Vocabulary – Book One

1. obligatory (3)
   “Then came 1980: The year it became obligatory to wear the veil at school.”

2. decadence (4)
   “All bilingual schools must be closed down. They are symbols of capitalism. Of decadence.”

3. avant-garde (6)
   “Deep down I was very religious, but as a family we were very modern and avant-garde.”

4. fanatics (15)
   “The Shah said that a group of religious fanatics perpetrated the massacre.”

5. degenerate (18)
   “My parents demonstrated every day. Things started to degenerate. The army shot at them.”

6. frivolities (28)
   “All of the country’s money went into ridiculous celebrations of the 2500 years of dynasty and other frivolities… all of this to impress heads of state, the population couldn’t have cared less.”

7. cadaver (31)
   “People came out carrying the body of a young man… then there was another cadaver, an old man carried out on a stretcher.”

8. sentiment (43)
   “Politics and sentiment don’t mix.”

9. subversive (47)
   “Crime: wrote subversive articles in the Keyhan.”

10. cyanide (51)
    “He always had cyanide on him in case he was arrested, but he was taken by surprise and unfortunately he never had a chance to use it…”

11. dialectic (53)
    “Now that the revolution was finally over once and for all, I abandoned the dialectic materialism of my comic strips.”

12. shunned (58)
    “You know what it is like to be an unmarried mother in this country. You will be shunned.”

13. proletariat (62)
    “The proletariat shall rule! It’s inevitable!”

14. imperialists (73)
    “Better to have no students at all than to educate future imperialists.”

15. regime (75)
    “You showed your opposition to the regime by letting a few strands of hair show.”

16. console (86)
    “At recess, I tried to console her…”

17. nuptial (94)
    “According to Shiite tradition, when an unmarried man dies, a nuptial chamber is built for him.”
18. carnage (101)
“It’s nuts! They hypnotize them and just toss them into battle. Absolute carnage.”

19. vintner (106)
“My uncle was the vintner. He had a genuine wine-making lab in his basement.”

20. belligerent (115)
“The walls were suddenly covered with belligerent slogans.”

21. systematically (117)
“Those who opposed the regime were systematically arrested… and executed together.”

22. veritable (122)
“The Germans sell chemical weapons to Iran and Iraq. The wounded are then sent to Germany to be treated. Veritable guinea pigs.”

23. asylum (123)
“I made him a fake passport and he sought political asylum in Sweden.”

24. euphoria (138)
“We were in the midst of shopping euphoria, when suddenly…”

25. discreet (142)
“When we walked past the Baba-Ley’s house, which was completely destroyed, I could feel that she was discreetly pulling me away.”