



K2 Literary *Spring 2023*

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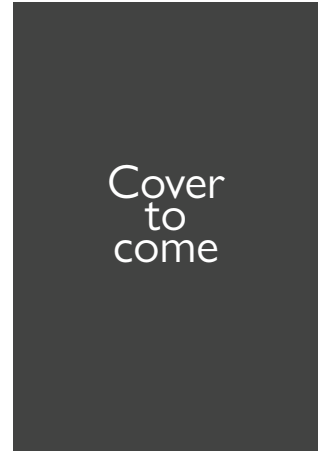
children's

Hajer Nakua and Farah Qaiser

Khadija and the Elephant Toothpaste Experiment

Inspired by a visit to a local science fair, five-year-old Khadija attempts to re-create an elephant toothpaste experiment at home, leading to foamy trouble in the kitchen. Through her adventures and misadventures, Khadija learns to navigate failure in science, why safety is important when it comes to experiments, and is inspired to become a chemist, with the support of her parents.

Khadija and the Elephant Toothpaste Experiment is the first book in a potential book series, where readers will follow Muslim children as they explore the world of science and carry out fun experiments, which often take unexpected turns. But instead of giving up at the first sign of failure, the budding scientists learn how to navigate uncertainty with their family and continue to pursue their curiosity.



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HAJER NAKUA is a neuroscience PhD Candidate researching the relationship between brain organization and mental health symptoms in children at the University of Toronto. She is currently pursuing a Fulbright Fellowship exchange at Stanford University. Beyond her research, she is also a science communicator whose focus is to make science accessible to youth who have been excluded from scientific conversations. She has served as the Chair of the Organization of Human Brain Mapping (OHBM)'s Student and Postdoc Special Interest Group; a volunteer-led committee which creates events and resources to enhance the careers of graduate students and post-docs in neuroscience.

Hajer's passion to make science more accessible led her to create a science communication Instagram platform, which currently has over 5,000 followers, and is one of the only English-Arabic neuroscience communication platforms on Instagram, and as such, has cultivated a community of youth from North America and the Middle East all motivated to learn more about their brains.

FARAH QAISER is a genomics researcher by training, now taking a detour into the world of science policy. She holds a Master of Science from the University of Toronto, where she carried out DNA sequencing to better understand neurological disorders. Now, Farah works as the Director of Research and Policy at Evidence for Democracy to promote the use of evidence in government decision-making.

Farah is passionate about building an engaging and inclusive science culture through outreach, policy and communication efforts. Her extensive volunteer and community experience includes co-founding the Toronto Science Policy Network, writing about science and scientists for various media outlets (including *Forbes*), and organizing Wikipedia Edit-A-Thons to create pages about under-represented scientists. Farah currently serves as a member of the Canada Chief Science Advisor's Youth Council, on Let's Talk Science's Board of Directors, and on 500 Women Scientists' leadership team.



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