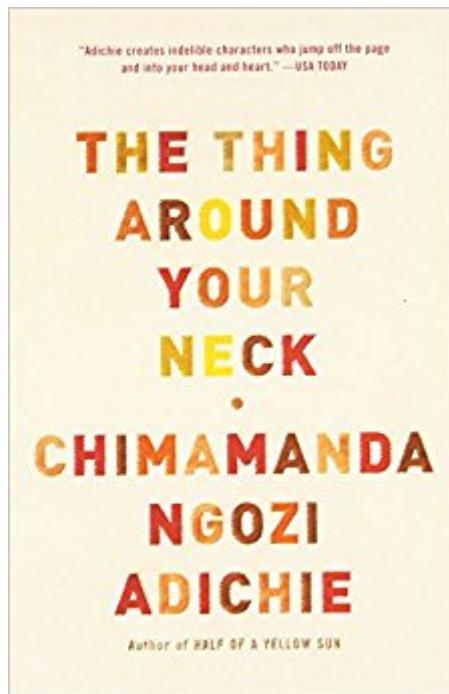


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The Thing Around Your Neck



Synopsis

In these twelve dazzling stories, the bestselling, award-winning Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie explores the ties that bind men and women, parents and children, Africa and the United States. Searing and profound, suffused with beauty, sorrow, and longing, these stories map, with Adichie's signature emotional wisdom, the collision of two cultures and the deeply human struggle to reconcile them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Adichie (Half of a Yellow Sun) stays on familiar turf in her deflated first story collection. The tension between Nigerians and Nigerian-Americans, and the question of what it means to be middle-class in each country, feeds most of these dozen stories. Best known are "Cell One," and "The Headstrong Historian," which have both appeared in the New Yorker and are the collection's finest works. "Cell One," in particular, about the appropriation of American ghetto culture by Nigerian university students, is both emotionally and intellectually fulfilling. Most of the other stories in this collection, while brimming with pathos and rich in character, are limited. The expansive canvas of the novel suits Adichie's work best; here, she fixates mostly on romantic relationships. Each story's observations illuminate once; read in succession, they take on a repetitive slice-of-life quality, where assimilation and gender roles become ready stand-ins for what could be more probing work. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

A country famously known to the West for its e-mail scams, Nigeria is indebted to Adichie for these graceful and evocative stories that portray it as the rich and diverse nation it truly is. They also

demonstrate her keen insight into the rough terrain of human nature beset by external demands and pressures. Adichie, compared to a "hostess" (San Francisco Chronicle) who invites her achingly believable characters fully formed into her stories, treats her protagonists -- mostly women -- with respect and compassion. A few minor complaints included less-convincing American characters and some awkward endings, but all critics recognized Adichie as an accomplished storyteller whose careful study of her native land illuminates its foreignness as well as the similarities between us all.

Adiche always writes well and has real insight into the daily trials and tribulations of normal people. In these stories one begins to understand how people living in a foreign country can bring memories of their own land into perspective and how it is possible to make a fiction of that land. Disappointment and loneliness are features of these stories.

This is not my first book by this author but it might become a new favorite! I thoroughly enjoyed all of the stories and thought that each story provided a different perspective to understanding Nigerian culture.

Adichie writes so beautifully! Like Thomas Hardy, she creates a world so humanly authentic that eventually the words just fall away and you are there. But she may make you cry.

I enjoyed these stories, I shared a sentiment with every voice & I was able to imagine what people went through in the voices where I didn't share the same experiences. I wished some stories were longer but enjoyed the different walks of the different characters. I loved that they were all voices of women, smart, strong & aware.

i really enjoyed reading this book. I am american but i enjoy reading african literature . i consider myself african-african american and i often do buy alot of african reads. i just started buying from so i dont have that many yet to review on. But i have been buying great books from other online sites (i will not mention) . this is definitely a good book.

I loved her book. I loved her stories. My favorite was the very last story. Her writing was compelling and drew you in. As a Nigerian-American reader and writer, it was so inspiring to see characters reflecting my culture and heritage in the media. I looked forward to future works by Ms. Adichie!

As always, Chimamanda has provided a wonderful reading experience. Upon purchasing this I didn't know it was a collection of short stories rather than a full novel, and generally I dislike many small pieces, but I found myself unable to put it down. A fantastic read.

So many stories, about so many people, that made me think of Nigeria once more with a new fondness. So much that you can relate to. That's what I liked about it. That it had so much I could relate to. But I still can't figure out what the thing around my neck is. But I enjoyed this book immensely.

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