



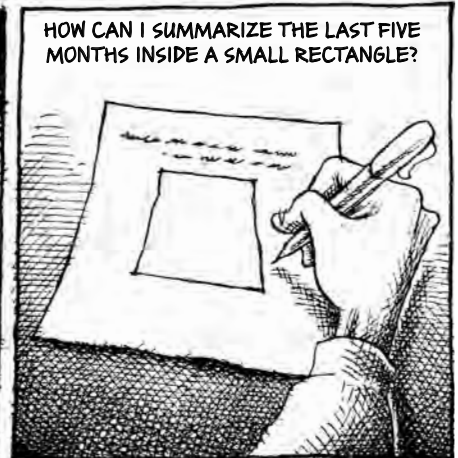
WRITE
DOWN
THE WHOLE
STORY!



THE WHOLE STORY...
HOW CAN I FIT IN
ALL THE DETAILS?



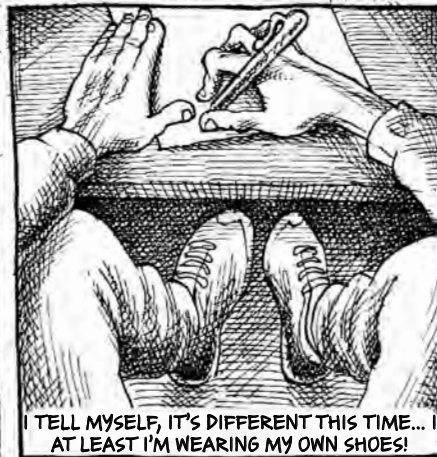
SUMMARIZE!
MAKE SURE
YOU STAY INSIDE
THE FRAME.



HOW CAN I SUMMARIZE THE LAST FIVE
MONTHS INSIDE A SMALL RECTANGLE?



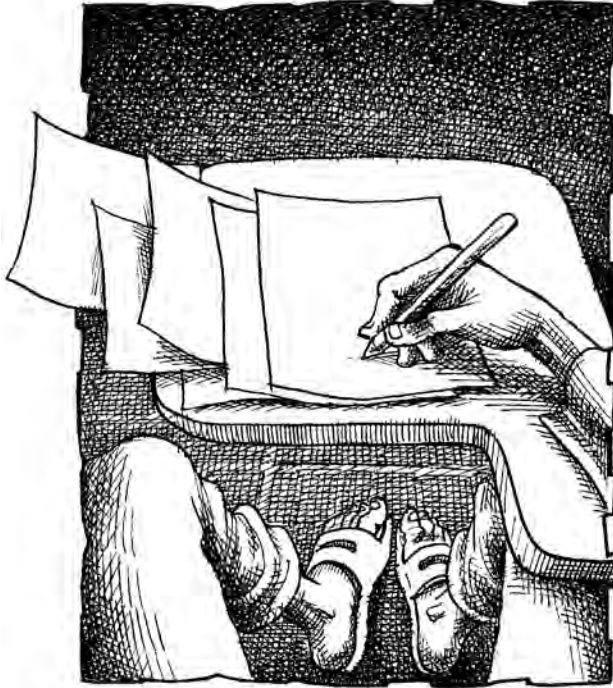
I FEEL LIKE I'M BACK TO THAT
LITTLE CELL. MY HANDS ARE SHAKING.



I TELL MYSELF, IT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME... I
AT LEAST I'M WEARING MY OWN SHOES!



A TINY RECTANGLE FOR THE WHOLE STORY...



...FIVE MONTHS AGO I HAD SEVERAL PAGES.



MR. NEYESTANI, WRITE THE WHOLE STORY. ALL THE DETAILS PLEASE.

