Its members go on a quest to find who sold them out and why, righting wrongs they encounter along the way.

The tales of "Losers" ran in the pages of DC Comics' "G.I. Combat" and "Our Fighting Forces" in the 1970s and revolved around the adventures of a misfit group of U.S. troops during World War II. The concept was relaunched

about five years as a gritty modern action-espionage adventure.

Story, who did the first "Fantastic Four" movie in 2005, had been looking to move out of the fantasy and comic book realm when "Losers" came along.

"I told my agents I didn't want to do another comic book," Story said. "I had been in the world of fantasy and I wanted to do something very edgy, a realist action movie. I wanted to find something like a 'Bourne Identity' or 'Black Hawk Down.'"

He was sent "Losers" and fell for it right away.

"I was like, this is great — and then I found out it was a comic book," he said, laughing. When he read the comic, he found it to be "incredible."