

so long a letter

so long a letter is a powerful and deeply resonant novel that has captivated readers and scholars around the world. Written by Mariama Bâ, this work stands as a significant piece in African literature, exploring themes such as feminism, cultural change, and personal transformation. In this article, you will discover a comprehensive overview of the novel, its plot and key characters, the major themes it presents, its cultural and historical context, its literary significance, and its lasting impact on education and society. Whether you are a student, a literature enthusiast, or someone interested in African culture and women's rights, the following sections will guide you through the essential aspects of so long a letter and why it remains relevant today.

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Overview of so long a letter

so long a letter is an epistolary novel written by Senegalese author Mariama Bâ. First published in 1979, the book has received international acclaim for its honest portrayal of women's experiences in postcolonial West Africa. The story unfolds through a series of letters written by the protagonist, Ramatoulaye, to her friend Aissatou. Through these correspondences, the novel explores personal and societal issues such as marriage, motherhood, loss, and resilience. The narrative style allows readers intimate access to Ramatoulaye's thoughts and emotions, making the work both personal and universal in its appeal. so long a letter is widely regarded as a foundational text in African feminist literature and continues to be studied in academic institutions worldwide.

Plot Summary and Structure

Epistolary Format and Its Impact

The story of *so long a letter* is conveyed through a series of letters written by Ramatoulaye. This epistolary format provides a unique perspective, allowing readers to witness the protagonist's psychological and emotional journey directly. The use of letters creates a sense of immediacy and authenticity, as Ramatoulaye reflects on her life, her marriage, and the cultural expectations placed upon her as a Senegalese woman.

Overview of the Main Narrative

The novel begins with Ramatoulaye mourning the death of her husband, Modou Fall, who abandoned her for a younger second wife. As she observes the traditional mourning period, she writes to her lifelong friend Aissatou, sharing memories and reflecting on the choices made by both women. The narrative weaves together past and present, detailing Ramatoulaye's struggles with polygamy, motherhood, and societal pressures. The story ultimately highlights the importance of solidarity, self-respect, and personal agency.

Major Characters and Their Roles

Ramatoulaye

Ramatoulaye is the protagonist and narrator of *so long a letter*. Her journey from grief to self-discovery forms the heart of the novel. As a mother of twelve and a devoted wife, she embodies the challenges faced by women in patriarchal societies. Her reflections reveal her inner strength and her desire for change, making her a symbol of resilience and dignity.

Aissatou

Aissatou is Ramatoulaye's confidante and best friend. Her own experiences with betrayal and independence offer a contrast to Ramatoulaye's path. Aissatou's decision to reject polygamous marriage and pursue education and professional success serves as a model of autonomy and empowerment.

Supporting Characters

- Modou Fall: Ramatoulaye's late husband, whose decision to marry a younger woman sets the stage for the novel's exploration of polygamy and its consequences.
- Mawdo Bâ: Aissatou's former husband, whose choices mirror the societal expectations and pressures faced by men and women alike.
- Other family members: Ramatoulaye's children and relatives play significant roles in highlighting generational differences and the impact of tradition on modern life.

Key Themes in so long a letter

Feminism and Women's Rights

One of the central themes of *so long a letter* is feminism. The novel addresses the status of women in Senegalese society, emphasizing the need for equality, education, and independence. Ramatoulaye's and Aissatou's experiences demonstrate both the struggles and triumphs of women who challenge traditional roles and expectations.

Polygamy and Marriage

Polygamy is a recurring topic in the novel, serving as a lens through which the author examines gender dynamics and family structures. The emotional and practical consequences of polygamous relationships are explored in depth, highlighting the pain, resilience, and choices faced by women like Ramatoulaye and Aissatou.

Tradition and Modernity

so long a letter explores the tension between tradition and modernity in postcolonial Senegal. The characters' struggles to balance cultural heritage with personal aspirations reflect broader social changes. Issues such as education, generational conflicts, and progressive values are woven throughout the narrative.

Cultural and Historical Context

Senegalese Society and Customs

The novel is set in Senegal, a country with deep-rooted traditions and a complex colonial history. Mariama Bâ uses Ramatoulaye's story to shed light on the customs, beliefs, and practices that shape Senegalese life, particularly in relation to marriage, mourning, and family. The portrayal of polygamy and traditional gender roles provides insight into the challenges faced by women in this context.

Postcolonial Influences

so long a letter reflects the broader historical context of postcolonial West Africa. The narrative addresses the impact of French colonialism on education, social mobility, and cultural identity. The characters' choices and experiences underscore the ongoing struggle to reconcile inherited customs with new societal norms.

Literary Significance and Critical Reception

Recognition and Awards

Since its publication, *so long a letter* has received numerous accolades for its literary merit and social relevance. The novel was awarded the first Noma Award for Publishing in Africa in 1980, recognizing its contribution to African literature and feminist discourse.

Critical Analysis and Global Influence

- *so long a letter* is often studied in literature and gender studies courses for its exploration of identity, autonomy, and social change.
- Critics praise the novel's epistolary style for its intimacy and emotional depth.
- The book has been translated into multiple languages, expanding its reach and impact worldwide.
- It is frequently cited in academic research on African feminism, postcolonial literature, and women's writing.