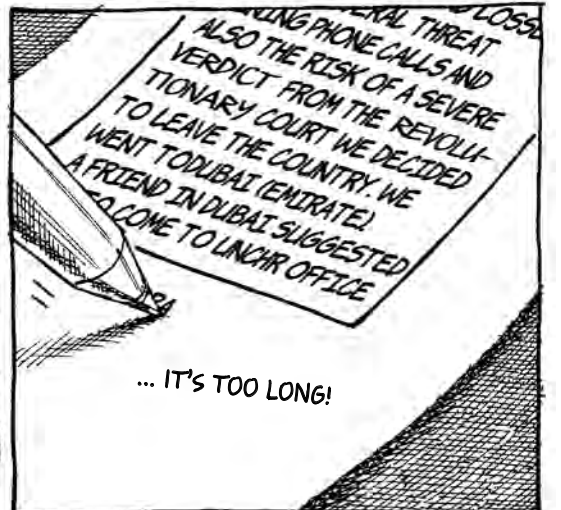


WELL, WRITE EVERYTHING DOWN TO CONVINCING THE JUDGE OF YOUR INNOCENCE.

BUT... I KEEP TELLING YOU IT WAS ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING. THERE'S NOTHING TO TELL.

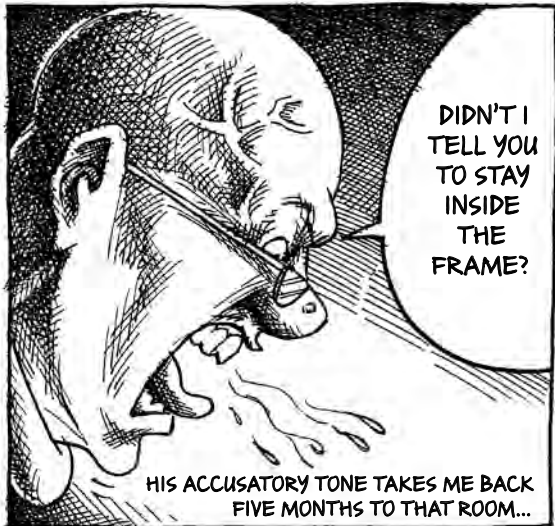


I STARTED WRITING. I HAD TO FILL SEVERAL PAGES AND THE STORY WAS HARDLY A PARAGRAPH LONG, BUT NOW...

