

Hooks for a Personal Narrative

Type of Hook	Explanation	Example from <i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i>
Announcement	Make an announcement about what is to come	"In the fall of 1995, after resigning from my last academic post, I decided to indulge myself and fulfill a dream." (3)
Action	Describe a character doing something, placing the reader immediately in the middle of the story	"Six A.M.: the first day of class. I was already up. Too excited to eat breakfast, I put coffee on and then took a long, leisurely shower." (9)
Strong statement/ declaration	Make an assertive claim about the topic	"Turning points always seem so sudden and absolute, as if they have come bolt out of the blue." (176)
Dialogue	Open with a quotation from a character or dialogue between characters	"'Upsilamba!' I heard Yassi exclaim as I entered the dining room with a tray of tea." (18) "'You should stop blaming the Islamic Republic for all our problems,' said my magician. I frowned, digging into the snow with the tip of my boots." (277)
Description	Describe a character/setting in detail, consider using a simile or metaphor in the description	"A young woman stands alone in the midst of a crowd at the Tehran airport, backpack on her back, a large bag hanging from one shoulder, pushing an oversize carry-on with the tips of her toes." (81)
Call to imagine	Address the reader directly while setting the scene	"Imagine you are walking down a leafy path. It is early spring before sundown, around six P.M. The sun is receding, and you are walking alone, caressed by the breezy light of the late afternoon." (59)