

# Author Amra Pajalić re-releases her own voices, award-winning, young adult novel

## Funny, sharp and insightful writing

With the recent resurgence of own voices stories (books about characters from marginalised groups in which the author shares the same identity) resonating with readers, author Amra Pajalić is re-publishing her young adult novel as *Sabiha's Dilemma*.

In *Sabiha's Dilemma*, Sabiha is expected to play the part of the good daughter so that her mentally ill mother is accepted back into the Bosnian community. Inspired by Pajalić's experience as a high school student who 'was always reading, but there seemed to be no books that represented my story about growing up. I'm talking about coming from the Western suburbs of Melbourne. About being from a migrant background and the family expectations placed on you to be a good ethnic girl, while at heart being Aussie and wanting to break out of this mould. So I wrote *Sabiha's Dilemma* for myself and for teenagers like me so they have something to read that speaks to their experiences and that will inspire them to fight for their 'outlandish' dreams.'

## About the author

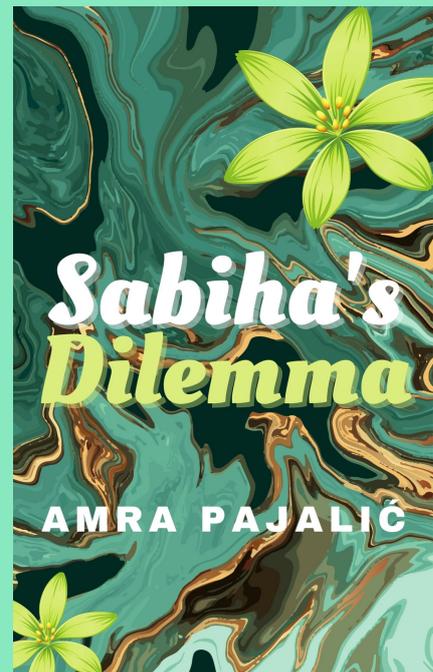
Amra Pajalić is an award-winning author, an editor and teacher who draws on her Bosnian cultural heritage to write own voices stories for young people, who like her, are searching to mediate their identity and take pride in their diverse culture.

Her memoir *Things Nobody Knows But Me* (Transit Lounge, 2019) was shortlisted for the 2020 National Biography Award. Her debut novel, re-titled *Sabiha's Dilemma*, won the 2009 Melbourne Prize for Literature's Civic Choice Award and she is co-editor of the anthology *Growing up Muslim in Australia* (Allen and Unwin, 2014, 2019) that was shortlisted for the 2015 Children's Book Council of the year awards.

Amra Pajalić is available to deliver author talks and writing workshops in person or online. For testimonials or to book her go to [www.amrapajalic.com](http://www.amrapajalic.com)



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## Praise

'Funny, sharp and insightful.' Simmone Howell

'A raw and honest story about duty and the desire to run free.' Melina Marchetta  
'I love Sabiha's Dilemma. It had me in stitches. Hilarious, poignant, gutsy and real.' Randa Abdel-Fattah

## Teaching notes

Pre-reading exercises, reading, writing and research activities, drama activities

## Purchasing details

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