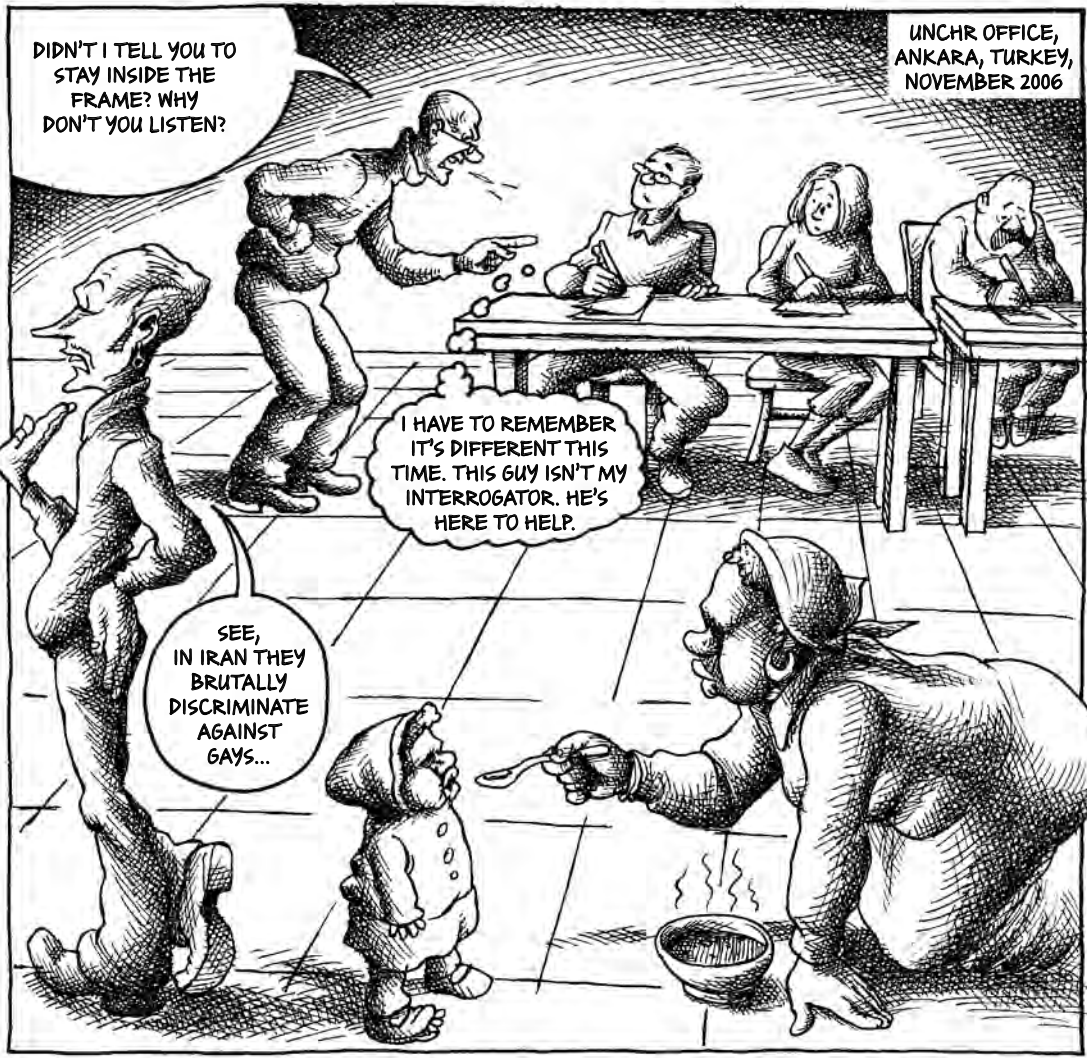


... IT'S TOO LONG!

...DED TO
...COUNTRY. WE
...DUBAI (EMIRATE)
...DUBAI SUGGEST
...UNCHR OFFICE
...ANKARA



HIS ACCUSATORY TONE TAKES ME BACK FIVE MONTHS TO THAT ROOM...



CHAPTER ONE

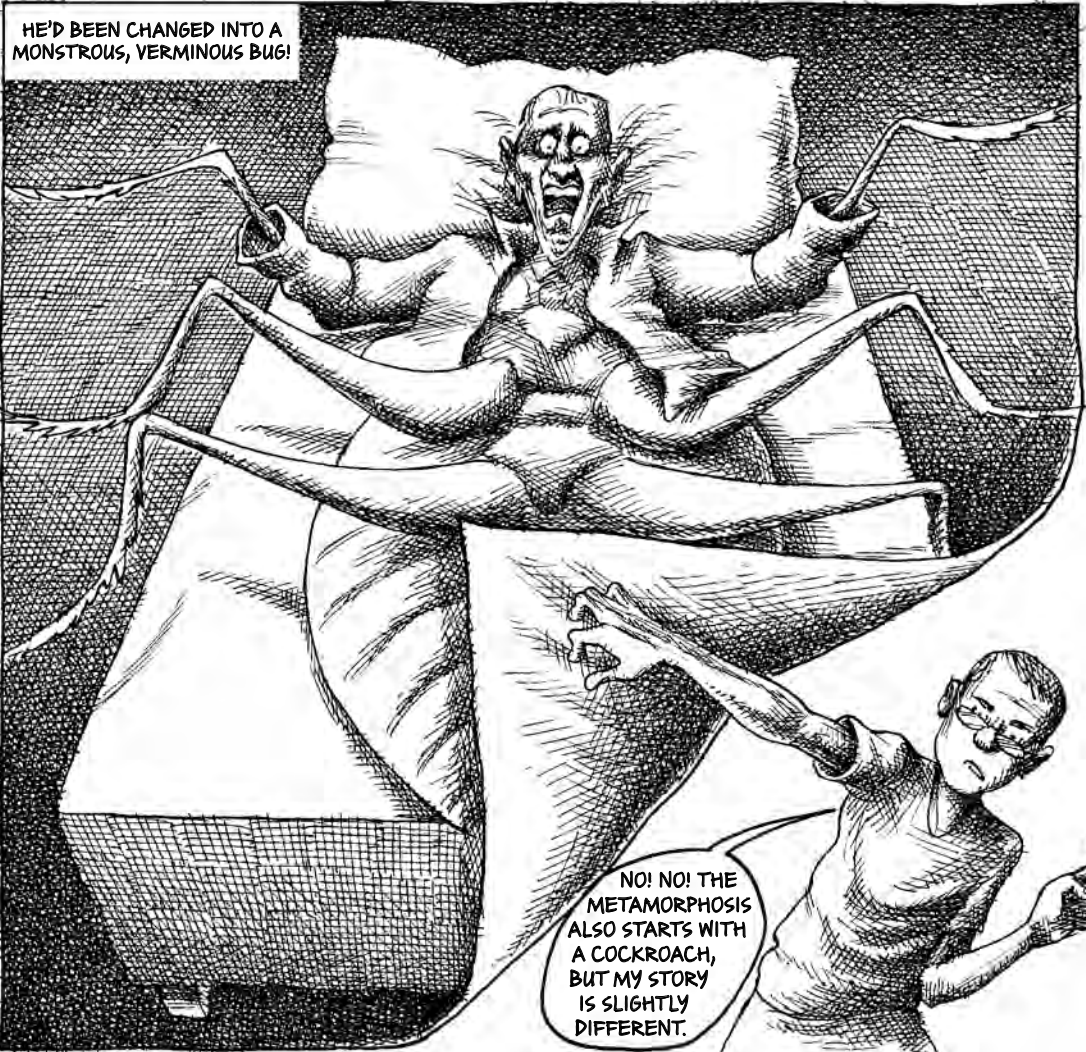
IT ALL STARTED WITH A COCKROACH...



