

Professional Literary Services

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ALLEGIANCE

Story and treatment by Brad M. Bucklin

The Premise:

A native Iranian of privilege, Kamran Emein, moves to the United States where he is able to pursue his passion for flying. He becomes a US citizen, joins the Air force, starts a family but is disappointed when he is passed over as an elite fighter pilot and chosen to fly reconnaissance missions instead. On a dangerous mission over his native Iran, he is shot down and captured. He feels abandoned by his adopted country, confused about his loyalties and helpless to be with his family. He decides that the only true loyalty can be to himself and his family, so he resolves to win the trust of his captors by training them to fly and secretly gives information to the Americans so that he can use his connections to escape and be with his family.

The Story:

Kamran Emein always wanted to fly. Ever since he was a child in his native Iran, he built homemade kites and flew them on his families ranch. He would imagine what it was like to fly high above the land, above all the turmoil he saw around him. His beloved country seemed forever in the throes of conflict. If it wasn't with Iraq to the North it as with factions of his own people.

Being from a wealthy family, when wealth still meant privilege in Iran, Kamran had the opportunity to travel to the United States after high school. So intrigued by the new culture and the sense of freedom, much to his family's dismay, he decided to stay. Finding work where he could he finally was able to get a job at an airfield where he would be around planes and work towards achieving his childhood dream.

Learning to fly for Kamran was as easy as learning to ride a bicycle. He soon became accomplished in all kinds of domestic aircraft. Still, that wasn't enough, he wanted to fly faster and higher, but the only way to do that was to join the air force. One of the happiest days of his life was when he became a naturalized citizen of the United States and could finally get the chance to join the air force.

It was hard for Kamran at first. Not only did he have to overcome the prejudice he encountered from being Persian, but he had to be that much better than the other pilots to get ahead. He worked hard for four years, earning himself a reputation for his uncanny reflexes and strong will. He also met a beautiful and caring woman, BARBARA MATSON who was able to look past his passionate obsession with flying and see the wide eyed child flying his kite. They married and just as Barbara was giving birth to their daughter PARI, Kamran was taking his final flight exam to become a bonafide fighter pilot.

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While they had the blessing of being new parents, Kamran was turned down as a fighter pilot and subsequently assigned to air reconnaissance. Bitter and disappointed, he was approached by his commander JOE CRANSTON, who explained that he was needed to fly recon missions over his former homeland. His knowledge of the language, the terrain and his outstanding flying abilities made him too valuable to be a fighter pilot.

After flying several successful missions, Kamran was asked to fly a dangerous high altitude flight over the most sensitive part of Iran. Even with his superior flying skills, Kamran could not dodge a seeker missile and was shot down near the edge of the western desert.

A captive of his former countrymen, he is not only despised for being an American, but for turning against his homeland. Initially the order is given to execute him as a traitor, but NABIL SAFYARI steps in and stops the execution, saying that Kamran may be useful to help train new pilots for the Iranian air force.

Initially Kamran is defiant, thinking about his wife and infant daughter. Slowly, through re-indoctrination, he begins to empathize more and more with his former countrymen. Especially since, it seems that the US has written him off, and is unwilling to negotiate his release. While still in love and longing for his family, they are a far off dream. He finds that while being torn between his two countries he can depend only on the loyalty to himself and his family.

In order to gain favor from his captors he agrees to help train pilots, but while doing so he also begins to leak information to the Americans, gaining enough support to gather trust and money which he uses to set his plans in motion.

His contacts in the United States make it appear that his wife and daughter are killed by an explosion in their house while under the watchful eyes of the Iranian agents sent to keep track of them to make sure that Kamran does what he is told. Meanwhile Kamran crashes his plane in the western desert. When the Iranians get to the crash site, all they find are charred remains, but Nabil Safyari is skeptical.

Days later in a secret location, the family is reunited. They quickly escape through Turkey and board a plane to Greece with the Iranian military hot on their tail. Over the Mediterranean Sea the Kamran family finally get to relax, but not for long. The plane is attacked by Iranian fighters. Kamran has to take the controls and crashes the plane into the sea. Adrift on a small escape raft. Seemingly lost in the middle of the ocean an Iranian gun ship is spotted bearing down on the tiny boat, when suddenly an American fighter swoops down and stops the ships approach. It is one of Kamran's friends in the air force. So Kamran and his family are finally safe and together. They head back to the United States to get some peace and quiet...or do they?