



AMRA PAJALIC

Award-winning Author Presenter Mentor

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EDUCATION

PhD Creative Writing
La Trobe University 2018-2025

Grad. Dip. in Secondary Education
Victoria University 2013

Bachelor of Arts
University of Western Sydney, 2005

Dip. in Prof. Writing and Editing
Holmesglen TAFE 2004

Victorian Certificate of Education
St Albans Secondary College 1994

SOCIAL MEDIA

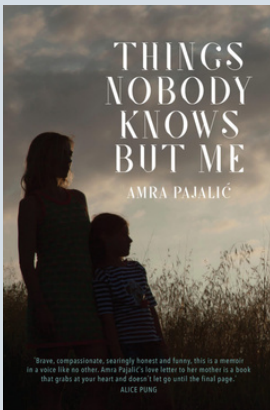
📷 1041 followers

📺 2000 followers

📧 NEWS 1300 subscribers

LANGUAGE

Bosnian



Shortlisted for 2020 National Biography Award

Highlights

- *Creative Brimbank Artist in Residence* 2023-current
- *Things Nobody Knows But Me* shortlisted for 2020 National Biography Award
- *Growing up Muslim in Australia*, Shortlisted for the 2015 Children's Book Council of Australia Eve Pownall Award for Information Books
- *Sabiha's Dilemma* won 2009 Melbourne Prize for Literature Civic Prize Award
- Featured in 2023 US Writer's Digest indie author spotlight
- Established my small press Pishukin Press and published nine novels, and my memoir that I narrated as an audiobook
- Victorian Premier's Award for Unpublished Manuscript judge and convenor
- Creative Victoria Literature Grant Panel Assessor
- Thought leadership press coverage pieces with over 58 articles published about teaching, relationships, grief, bipolar and multiculturalism.

AUTHOR

Young Adult fiction

Jesse's Triumph, Pishukin Press, 2023

Sabiha's Dilemma, Pishukin Press 2022,

Alma's Loyalty, Pishukin Press 2023

The Cuckoo's Song, Pishukin Press 2022

The Climb, Pishukin Press 2022

Memoir

Things Nobody Knows But Me, Transit Lounge, 2019

Co-editor of anthology *Growing up Muslim in Australia*, 2014, 2019, Allen & Unwin

Contributor to *Teacher, Teacher: An anthology about inspirational teachers*, Affirm Press, 2023

Contributor to *Meet me at the Intersection*, Fremantle Press, 2018

Contributor to *Rebellious Daughters*, Ventura Press, 2016

Middle Grade

Amir: Friend on Loan, Garrat Publishing 2014

Romance as Mae Archer

Vintage Dreams, Pishukin Press, 2024

Hollywood Dreams, Pishukin Press 2022, previously by Pan Macmillan

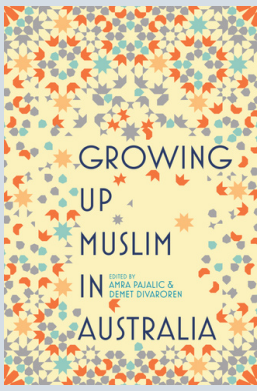
Return to Me, Pishukin Press 2022, previously by Pan Macmillan

Things Nobody Knows But Me '..told in a distinctive voice, sharp, direct, sometimes bruising.' The Australian

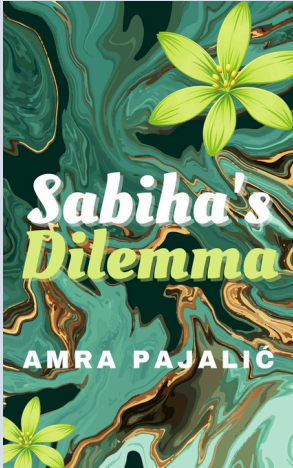
Sabiha's Dilemma '..Insightful... A spirited debut novel.' Herald Sun

The Cuckoo's Song short story 'Siege'

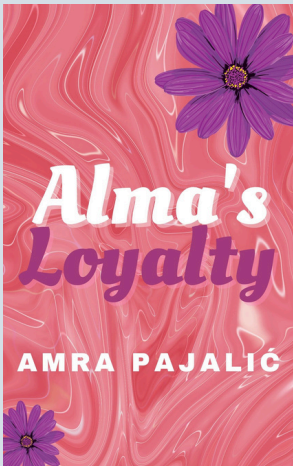
'A powerful and moving story of family dissolution and the suffering, deprivation and terror of war.' Australian Book Review