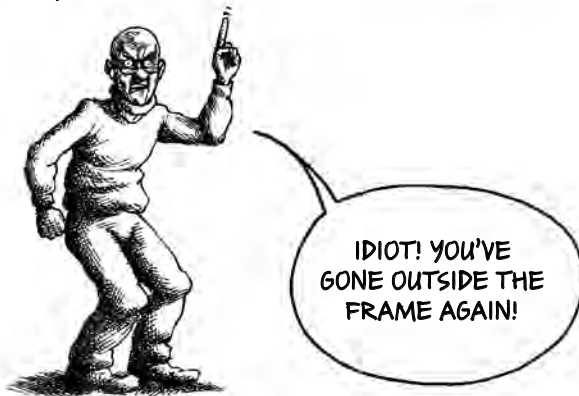
ONE MORNING GREGOR SAMSA WOKE UP FROM AN ANXIOUS DREAM AND DISCOVERED...



HE'D BEEN CHANGED INTO A MONSTROUS, VERMINOUS BUG!



I STARTED AS AN EDITORIAL CARTOONIST WHEN I WAS 16. AFTER THAT, I DREW CARTOONS FOR MANY POLITICAL, REFORMIST, AND OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS. AFTER 17 REFORMIST NEWSPAPERS WERE BANNED IN THE SPRING OF 2000, I WAS OUT OF A JOB. I QUIT DRAWING POLITICAL CARTOONS AND STARTED WORKING FOR YOUR READER MAGAZINES. SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES WHO ENDURED INTERROGATIONS WARNED ME THAT MY NAME CAME UP A FEW TIMES. WORKING FOR CHILDREN'S PUBLICATIONS LIFTED MY SPIRITS AND IT SEEMED LESS RISKY... BOY WAS I WRONG! IN 2004 THE CHIEF EDITOR OF IRAN JOMEH, THE WEEKEND LEISURE SECTION OF THE IRAN NEWSPAPER, APPOINTED ME EDITOR OF THE CHILDREN'S PAGES. FOR TWO YEARS EVERYTHING WENT WELL. THEN IN 2005 THE GOVERNMENT (WHICH FUNDED OUR NEWSPAPER) GOT RADICALLY RELIGIOUS AND OUR MANAGEMENT GOT REALLY STRICT. BUT IT COULD'VE BEEN WORSE. WE DEALT WITH LEISURE NOT POLITICS. EVERY SATURDAY MORNING I'D COME UP WITH A TOPIC FOR SATIRE OR SCIENCE ARTICLE. ON SUNDAY I'D DRAW THE ILLUSTRATIONS AND SEND THEM TO THE LAYOUT DESIGNER. THAT FATEFUL SATURDAY DIDN'T SEEM ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS...





I WAS THINKING WHAT SORT OF CRAP I COULD HEAP ON SOHELIL, MY TEN YEAR OLD CARTOON CHARACTER.



