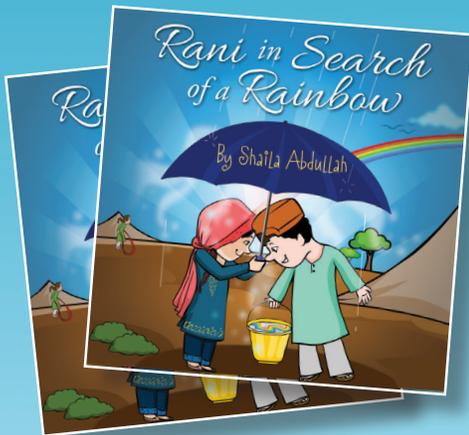


Rani in Search of a Rainbow

By Shaila Abdullah



Displaced by the Pakistan floods, Rani's family has taken refuge at a relief camp where they are doing their part to help other flood victims. Eight-year-old Rani wants to assist but doesn't know how. Heeding the advice of her father to help in a way only children can, Rani embarks on a journey to bring true joy to a dear friend on the occasion of Eid.

SHAILA ABDULLAH is an award-winning author and designer based in Austin, Texas. She is the author of four books: *Saffron Dreams*, *Beyond the Cayenne Wall*, *My Friend Suhana*, and *A Manual for Marco*. The author has received several awards for her work including the Golden Quill Award and Patras Bukhari Award for English Language.



"This sweet, touching story is based on the historic 2010 floods in Pakistan which affected twenty million people, including 8.6 million children. As a result of reading Shaila Abdullah's Rani in Search of a Rainbow or having it read to them, youngsters will be introduced to the culture of Pakistan."

-WAYNE WALKER, Home School Book Reviews

"Rani in Search of a Rainbow glows under the colorful hues of its text and rich characters. As readers, we are taken into a unique setting that one would not expect to visit in the confines of a children's picture book."

-JEWEL KATS, author of *Reena's Bollywood Dream* and *Cinderella's Magical Wheelchair*

"Abdullah's use of poetic language and Rani's quest to find her place in her community will keep readers turning the pages until the end."

-GWENDOLYN HOOKS, author of 17 books for young readers

For more information please visit
www.ShailaAbdullah.com

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Rani in Search of a Rainbow

Praise and Endorsements

“This sweet, touching story is based on the historic 2010 floods in Pakistan which affected twenty million people, including 8.6 million children. As a result of reading Shaila Abdullah’s *Rani in Search of a Rainbow* or having it read to them, youngsters will be introduced to the culture of Pakistan.”

–WAYNE WALKER, HOME SCHOOL BOOK REVIEWS

“*Rani in Search of a Rainbow* glows under the colorful hues of its text and rich characters. As readers, we are taken into a unique setting that one would not expect to visit in the confines of a children’s picture book. Surprisingly, you’re sad when you happen upon the last page... Only, because the story has ended! For you want to continue seeing the world through Rani’s optimistic hazel colored eyes. Descriptions of food are so real that even your tummy delights, and your heart warms at an unexpected gift. I thoroughly enjoyed this story. Bravo Abdullah! Least we not forget the beautiful illustrations. You can lose yourself in this animated world. I just, quite, simply love the art!

–JEWEL KATS, AUTHOR OF REENA’S BOLLYWOOD DREAM AND CINDERELLA’S MAGICAL WHEELCHAIR

“Shaila Abdullah’s *Rani in Search of a Rainbow* is a charming story of how a Pakistani girl deals with living in a refugee camp after a devastating flood. Abdullah’s use of poetic language, ‘Pitter patter dancing droplets’ and Rani’s quest to find her place in her community will keep readers turning the pages until the end.”

–GWENDOLYN HOOKS, AUTHOR OF 17 BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

“We all want to find something that will bring smiles to our faces, hope in our hearts and inspire us to keep going. Rani found her Rainbow when she figured out a way to help her friend. Find yours!”

–FRAN LEWIS, FORMER READING AND WRITING STAFF DEVELOPER AT NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“*Rani in Search of a Rainbow* is a remarkable glimpse into not only an historic event but also the Pakistani culture via the eyes of children. Beautifully drawn, the story depicts youth as strong, compassionate, and eager to play a role in their community’s efforts to thrive. A strong lesson told in a wonderful way. Highly recommended.”

