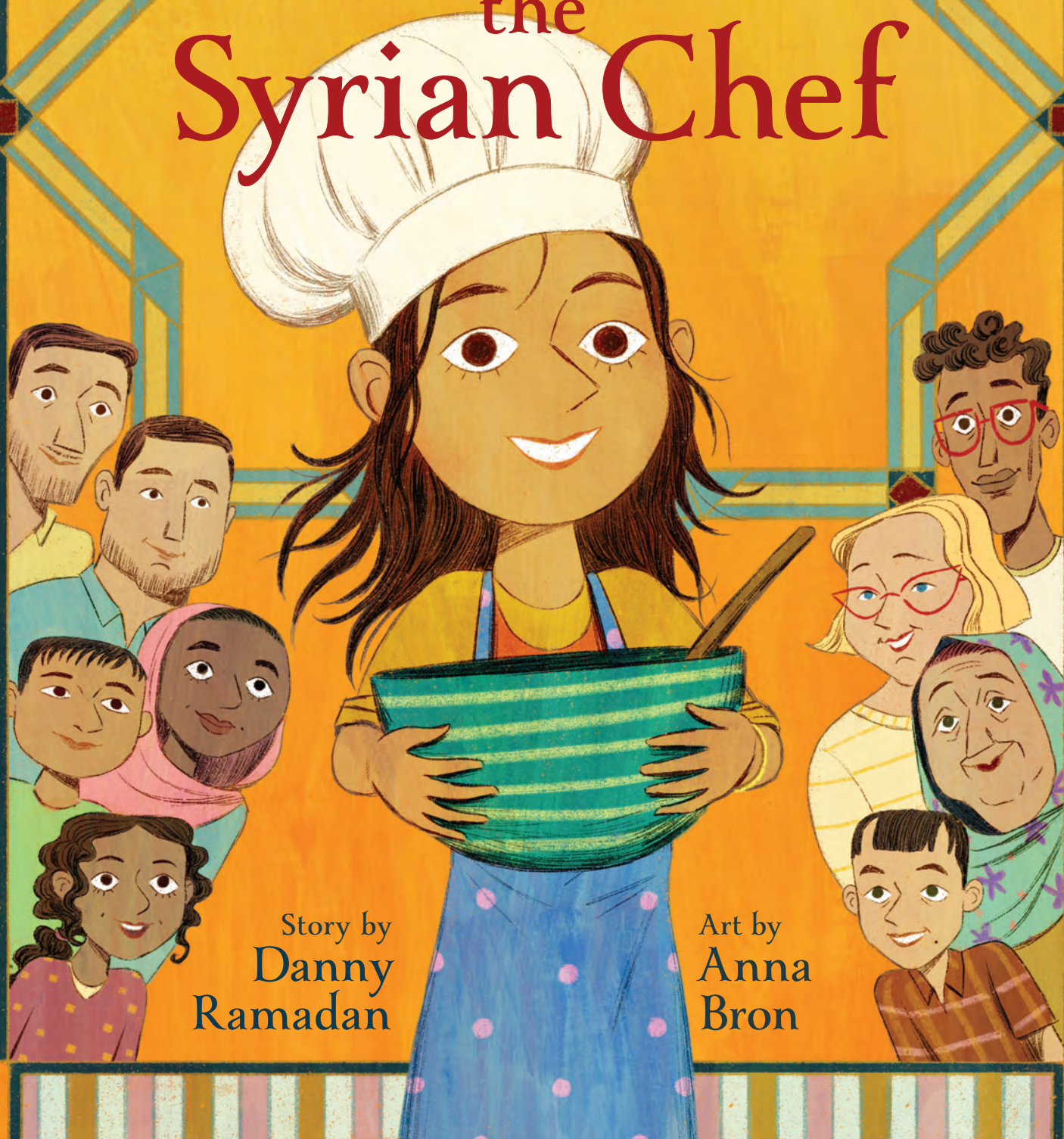


# Salma the Syrian Chef



Story by  
**Danny  
Ramadan**

Art by  
**Anna  
Bron**



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Salma watches the Vancouver rain from her apartment window in the Welcome Center. It's different than the sunny days back in Syria. She still can't pronounce "Vancouver," but her friends tell her that her ways of saying it are more fun.





“Fankoufer,” Salma says to Mama, but Mama is making dinner.

“Vandourar.” Salma rolls her Rs, but Mama won’t look up from her English homework.

“Vancouver!” Salma finally succeeds, but Mama is busy calling Papa back in Syria.



Papa will join them in Canada soon.

Salma's heart aches like a tiny fire in her chest when she thinks of Papa. She wonders if Mama's heart is burning too.





