**AUTHOR BIO**

Shelah L. Maul is a Speech/Language Pathologist in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. She has dedicated her life to empowering children to experience meaningful communication through the expression of words. So the first time she heard Sakina share stories about her life in Africa, it happened naturally that a partnership formed between them. Sakina has a remarkable story to tell, and Shelah felt honored to offer her the tools needed to express it. Shelah lives in Frederick, Maryland with her husband, Brian.

**BOOK SYNOPSIS**

Sakina grows up in a small village in Cameroon, the daughter of the first wife of a prosperous, polygamous Hausa tribesman. When she is just 12, Sakina’s father expels her mother from his compound, disallowing her to ever step foot inside. Heartbroken, Sakina resolves to evade the spiritual death that took hold of her mother and each of her father’s wives. She boldly reaches for a dream of one day becoming a lawyer, and living a modern, free life—like the Americans and Europeans she idolizes on the only television set in her village.

But just when Sakina commits her heart to striving for an education, at age 16 she learns her father has arranged her marriage to a Hausa man. Educated in Belgium and wearing blue jeans, he inspires her to believe he is enlightened. But when a fatal car accident postpones the wedding, it’s the beginning of a series of incredible coincidences and brushes with fate that convince her to believe her sisters were right all along—*someone* has maliciously cursed her.

Her will to live falters. But through unlikely circumstances, she develops a forbidden friendship with a night manager at her local bus station— a man from a scorned, Christian tribe. This friendship empowers her to risk everything for the chance to reclaim her dream, while revealing the purest form of love possible between two human beings.

**SHARE YOUR STORY** (next title description etc.)

We are all involved in a transformative process—whether or not we participate with awareness in this unfolding of who we are. Despite the trendy belief that favorable childhoods, positive cultural influences, wealth, and educational opportunities define who we are, I am convicted that the human spirit is crafted on a much deeper level.

I am convinced every single person living on this planet has a burden of suffering—regardless of surface level circumstances. In a universal way, we all face the same question: *How will I respond to this pain?* How we answer this question is the pivotal, defining moment for us all. Depending on our answer, who we are either becomes purified and strengthened— or simply defeated.

Who will *we* become? I am deeply interested in stories where the response to suffering resulted in purification and transformation into a higher state of being. Do you have this type of story to share? Do you know someone who does? I would like to feature your transformation in my next book! Please contact me!

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Hausa Blues will be available for purchase in November 2014. Pre-order a trade paperback now and receive a custom, author signed bookplate with your book!

I think this picture might make a good background for a flash image. I don’t know how to do it, but I was thinking maybe make it small (25% the size) in the bottom left corner of the flash screen. Then put the words over it: ***An unforgettable tale of a Muslim girl’s misadventures on her way to a modern life.*** See [www.suemonkidd.com](http://www.suemonkidd.com) or [www.khaledhosseini.com](http://www.khaledhosseini.com) for layout examples. Thanks!

