



July 2019









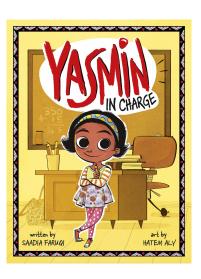


NEWS

New Book Deal Announced

I'm over the moon to let everyone know about my new book coming from HarperCollins in 2021. It's a middle grade nonfiction biography collection all about Muslim visionaries from the Middle Ages to today. And the best part is that I'm writing it with my mother! Here's the

deal announcement on **Twitter**.



MORE NEWS

Yasmin in Charge wins JLG award

Have you read Yasmin in Charge yet? It's the collection of Yasmin titles 5-8 and it's already turning some heads. I recently learned that Yasmin in Charge was selected by the Junior Library Guild, which is an immense honor! Here is the <u>link</u> to the JLG page.



APPEARANCES

ALA 2019

I wasn't able to attend the biggest library conference of the year - ALA 2019 - but Yasmin was there on my behalf! My awesome publisher Capstone was showing off Yasmin on a banner, bookmarks and so many other things, to highlight this important series. There were lots of giveaways and my book was definitely in great company!



SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter and Instagram Giveaways

Did you know that July is a big month for social media giveaways? As we get ready to release YASMIN in UK (July 11) and in French Canadian (July 30) we will be celebrating through lots of giveaways and prizes! Keep on the lookout by frequently visiting my social media as

well as Capstone's! The links to all my sites are on the top of this newsletter.



our families.

WORK IN PROGRESS

A Place at the Table

I can't believe how fast time has passed! Laura Shovan and I are in the copy editing stages of our co-written novel A Place at the Table. This is such an interesting and important part of editing, and one I haven't experienced before. The copy editor has great comments, and we have the choice of accepting and rejecting her suggestions. Hopefully we will be done very soon, and can both enjoy the July 4th holiday with

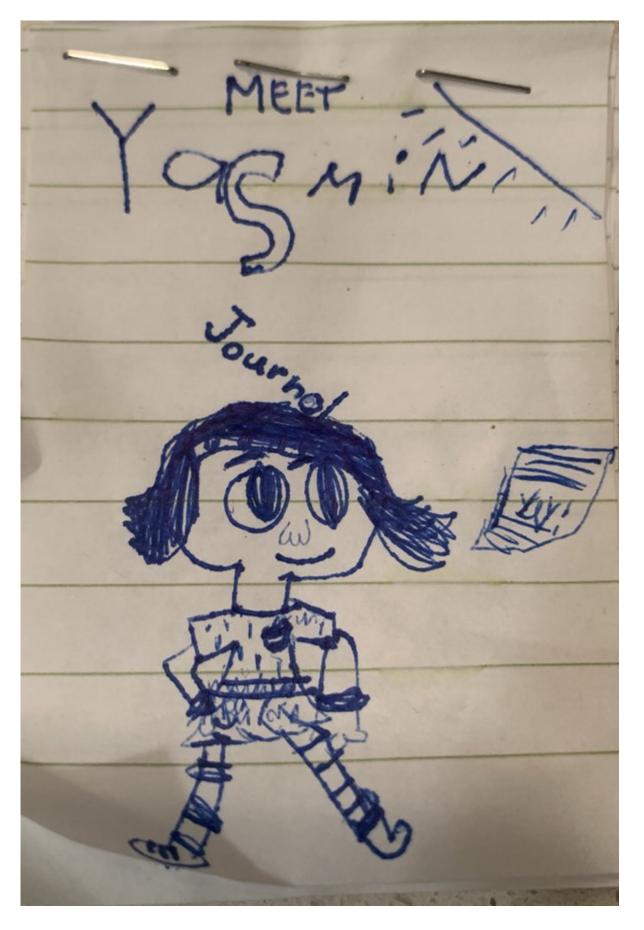


School Visit of the Month

The students of Central Academy in Ann Arbor, MI hearing me talk about upcoming Yasmin titles.

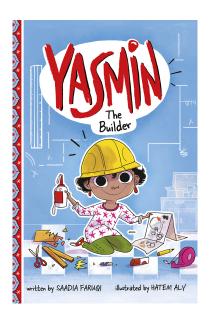
Have questions about School/Skype Visits?

School Visits



Reader Art of the Month

Submitted by a 7 year old reader. Credit: @Rachel_Sarah



GIVEAWAY

Yasmin the Builder

Guess, what? It's giveaway time again! To say a special thank you to my newsletter subscribers, I'm giving away a SIGNED copy of Yasmin the Builder. To enter, visit my website and send me a note via the contact form with the subject line JULY 2019 GIVEAWAY. Ends 6/27. Remember that I offer newsletter-only giveaways to my subscribers every month, so do make sure all your friends are signed up.



WRITING ADVICE

Realistic Relationships

One of the key ingredients of good writing is to give the main character several different relationships. Parents, siblings, friends... even enemies! These are all opportunities to develop the interactions with the main character and showcase their complicated nature. In YASMIN, the little girl Yasmin has complex relationships

with her parents, friends, teachers and grandparents. Using these, I can flesh out her character, make the stories believable and enrich the series. This is true for all ages and genres, and the older the main character, the more complicated a writer can make the relationships. Fun!



WORKSPACE

Working on the Beach

You will be certain I'm a workaholic when you see my work space this month. My family loves the beach, and we've been making frequent trips to Galveston Island, which is about an hour away from our home. Of course, I take my laptop with me, and often I can get some work done while the kiddos play in the waves. It's a win-win!



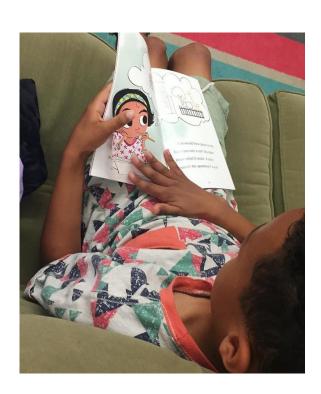
REMINDER

Summer Reading Prizes

Summer Reading is under way, and I'd love to send my readers a little gift to celebrate their accomplishments. If you've got a young one who loves Yasmin, send me a pic or tag me on social media, and I'll mail them a few

bookmarks, pins and stickers. While supplies last.

FAVORITE PICS







BUY MY BOOKS

AMAZON

INDIEBOUND

CAPSTONE









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