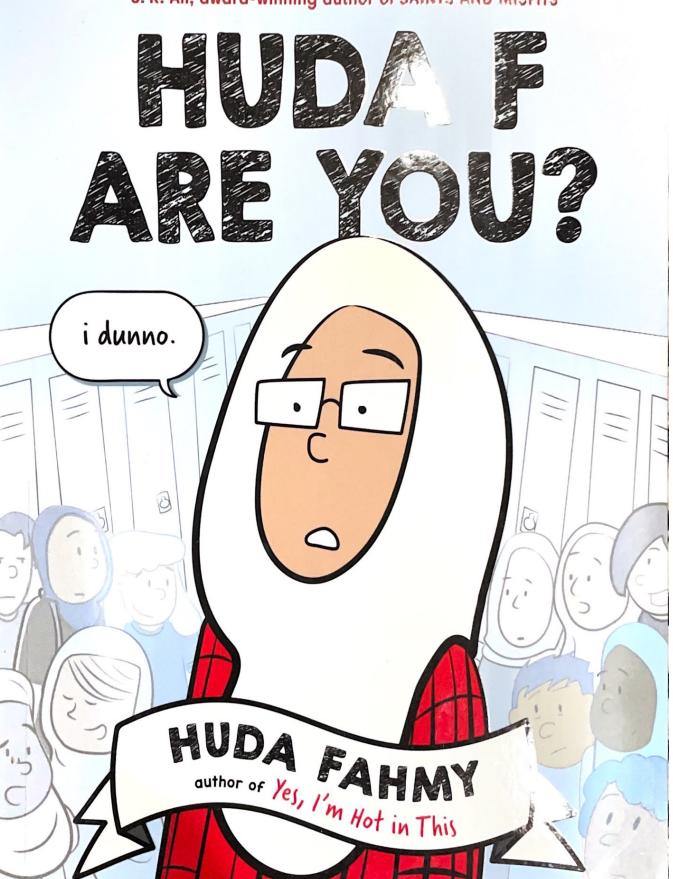
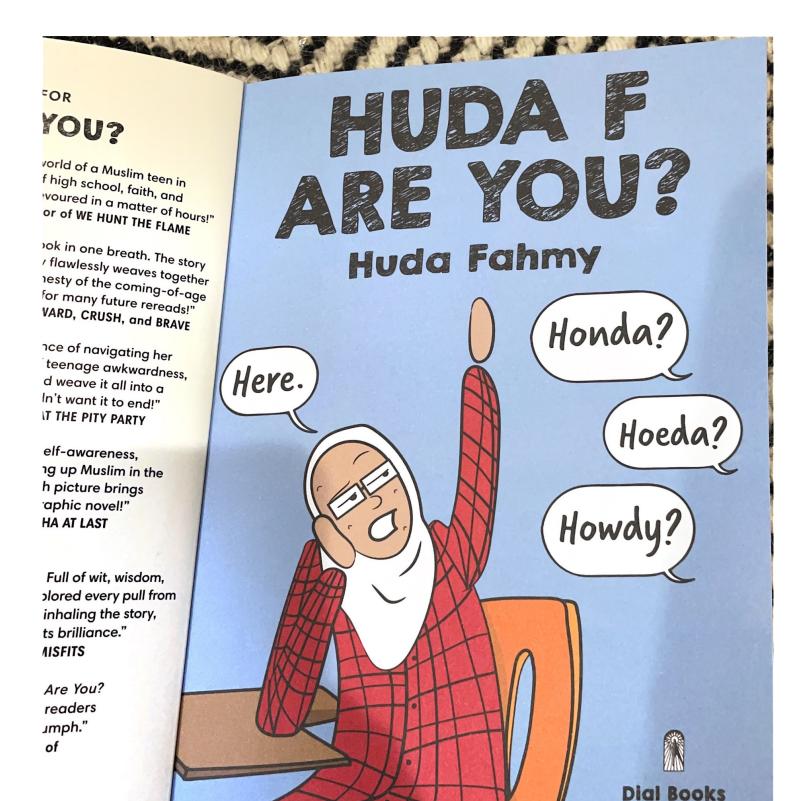
"THIS IS THE BOOK, THE ONE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE."

-S. K. Ali, award-winning author of SAINTS AND MISFITS





Dear Reader,

It is a cliche jokingly acknowledged that a Muslim kid who grows up in the United States must eventually experience an identity crisis. This is a story of just such an experience.

