

# Muddy People

## A Memoir

Sara El Sayed

How do you find yourself without losing your family? A memoir about growing up, breaking the rules and negotiating culture, from a new Australian voice.

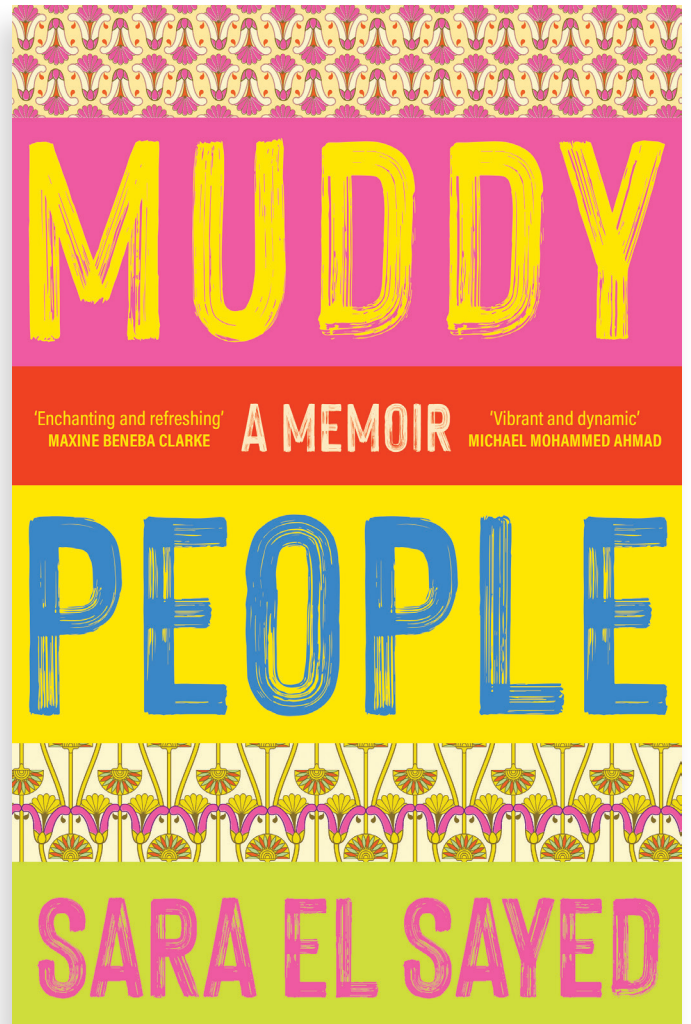
A hilarious, heartwarming memoir of growing up and becoming yourself in an Egyptian Muslim family

Soos is coming of age in a household with a lot of rules. No bikinis, despite the Queensland heat. No boys, unless he's Muslim. And no life insurance, not even when her father gets cancer.

Soos is trying to balance her parents' strict decrees with having friendships, crushes and the freedom to develop her own values. With each rule Soos comes up against, she is forced to choose between doing what her parents say is right and following her instincts. When her family falls apart, she comes to see her parents as flawed, their morals based on a muddy logic. But she will also learn that they are her strongest defenders.

'Finally, a personal story that reflects so much that is familiar but is rarely found on bookshelves. This is the kind of memoir I have searched for in vain for years.' —Mona Eltahawy

**SARA EL SAYED** was born in Alexandria, Egypt. She has a Master of Fine Arts and works at Queensland University of Technology. Her writing features in the anthologies *Growing Up African in Australia* and *Arab, Australian, Other*, among other places. She is a recipient of a Queensland Writers Fellowship and was a finalist in the 2020 Queensland Premier's Young Writers and Publishers Award.



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