

# My Friend Suhana

## Author Bios



### SHAILA ABDULLAH

Shaila Abdullah is an author and designer based in Austin, Texas. Her award-winning novel *Saffron Dreams* explores the tragedy of 9/11 from the perspective of a Muslim widow. Abdullah's debut book, *Beyond the Cayenne Wall* is a collection of stories about Pakistani women struggling to find their individualities despite the barriers imposed by society. The author has received several awards for her work including the Golden Quill Award, Norumbega Jury Prize for Outstanding Fiction, Patras Bukhari Award for English Language, Reader Views Award, Written Art Award, and a grant from Hobson Foundation. Several academic institutions have adopted *Saffron Dreams* as a course study or recommended reading, including the University of California Los Angeles, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Indiana University, Boston University, and George Washington University. In her free time, she loves to run around with her children—Aanyah and Aaliyana.

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### AANYAH ABDULLAH

Aanyah Abdullah is a creative and compassionate 10-year-old, who is drawn to children born with physical and mental disabilities. When she was in second grade, Aanyah along with her mother Shaila, started volunteering out at a local community center where they helped assist special needs children. Later Aanyah wrote an essay about her friendship with a girl in the class who had cerebral palsy. That essay is the inspiration behind *My Friend Suhana*. Aanyah dreams of establishing a special school for children with disabilities one day. She is known to always stand up for what is right and is—in her parents' and teachers' eyes—a perfect role model for her baby sister.



### **My Friend Suhana**

By Shaila Abdullah and Aanyah Abdullah

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