While you read, please keep in mind that this story and these characters are not meant to represent all Muslims or all Muslim experiences. In other words, Muslims are not a monolith. Speaking as a hijab-wearing Muslim woman, we are especially complicated, nuanced, and most definitely don't wear our hijabs to bed\*.

While much of this story is based on real life, it is not an entirely autobiographical tale. Most names, characters, businesses, and places are either the products of the author's imagination or used in a fictitious manner. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

Thank you for reading my book! I hope you laugh a little, learn a little, and maybe even meme it a little.

Sincerely,

"Huda F.

\*Because I consider my character an extension of myself, and I would never de-hijab in public (extenuating circumstances not included), I made the choice to never draw my character without her hijab. This is why, throughout the book, you'll see Huda in bed wearing her hijab. This would never happen in real life (unless I came home like super exhausted and could do nothing but plop face-first onto my mattress, in my outside clothes and all. Don't judge me).









Now I'm a freshman at Greenfield High, and the weirdest part about it so far is that I'm not the only hijabi in class anymore.

Baba is a complicated man. Sometimes I feel like he *wants* me to struggle, but, like, only enough to learn how to take care of myself.



And when you're done with this, I'll show you how to set up your 401k.

He moved to the U.S. from Egypt when he was seventeen, went to school full-time, worked three jobs,



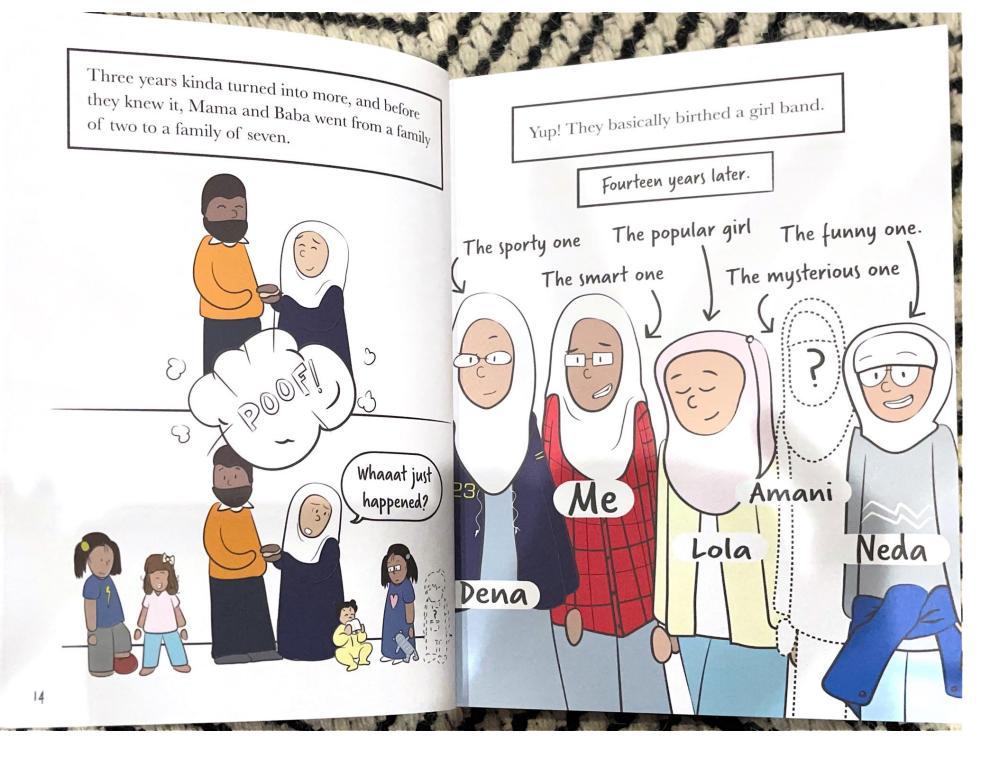
and did everything he could to survive.