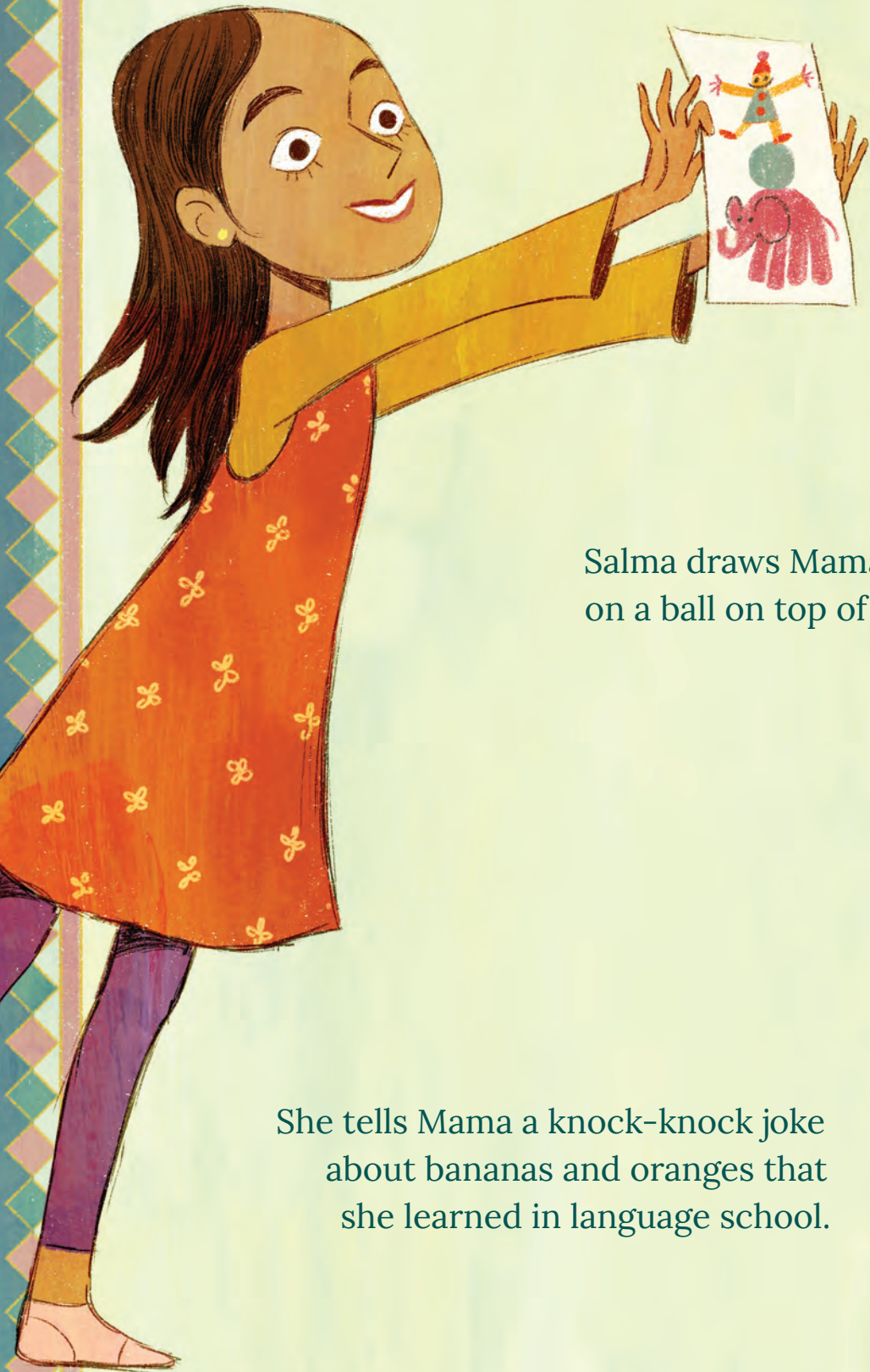


Mama used to giggle with her friends in the refugee camp.  
It sounded like the ringing bells on the older boys' bikes.

Now, after a long day of job interviews and English classes,  
Mama barely smiles when tucking Salma in.



Maybe if Salma can make Mama laugh,  
Vancouver will feel a little more like home.



Salma draws Mama a clown balancing  
on a ball on top of an elephant.

She tells Mama a knock-knock joke  
about bananas and oranges that  
she learned in language school.





She even hides behind the fridge.  
She jumps out and screams, "Boo!"

But all she gets is Mama's sad smile,  
full of love but empty of joy.





To the yet-to-be-born child that one day will be mine, I love you already. —D.R.

For my mom. —A.B.



Foul shami, the Syrian dish Salma prepares for Mama, can be translated as Damascene fava beans in English. In Arabic, *foul* (pronounced “fool”) means fava beans, and *shami* (pronounced “shammy”) means Damascene—from the Syrian city of Damascus.

To find out how you can make foul shami, check out the recipe at  
[www.annickpress.com/Salma-the-Syrian-Chef](http://www.annickpress.com/Salma-the-Syrian-Chef)

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Cover art/design by Anna Bron and Paul Covello

Designed by Paul Covello

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We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council, and the participation of the Government of Canada/la participation du gouvernement du Canada for our publishing activities.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: Salma the Syrian chef / story by Danny Ramadan ; art by Anna Bron

Names: Ramadan, Ahmad Danny, author. | Bron, Anna, 1989- illustrator.

Identifiers: Canadiana (print) 20190170301 | Canadiana (ebook) 20190170328 | ISBN 9781773213750

(hardcover) | ISBN 9781773213781 (PDF) | ISBN 9781773213774 (Kindle) | ISBN 9781773213767 (HTML)

Classification: LCC PS8635.A4613 S25 2020 | DDC jC813/.6—dc23

Published in the U.S.A. by Annick Press (U.S.) Ltd.

Distributed in Canada by University of Toronto Press.

Distributed in the U.S.A. by Publishers Group West.

Printed in China

[annickpress.com](http://annickpress.com)

[dannyramadan.com](http://dannyramadan.com)

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