



Purple Hibiscus: A Novel

By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

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Fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother Jaja lead a privileged life in Enugu, Nigeria. They live in a beautiful house, with a caring family, and attend an exclusive missionary school. They're completely shielded from the troubles of the world. Yet, as Kambili reveals in her tender-voiced account, things are less perfect than they appear. Although her Papa is generous and well respected, he is fanatically religious and tyrannical at home—a home that is silent and suffocating.

As the country begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili and Jaja are sent to their aunt, a university professor outside the city, where they discover a life beyond the confines of their father's authority. Books cram the shelves, curry and nutmeg permeate the air, and their cousins' laughter rings throughout the house. When they return home, tensions within the family escalate, and Kambili must find the strength to keep her loved ones together.

Purple Hibiscus is an exquisite novel about the emotional turmoil of adolescence, the powerful bonds of family, and the bright promise of freedom.

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Purple Hibiscus: A Novel By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #20008 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-04-17
- Released on: 2012-04-17
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Purple Hibiscus, Nigerian-born writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's debut, begins like many novels set in regions considered exotic by the western reader: the politics, climate, social customs, and, above all, food of Nigeria (balls of fufu rolled between the fingers, okpa bought from roadside vendors) unfold like the purple hibiscus of the title, rare and fascinating. But within a few pages, these details, however vividly rendered, melt into the background of a larger, more compelling story of a joyless family. Fifteen-year-old Kambili is the dutiful and self-effacing daughter of a rich man, a religious fanatic and domestic tyrant whose public image is of a politically courageous newspaper publisher and philanthropist. No one in Papa's ancestral village, where he is titled "Omelora" (One Who Does For the Community), knows why Kambili's brother cannot move one of his fingers, nor why her mother keeps losing her pregnancies. When a widowed aunt takes an interest in Kambili, her family begins to unravel and re-form itself in unpredictable ways. --Regina Marler

From Publishers Weekly

By turns luminous and horrific, this debut ensnares the reader from the first page and lingers in the memory long after its tragic end. First-person narrator Kambili Achike is a 15-year-old Nigerian girl growing up in sheltered privilege in a country ravaged by political strife and personal struggle. She and her brother, Jaja, and their quiet mother, who speaks "the way a bird eats, in small amounts," live this life of luxury because Kambili's father is a wealthy man who owns factories, publishes a politically outspoken newspaper and outwardly leads the moral, humble life of a faithful Catholic. The many grateful citizens who have received his blessings and material assistance call him omelora, "The One Who Does for the Community." Yet Kambili, Jaja and their mother see a side to their provider no one else does: he is also a religious fanatic who regularly and viciously beats his family for the mildest infractions of his interpretation of an exemplary Christian life. The children know better than to discuss their home life with anyone else; "there was so much that we never told." But when they are unexpectedly allowed to visit their liberated and loving Aunty Ifeoma, a widowed university professor raising three children, family secrets and tensions bubble dangerously to the surface, setting in motion a chain of events that allow Kambili to slowly blossom as she begins to question the authority of the precepts and adults she once held sacred. In a soft, searing voice, Adichie examines the complexities of family, faith and country through the haunted but hopeful eyes of a young girl on the cusp of womanhood. Lush, cadenced and often disconcerting, this is an accomplished first effort.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-Kambili, 15, and her older brother, Jaja, live under a brutal dictatorship in their native Nigeria and also in their home. Their father beats them and their mother for the slightest perceived offense. Papa is also a fanatic Christian who gives freely of his immense wealth and is admired by all. The children's world changes when they are allowed to visit their Aunty Ifeoma, who teaches in a university town nearby and lives a relaxed life on little money. Her children talk back, have messy rooms, and help cook wonderful food. And their beloved grandfather, Papa-Nnukwu, favors the old gods. Kambili meets Father Amadi, a liberal priest, and falls in love with him. Upon Nnukwu's death, Papa arrives to take them home, but Jaja now questions his authority, and when Papa finds Kambili with a picture of her heathen grandfather, he kicks and beats her so severely that she is hospitalized. Mama poisons Papa's food, but Jaja confesses to the murder and is imprisoned. The Nigerian government falls; Aunty Ifeoma loses her job and leaves with her children for America; and Father Amadi leaves for his next assignment. Yet there is hope that after three

years in prison, Jaja will be released, and Mama finally smiles. Aunty Ifeoma and their cousins have brought joy and laughter to Kambili and Jaja, and that cannot be taken away. This is a harsh story, almost unbearable at first, but beautifully written.

Molly Connally, Chantilly Regional Library, VA

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donald Rose:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world could share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their particular reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the information about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write with their book. One of them is this Purple Hibiscus: A Novel.

Alejandro Jones:

The book with title Purple Hibiscus: A Novel contains a lot of information that you can learn it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This specific book exist new expertise the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world today. That is important to you to find out how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you within new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

Irene Weinstein:

Don't be worry should you be afraid that this book will filled the space in your house, you will get it in e-book method, more simple and reachable. That Purple Hibiscus: A Novel can give you a lot of close friends because by you taking a look at this one book you have issue that they don't and make you actually more like an interesting person. This particular book can be one of a step for you to get success. This guide offer you information that perhaps your friend doesn't learn, by knowing more than additional make you to be great people. So , why hesitate? Let's have Purple Hibiscus: A Novel.

Kara Hogan:

As a student exactly feel bored for you to reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the library in order to make summary for some guide, they are complained. Just very little students that has reading's internal or real their pastime. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to the library. They go to there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that studying is not important, boring and can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on

this age, many ways to get whatever we really wish for. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this Purple Hibiscus: A Novel can make you feel more interested to read.

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