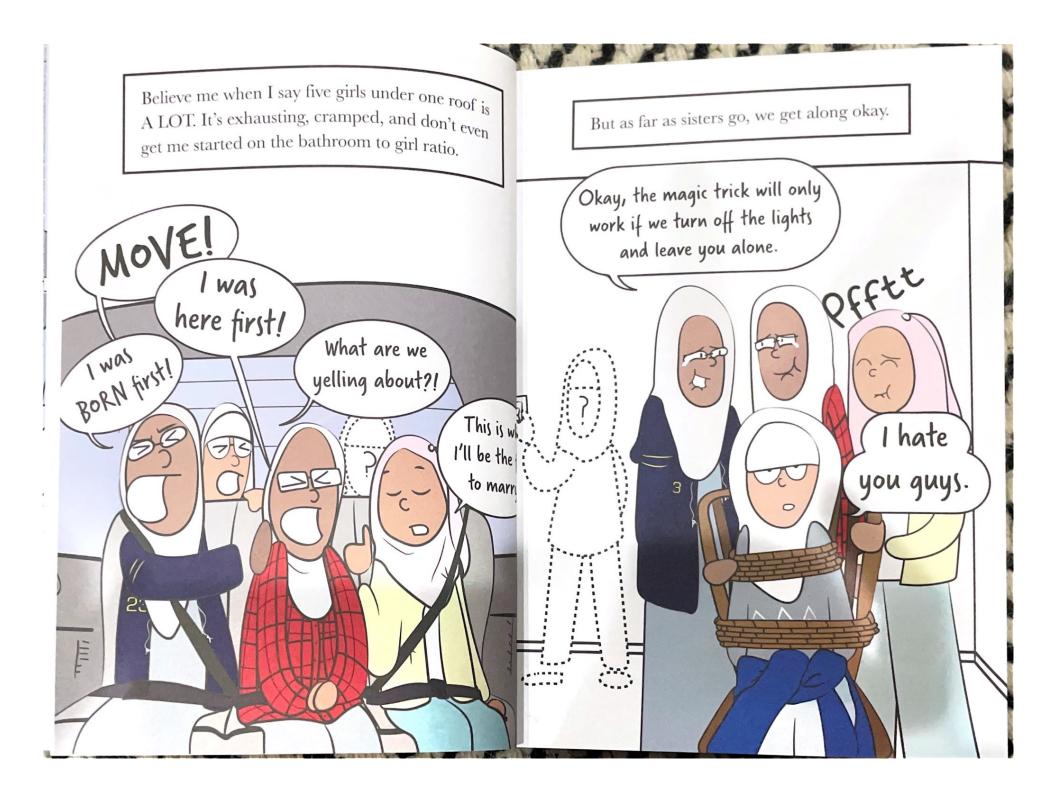


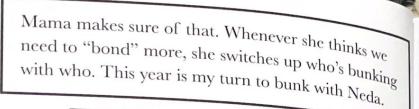
At twenty, he married my mom and brought her back to the States with the promise that they wouldn't stay long.













Mama! I'm a freshman!
How are you gonna put me
in a room with a ten-year-old!?

Why? What are you going to do in a room by yourself you can't do with a ten-year-old!?



thhrrrpppt (

nyaa 🗸

She's such a baby.

I know Mama wants us to be close, but I can't help feeling like I just don't fit in.

I hate it here.

You gotta stop saying that.



It doesn't matter, though. We're forced to do pretty much everything together. And because we were born back to back, we'll eventually be going to college together too.

I swear if we end up getting joint weddings, we're running away.

And going to college is definitely a must. My parents value education. I mean like *really* value it.



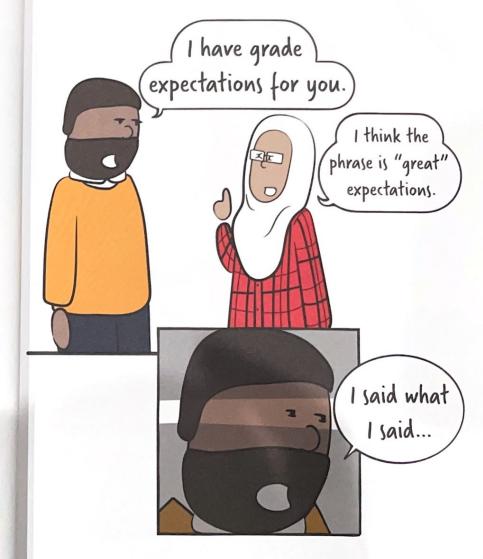
But college is expensive.



And taking out loans is a big no-no for Muslims.



So my parents' expectations of us are pretty high up there.



Nothing short of great grades and full scholarships are gonna be accepted.

