

## Persian Speaking Children to Read About Nellie the Cat



**NELLIE**  
A Cat on Her Own  
Natalie Babbitt

TEHRAN (IBNA) -- A book for 6-8 years children 'Nellie: A Cat on Her Own' (1989) by gifted American artist and writer, Natalie Babbitt has been published in Persian and is available to Iranian children.

This book has been translated into Persian by Simin Tajdini. Michka Publishing in Tehran has released 'Nellie: A Cat on Her Own' in 32 pages.

Nellie, a cat marionette made "from wood and yarn and broom straws" by an old woman, loves dancing every afternoon to the tune of the music box, but never considers Big Tom's suggestion that she dance alone.

When the old woman dies, Nellie's "safe little life" ends. Big Tom, a real cat, tells Nellie to find another old woman, or to "Belong to yourself, then, like me." "Big Tom frees

Nellie from her strings, sitting her in the old woman's hat; the pair set off into the "wide, wild world," with Big Tom pulling Nellie along in the hat by its ribbons, like a cart and pony. That night, as the moon shines full in the sky

and all the cats meet to dance together, Nellie feels "a stirring in her wooden limbs . . . and she leapt and dipped

and spun, like a dancer on the stage, and the cats all danced around her."

At moonset, Nellie decides to stay in the woods and dance by herself rather than live with another old woman. This gentle fable, with its message of freedom, is lovingly brought to life in Babbitt's charming, magical full-page color illustrations, one for each page of text--with a two-page spread of the moonlit cat dance.

# Persimmon Festival Underway in Tehran

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The 5th Persimmon Festival has been held in the popular tourist destination of the Iranian capital, Tehran.

The festival is a celebration of the persimmon fruit and features a variety of activities and events for visitors to enjoy.

This year's festival was held in Kan neighborhood where a large portion of persimmons is produced.

The Persimmon Festival is just one example of the many cultural attractions that Tehran has to offer.

In addition to its rich history and vibrant arts scene, Tehran is also home to a number of parks and gardens that are perfect for exploring on a sunny day. With so much to see and do, it's no



wonder that Tehran is one of Iran's most popular tourist destinations.

## Persian Leopard Seen in Tehran's National Park



TEHRAN (IFP) -- A leopard has been spotted several times in the barracks adjacent to Tehran's Sorkheh Hesar National Park, east of the Iranian capital.

A media report said that given the long distance between the points of leopard sightings in short periods of time, the barracks could be hosting two leopards.

Iran's Mizan News Agency has said authorities have started efforts to anesthetize and

catch the leopard alive.

Persian leopards are rare animals and are on the UN's endangered species.

Iran's Alborz and Zagros mountain chains are home to the Persian leopard. Meanwhile, smaller populations can be found in Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Georgia, Turkey, and the Russian North Caucasus. Occasionally, the leopard has been spotted in Pakistan and Uzbekistan as well.

## Iranian Animation Hits Screens in Bolivia



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian animation 'Loupetoo' has been going on screen at the Sierra International Film Weekend (SIFW) in Bolivia.

Directed by Abbas Askari, the animation is currently in competition at the 8th edition of the Bolivian film event.

The film's name is inspired by the word Kermani people of Iran use to refer to hand-made toys that mothers used to make for their children in the past.

The animation is about a hospital where Dr. Saeed Kamali treats his mental pa-

tients through letting them make toys.

"A person disguised as a patient vandalizes the workshop and causes its closure. The doctor's son, Ali, tries to help his father to solve the problem," a synopsis for the film reads.

'Loupetoo' previously took part in various festivals in Iran and across the world, including the Universal Kids Film Festival in Turkey and the KidzCinema in India.

This year's edition of SIFW has been underway since December 2 and it is set to wrap up on December 4.

## Lack of Sleep May Lead to Type 2 Diabetes

CANBERRA (Dispatches) -- New studies have revealed that a troubled sleep may be linked with risk factors for type 2 diabetes.

University of South Australia researchers examined the association of different aspects of sleep, and risk factors for diabetes, and discovered a connection between those who had troubled sleep and those who were at risk of type 2 diabetes.

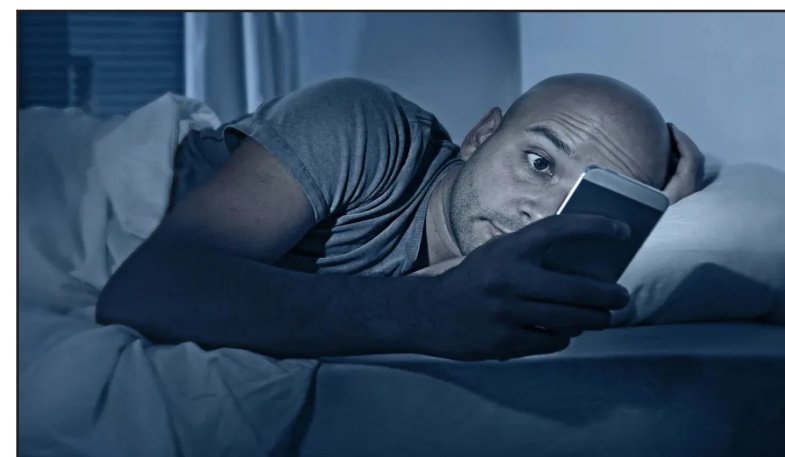
Having assessed more than 1000 Australian adults\* with a median age of 44.8 years, they examined a range of sleep characteristics: self-report trouble sleeping, duration, timing, efficiency, and day-to-day sleep length variability.

The researchers reported that people who had trouble sleeping were on average more likely to have indicators of poor cardiometabolic health -- inflammatory markers, cholesterol and body weight -- which can contribute to type 2 diabetes.

The study indicates that

it is important to think about sleep as a whole, and not just as one aspect.

In Australia, almost one million adults have type 2 diabetes. Globally, type 2 diabetes affects more than 422 million people.



## Picture of the Day



Mazandaran is a northern Iranian province that is renowned for its beautiful scenery and vibrant colors. The province is especially stunning in the autumn season, when the leaves of the trees change color and the landscape is blanketed in a sea of red, orange, and yellow.

Courtesy of IFILM/IRNA