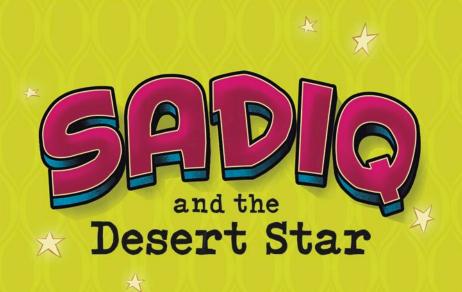


Desert Star



BY SIMAN NUURALI

ART BY
ANJAN SARKAR



BY SIMAN NUURALI
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## For my baba, who was and always remains my desert star. — S. N.

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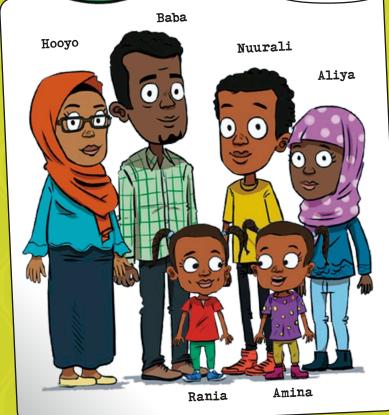
## CONTENTS

The desert star	7
CHAPTER 2  The observatory	7
CHAPTER 3  The great plan	5-
CHAPTER 4 Sambuus	7
CHAPTER 5  The Spring Festival 4	7
CHAPTER 6 The stargazing party 4	8



HI, I'M SADIQ! MY PARENTS ARE FROM SOMALIA, IN AFRICA. SOMETIMES WE SPEAK SOMALI AT HOME.

I'D LIKE YOU TO
MEET MY FAMILY
AND LEARN SOME
INTERESTING FACTS
AND LANGUAGE FROM
OUR CULTURE.



## FACTS ABOUT SOMALIA

- Most Somali people belong to one of four major groups: the Darod, Isaaq, Hawiye and Dir.
- Many Somalis in Africa are nomadic. That means they travel from place to place. They search for water, food and land for their animals.
- Somalia is mostly desert. It doesn't rain often there.
- The camel is an important animal to Somali people.
   Camels can survive a long time without food or water.
- Around ninety-nine per cent of all Somalis are Muslim.

## Somali Language

**awoowe** (ah-WOH-weh) grandfather

**baba** (BAH-baah) common word for father

haa (HA) yes

hooyo (HOY-yoh) mother

**salaam** (sa-LAHM) short form of Arabic greeting, used by many Muslims. It also means "peace".

**sambuus** (sahm-BOOS) fried pastries that are filled with spicy ground beef, chicken, fish or vegetables

wiilkeyga (wil-KAY-gaah) my son