–C. HOPE CLARK, AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR, THE CAROLINA SLADE MYSTERIES

“What an example Shaila Abdullah’s children’s book, *Rani in Search of a Rainbow*, gives us. Though the target audience is children, this story of thoughtful caring for others, especially those less fortunate than ourselves, provides a lesson for adults, as well. In today’s wretchedly divisive political environment, this children’s book can be used, early on, as a tool for developing compassion for others ... and, it is accompanied by colorful and child-appealing illustrations! A not-to-be-missed book for parents, teachers, and librarians to share with children.”

–SHIRLEY M. HORD, PH.D., SCHOLAR LAUREATE, LEARNING FORWARD

“*Rani in Search of a Rainbow* focuses on the aftermath of the 2010 floods that devastated parts of Pakistan. Along with eight million others, Rani and her family flee their home with little more than the clothes on their backs, and now live in a refugee camp. The book is a celebration of the resiliency of children, reinforcing hope in the face of the unimaginable. Beneath the lighthearted text and the colorful illustrations, the book reminds us that a disaster does not end with the return of sunshine, that hard, purposeful work is needed by all, and that the role of children can be as important as that of adults.”

–GWEN FLORIO, AUTHOR OF MONTANA AND DAKOTA, LITERARY SUSPENSE NOVELS



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By Shaila Abdullah

www.ShailaAbdullah.com

Rani in Search of a Rainbow

Author and Illustrator



SHAILA ABDULLAH, AUTHOR

Shaila is an award-winning author and designer based in Austin, Texas. She has written four books: *Saffron Dreams*, *Beyond the Cayenne Wall*, *My Friend Suhana*, and *A Manual for Marco*. The author has received several awards for her work including the Golden Quill Award and Patras Bukhari Award for English Language. Several academic institutions have adopted her books as course study or recommended reading, including the University of California, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Indiana University, Boston University, California State University, and George Washington University. Learn more about the author at www.ShailaAbdullah.com



BIJAN SAMADDAR, ILLUSTRATOR

Bijan is an artist and illustrator for the past 15 years. He is based in Kolkata, India. He grew up around painters and sculptors and found his true calling as an artist when he was very young. He also dabbles with animation, graphic design, cartooning, game design, and videos. Bijan has illustrated several books including *Flying Missionary*, *Leonardo El Lagarto*, *Lola the Lost Stork*, and *Kala's Special Flowers*.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 15, 2014

New Children's Book Explores Diversity, Friendship, and Coping with Natural Disaster

In her new book, award-winning author, Shaila Abdullah recounts a heartwarming tale of friendship between two children who are survivors of the Pakistan floods.

Austin, TX—"Any time a child is displaced from familiar surroundings, it can be a frightening experience," said author Shaila Abdullah. "But one of the greatest qualities of children is their resilience in moving on after the initial shock and trauma wears off."

Abdullah's new book *Rani in Search of a Rainbow* released today is based on the historic 2010 floods in Pakistan that affected 20 million people. Nearly 8.6 million of them were children. The book provides a tool for young children to understand and learn how to make sense of such tragedies.

The backdrop of the story is a relief camp in Pakistan where the main character, Rani, and her family have taken refuge. The adults in her family are all doing their part to help other flood victims. Eight-year-old Rani wants to assist but doesn't know how. Heeding the advice of her father to help in a way only children can, Rani embarks on a journey to bring true joy to a dear friend on the occasion of Eid.

Prolific children writer Gwendolyn Hooks hails *Rani in Search of a Rainbow* as highly recommended. "Abdullah's use of poetic language and Rani's quest to find her place in her community will keep readers turning the pages until the end." said Hooks.

So what else can be done to help children deal with displacement? "An adult's role at that time can be one of mentorship and encouragement," said Abdullah. "They can assist in providing a safe environment that will allow children to continue to develop friendships, play, and grow. Attention should be paid to the mental state of children. Children are prone to anxiety, especially when they continue to hear of losses and other displacements. It helps to provide children little roles that can take their minds off the situation and allow them to feel useful and important."

Shaila Abdullah is an award-winning author and designer based in Austin, Texas. She is the author of four books: *Saffron Dreams*, *Beyond the Cayenne Wall*, *My Friend Suhana*, and *A Manual for Marco*. Abdullah, who is originally from Pakistan, has received several awards for her work including the Golden Quill Award, Norumbega Jury Prize for Outstanding Fiction, and Patras Bukhari Award for English Language. Several academic institutions have adopted her books as course study or recommended reading, including the University of California, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Indiana University, and Boston University.

More information about *Rani in Search of a Rainbow* (ISBN # 978-1-61599-242-3, November 15, 2014, Loving Healing Press) is available on www.ShailaAbdullah.com. The book is available in hardback, paperback, and ebook formats.

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