

author bio



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Shaila Abdullah is an award-winning Pakistani-American author whose work focuses on the strengths and weaknesses of Pakistani women and their often unconventional choices in life. Her work also deals with the Asian experience in America, the conflict between the two worlds and the culture of her adopted country.

Abdullah's novel *Saffron Dreams* explores the tragedy of 9/11 from the perspective of a Muslim widow. Abdullah received a grant from Hobson Foundation for that body of work.

Her 2005 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 collection won the Norumbega Jury Prize for Outstanding Fiction and the DIY Festival Award, among other accolades.

Abdullah was born in Karachi, Pakistan, in 1971. She has published several short stories, articles, and essays for various U.S. and South Asian publications, including *Women's Own*, *Dawn*, *She*, *Fashion Collection*, *Sulekha*, and *Dallas Child*. She is a seasoned print, web, and multimedia designer as well. Abdullah lives with her family in Austin, Texas and is a member of the Writers' League of Texas.

More information about the author and her work is available on her website at www.shailaabdullah.com.