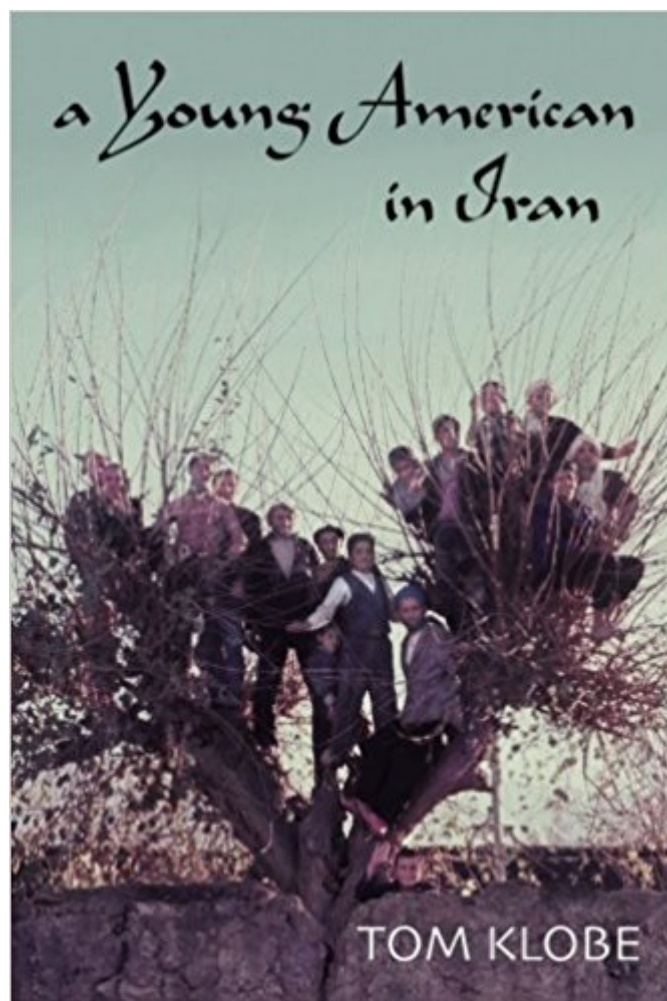


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# A Young American In Iran



## Synopsis

In November 1963, a bright Hawaiian morning is shattered by news of the assassination of the President. This marks the beginning of a journey to a remote Iranian village where a young American Peace Corps Volunteer sets out with rebellious tenacity to do what is right, unaware of America's loss of innocence and his own. From a youthful determination to perpetuate Kennedy's legacy, to coping with the reality of America's faults and ambitions, to grappling with unfamiliar customs and languages, to discovering the friendship and love of Iranians, Tom Klobe discovers that being "Tom of Iran" is as fulfilling as being "American Tom."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This illuminating and unpretentious memoir, filled with eloquent portraits, informed by an artist's eye for meaningful detail and charged with the energy of youth..." - Honolulu Star Advertiser

As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Iran, Tom Klobe learned the persuasive qualities of quiet leadership that enlightened his 29-year career as Director of the University of Hawaii Art Gallery. He organized and designed over 200 exhibitions, five of which received the prestigious Print Casebooks: Best in Exhibition Design award. His book "Exhibitions: Concept, Planning and Design" was published by the American Association of Museums Press in 2012. He has authored or edited over 35 publications. Klobe was named a Living Treasure of Hawaii in 2005 and was the recipient of the University of Hawaii Robert W. Clopton Award for Distinguished Community Service in 2003. In 1999 he was honored by the Republic of France as a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des

Lettres for his contributions to the arts in France and Hawaii.

I really loved this book, in fact I could hardly put it down. I found it just before leaving on a trip to Iran in May of 2015 and thought maybe it would be more interesting to read upon my return. In the beginning, I found the writing a bit simplistic, but then I begin to realize that it was a reflection of the author himself at that time; rather earnest and naïve. I am drawn in as he recounts almost every day of his two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1964 to 1966 in Iran. Tom, intuitively, did what the happiest volunteers did. He lived in a remote rural village. In many ways his Peace Corps experience was what I wish mine would have been; profoundly immersive and life-changing. Throughout the book he is asking himself, "Why am I here?" Eventually he comes to the realization that the value is not in the "doing" but rather in the "being." I had to chuckle at his honest critiques of the Peace Corps administration and USAID in-country. It seems nothing much has changed in 40 years! Luckily, however, neither has the excellent care and concern of the Peace Corps doctors. I, too, fell in love with the people of Iran. I would strongly encourage you to go meet them for yourselves. - RPCV Malawi 2006-08

Artist-writer Tom Klobe was a newly graduated University of Hawaii student in 1962 Honolulu when President John Kennedy was assassinated. Like many mourning Americans both young and old, he joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Iran, where he lived and worked in a remote village in northern Iran near the Caspian Sea for two years, becoming fluent in the dialect and growing to love Iran and its people. Following retirement from U.H. he published "A Young American in Iran," a passionate memoir that records in loving terms his friendships, frustrations, disappointments and adventures in rural Iran during the mid-1960s. I found Klobe's recollections of the joys and tribulations of assimilation and rejection in a land of heart-rending conflicts, as a traditional society was undergoing enormous changes and disintegration, to be wondrously insightful. More importantly, Klobe's sensibilities and role as a young American man in that turbulent society give marvelous cognizance to the dissonant forces at work then and now in Iran. Thanks to Klobe's skillful writing and incredibly detailed recall, this book can help Westerners better understand the current conflicts and promises of Iran.

Having lived in this vast country, traveled the same roads, visited many of the same fascinating places, and experienced the same warm and gentle hospitality as Tom Klobe, his book brings back

many fond memories. More important than his sensitive descriptions of the country and culture, though, is his own intense love of the place and the people, and the love they gave him in return, along with the engaging details of his own adventures. The Iranian 'aloha spirit' (Tom's from Hawaii and he's quite right in using the term) that Tom found during the periods covered by the book is, by all accounts, just as prevalent today. Tom does a great job of telling stories imbued with that aloha.

Tom Klobe's memoir of his youthful Peace Corps days in the mid-1960's is beautifully written and inspiring. He shares his learning of the language Farsi with the reader, even providing a helpful dictionary in the back, of basic phrases. His love for Iran and its people shines through. I can't put the book down, as his adventures as well as his personal insights and questions vicariously carry me through time, space and geography. His artistic personality enriches the book further. This book is at the top of my favorite books from many years. Thank you, Tom, for taking the time to write this beautiful book and for sharing it with the world. I fully recommend this 5 Star book.

What a fantastic book about a Peace Corps worker living in Iran in the 1960's. It gives an excellent perspective on what the author encountered living in a small town and how he learned to cope with the primitive living conditions and customs. The author was adaptable to his situation. This book is definitely a no put down book.

Tom Klobe has an interesting story to tell based on nearly two years of letters to his parents about his adventures as a volunteer in the Peace Corps and does it in an easy-to-read and fluid style that makes it hard to put the book down. Included are maps, photos and glossary to help the reader.

Excellent and compelling, this book painted a remarkably vivid image of the author's experiences and reactions while in Iran. Reading it was quite enjoyable and enlightening to some of the cultural aspects of Iran that are often overlooked today.

Some parts are very funny in the beginning but the book is VERY good. Hope the author keeps writing.

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