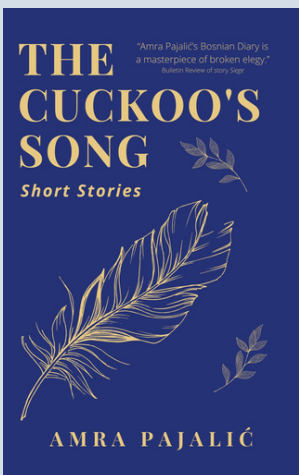
Shortlisted for the 2015 Children's Book Council of Australia Eve Pownall Award for Information Books



Winner 2009 Melbourne Prize for Literature Civic Prize Award



'Pajalic bravely deals with some serious adolescent issues.' Kirkus Review



'So devastatingly real' Maxine Beneba Clarke

Presenter / Speaker / Workshop Facilitator

Combining my skills as an English high school teacher and author, I am an official mentor with Writers Victoria and have delivered talks and workshops at primary and high schools, universities, online and at writing festivals in the the genres of fiction, memoir and romance writing.

Drawing on my experience as a Creative Victoria Literature Grant Panel Assessor, and successful grant applications from various organisations, I also deliver grant writing workshops. I have judged local writing competitions and was the Victorian Premier's Award for Unpublished Manuscript judge and convenor

Below is a selection of organisations I have worked with.



WRITING
NSW



SPN
SmallPressNetwork



Testimonials

'Working with Amra has been transformative. She simultaneously built my confidence and vastly improved my writing and manuscript, while also helping me navigate the publishing industry. I am especially grateful for the way she responded to my work on its own terms by building an understanding of my style and then supporting me to improve it.'
Farrin Foster, memoir mentee

'The memoir writing workshop with Amra was an incredible experience. Amra's enthusiasm and passion were contagious, and her constant encouragement allowed me to explore not only a new genre of writing, but also to reflect on my life and how my experiences have shaped who I am today. Amra's expertise as a teacher and memoir writer were obvious, and I really enjoyed learning from her.' Sunshine Library Memoir Writing Workshop Participant

'It was a pleasure having Amra Pajalic facilitate these Memoir Writing Workshops. Amra was always prepared in advance of the sessions and shared her extensive experience, skills and passion for this writing genre. Amra made a concerted effort to get to know the participants and provide ongoing support and advice.'
Josephine Mifsud, Senior Library Services & Programs Officer,
Sunshine Library

You may have read my work in



Education



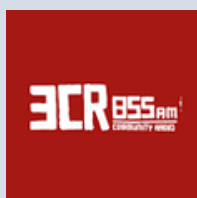
You may have seen me featured in



WRITER'S DIGEST

* SECRET MELBOURNE

You may have heard me on



Artist Statement

Growing up I did not see myself represented in fiction and I write own voices stories exploring my Bosnian heritage and culture so that young people who have an ethnic cultural background feel validated in seeing their lives represented in fiction.

As I was parented by a mother who was a Bipolar sufferer, I find myself coming back to themes that deal with mental health, especially within the context of Non-English Speaking communities as this places particular pressure on a sufferer and family due to stigma and lack of awareness. This is the inspiration for my memoir *Things Nobody Knows But Me* and since its publication I have immersed myself in writing non-fiction and have generated thought leadership press coverage pieces with over 40 articles published about teaching, relationships, grief, bipolar and multiculturalism, in ArtsHub, Kalliope Journal, The Guardian, The Age, Southerly Journal, Overland Journal, AEU Magazines, Meanjin and 25 memoir pieces in SBS Voices. My short stories have also been published in journals, anthologies and magazines.

I have established my own small press Pishukin Press, that publishes underrepresented authors. Drawing on my experience as an educator Pishukin Press, is dedicated to accessibility and titles are published in ebooks, paperbacks, hardbacks, large print, dyslexic font and audiobooks.

I have secured an Export Market Development Grant, a reimbursement grant to promote my books overseas and have received mentorship and digital training from the Melbourne Innovation Centre, and through a successful digital adaption grant from Business Victoria I have established an online shop via the Shopify platform that allows me to distribute and sell all my books internationally.

My work has been supported by

Export Market Development Grant 2022

Victorian Government's Small Business Digital Adaptation Program 2022

Creative Brimbank Grant for memoir workshops at Sunshine Library 2022

Creative Victoria new work development grant for memoir 2015

Artists in Schools for Gisborne Secondary College 2012

Artists in Schools for Keilor Downs Secondary College 2011

Artists in Schools funding for St Albans Secondary College 2010

Creative Victoria new work development grant 2010



Brimbank Community Grants Program



Australian Government

Australian Trade and Investment Commission