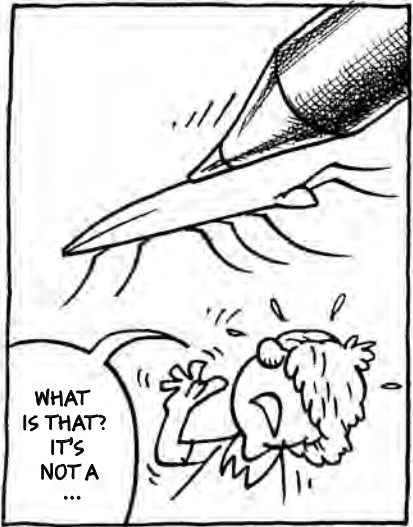
IT WAS MAY, AND TEHRAN STARTED TO GET WARM...



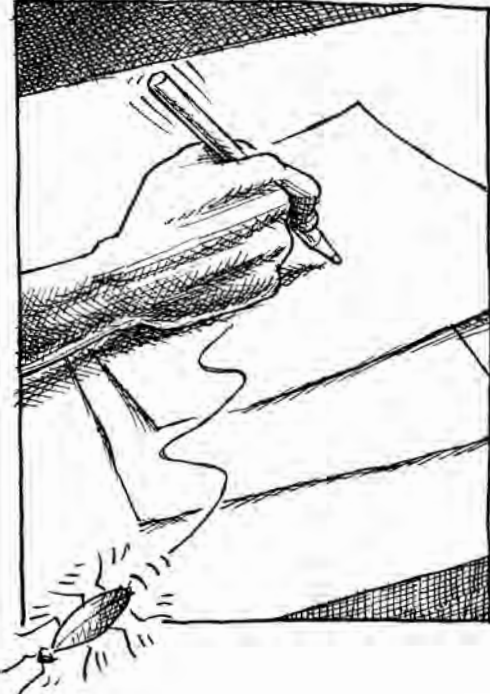
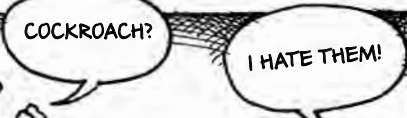
ADMIT IT! YOU'VE RUN OUT OF IDEAS!

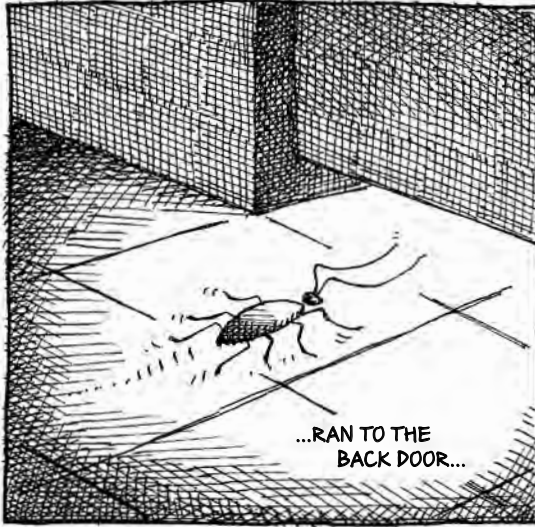


YOU WISH! I'LL GET YOU INTO BIG TROUBLE! JUST WAIT!



WHAT IS THAT? IT'S NOT A ...





