



The Thing Around Your Neck

By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

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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.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

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*)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

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.

From [Booklist](#)

As richly modulated as MacArthur fellow Adichie's hard-hitting novels are, her short stories are equally well-tooled and potent. As her first collection arcs between Nigeria and the U.S., Adichie takes measure of the divide between men and women and different classes and cultures. A meticulous observer of tactile detail and emotional nuance, Adichie moves sure-footedly from the personal to the communal as she illuminates with striking immediacy the consequences of prejudice, corruption, tyranny, and violence in war-torn Nigeria and unaware America. A teenage girl tells the harrowing story of her spoiled, frivolous brother's abrupt awakening to brutality and compassion in jail. A Nigerian woman living patiently in America with her children and without her husband finally breaks out of the chrysalis of her compliance. Two women from warring factions take shelter together during a riot. Adichie's graceful and slicing stories of characters struggling with fear, anger, and sorrow beautifully capture the immense resonance of small things as the larger world pitches into incoherence. --Donna Seaman

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Samuel Travis:

This The Thing Around Your Neck book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book will be information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This kind of The Thing

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Virginia Cherry:

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Joshua Little:

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