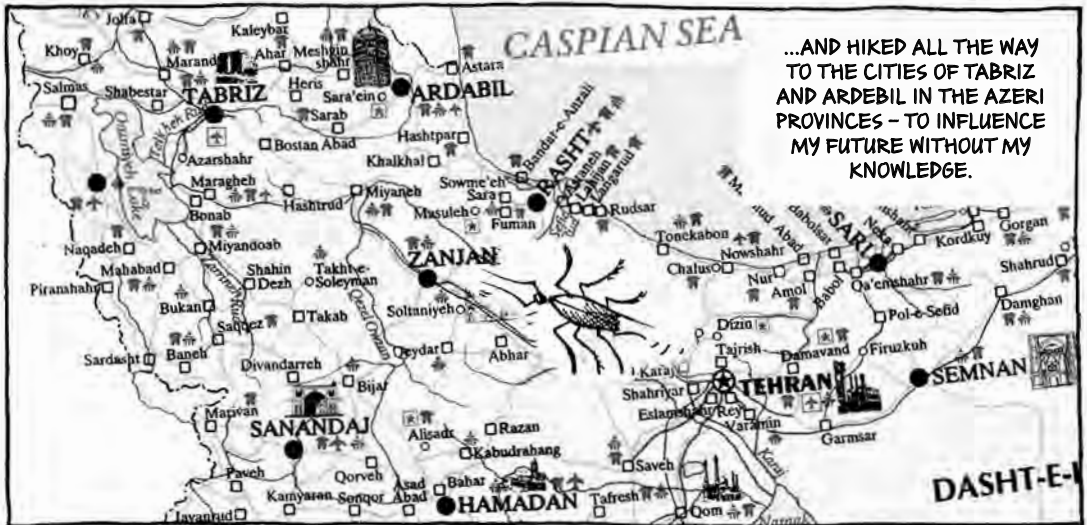
...RAN TO THE BACK DOOR...



...SKITTERED DOWNSTAIRS...



...GOT ON THE STREET...



...AND HIKED ALL THE WAY TO THE CITIES OF TABRIZ AND ARDEBIL IN THE AZERI PROVINCES - TO INFLUENCE MY FUTURE WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE.

A WEEK HAD PASSED FROM THE TIME THAT ISSUE WAS PUBLISHED.

I KISSED MANSOUREH GOODBYE.



I PUT A WEEK'S WORK ON CD AND RAN TO THE IRAN-JOMEH OFFICE.



I FELT GREAT!

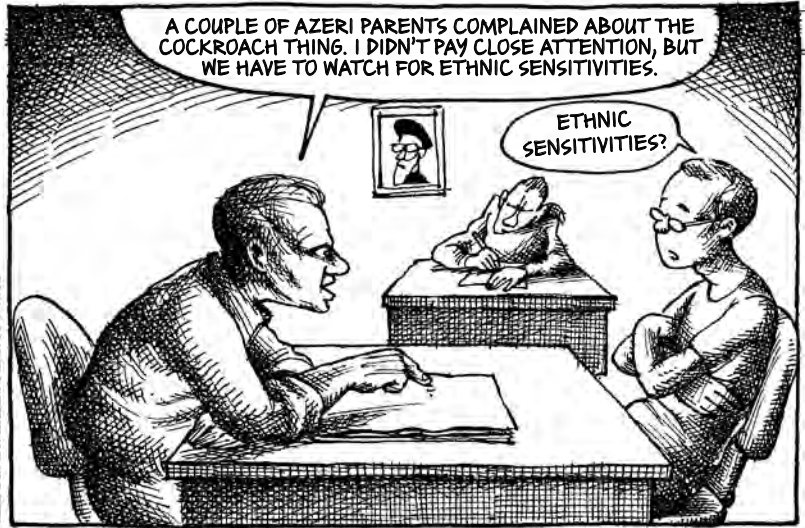
AT THE OFFICE, MEHRDAD, THE EDITOR, CALLED ME.



MANA! BEFORE YOU GO TO LAYOUT, I WANT TO HAVE A WORD.

SURE!





A COUPLE OF AZERI PARENTS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE COCKROACH THING. I DIDN'T PAY CLOSE ATTENTION, BUT WE HAVE TO WATCH FOR ETHNIC SENSITIVITIES.

ETHNIC SENSITIVITIES?



YES. IN ONE OF THE CARTOONS, A COCKROACH USES AN AZERI WORD.



سوسک رو که نمی سوسک ها سوسک نشیدا اینجاست که لازم می شه چپ

SooSoo SooSkyg sisko Sooski SooSung

Namana?

اول باید سعی بشینیم سر ی گفت و گو کنیم که سوسک، نمی شه. دستور انقدر سخته (هنو نفهمیدید

سوسک ها سوسک



YOU CAN'T MEAN "NAMANA"? ARE YOU KIDDING ME? I OFTEN USE IT. WHENEVER I CAN'T THINK OF SOMETHING I SAY: NAMANA.

I KNOW. IT HAPPENS. JUST BE AWARE OF IT FROM NOW ON.