Impact on Education and Society

Curriculum and Academic Study

so long a letter is a staple in educational curricula across Africa and beyond. Its themes of gender equality, cultural transformation, and self-empowerment make it a valuable resource for teaching about African societies and the challenges faced by women. The novel is used to encourage critical thinking and discussions about societal norms, personal choices, and the role of literature in social change.

Influence on Women's Movements

Mariama Bâ's work has inspired generations of women to advocate for their rights and pursue education and independence. The novel's depiction of strong female characters and their journey toward self-realization continues to resonate with readers and activists, reinforcing the importance of literature as a tool for social awareness and progress.

Conclusion

so long a letter remains a landmark in African literature, offering an insightful and compassionate exploration of women's lives in Senegal. Through its authentic narrative, complex characters, and profound themes, the novel sheds light on enduring issues of gender, culture, and personal growth. Its influence in academic, cultural, and social spheres underscores its lasting legacy as a catalyst for discussion and change.

Q: Who is the author of so long a letter?

A: The author of so long a letter is Mariama Bâ, a prominent Senegalese writer and feminist.

Q: What is the main theme of so long a letter?

A: The main theme of so long a letter is the struggle for women's rights and autonomy within traditional Senegalese society, especially in the context of polygamy and cultural expectations.

Q: What literary style is used in so long a letter?

A: so long a letter is written in an epistolary style, using letters to narrate the story and convey the protagonist's inner thoughts and emotions.

Q: Why is so long a letter important in African literature?

A: so long a letter is considered a foundational text in African feminist literature due to its honest portrayal of women's experiences, its exploration of cultural change, and its influence on social and literary discourse.

Q: What impact has so long a letter had on education?

A: so long a letter is widely studied in academic institutions, serving as a key resource for discussions on gender, culture, and literature in African and global contexts.

Q: Who are the main characters in so long a letter?

A: The main characters include Ramatoulaye, the protagonist and narrator, her friend Aissatou, and significant supporting characters such as Modou Fall and Mawdo Bâ.

Q: How does the novel address the issue of polygamy?

A: The novel explores the emotional and social consequences of polygamy through the personal experiences of the protagonist and her friend, highlighting the challenges and choices faced by women in such relationships.

Q: In what historical context is *So Long a Letter* set?

A: *So Long a Letter* is set in postcolonial Senegal, reflecting the societal changes and cultural tensions that arose after independence.

Q: What awards has *So Long a Letter* received?

A: *So Long a Letter* received the first Noma Award for Publishing in Africa in 1980, recognizing its literary and social significance.

Q: How has *So Long a Letter* influenced women's movements?

A: The novel has inspired women to seek education, independence, and equality, reinforcing the importance of literature in advancing social awareness and change.

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So Long a Letter: Unveiling the Power and Enduring Legacy of a Literary Masterpiece

Have you ever encountered a novel so deeply moving, so intricately woven, that it stays with you long after you've turned the final page? "*So Long a Letter*" by Mariama Bâ is precisely that kind of book. This powerful epistolary novel, a poignant exploration of female friendship, societal expectations, and the complexities of love and loss in post-colonial Senegal, deserves a closer look. This blog post will delve into the heart of Bâ's masterpiece, exploring its themes, literary techniques, and lasting impact on African literature and beyond. We'll unravel the story, analyze its significance, and discover why "*So Long a Letter*" remains a compelling and relevant read today.

H2: Unpacking the Narrative Structure: A Letter's

Journey

"So Long a Letter" is unique in its presentation. It's not a traditional novel with chapters and scene changes; instead, it unfolds entirely through a series of letters written by Ramatoulaye Fall to her lifelong friend, Aissatou. This epistolary structure immediately draws the reader into Ramatoulaye's intimate world, offering an unfiltered glimpse into her emotions, thoughts, and experiences. The letter format creates a sense of immediacy and authenticity, making Ramatoulaye's grief, resilience, and reflections deeply relatable. The reader feels like a confidante, privy to the most private aspects of her life.

H3: Exploring Themes of Sisterhood and Solidarity

The core of "So Long a Letter" rests on the profound bond between Ramatoulaye and Aissatou. Their friendship, forged in shared experiences and mutual respect, transcends the societal barriers of their time. The novel showcases the importance of female solidarity and support, particularly in a patriarchal society where women often face immense pressure and hardship. The letters reveal the strength and resilience found in sisterhood, demonstrating how women can navigate life's challenges together.

H3: Navigating Polygamy and Societal Expectations

The novel doesn't shy away from the harsh realities of polygamy in Senegalese society. Modou Fall, Ramatoulaye's husband, takes a second wife, shattering Ramatoulaye's world. This event serves as a catalyst, forcing Ramatoulaye to confront not only her personal grief and betrayal but also the deeply ingrained societal norms that permit such practices. Bâ subtly yet powerfully critiques these norms, highlighting the injustice and suffering they inflict on women.

H2: The Power of Language and Literary Devices

Bâ's masterful use of language elevates "So Long a Letter" beyond a simple narrative. Her prose is both elegant and accessible, conveying complex emotions with remarkable sensitivity. The use of proverbs and traditional Senegalese sayings adds depth and cultural richness to the narrative, enriching the reader's understanding of the characters and their world. The imagery is vivid and evocative, painting a picture of Senegalese life with remarkable detail.

H4: The Significance of Silence and Unspoken Words

While the novel is primarily composed of words, the silences and unspoken emotions are equally powerful. Ramatoulaye's internal struggles and the unspoken tensions between characters contribute significantly to the novel's overall effect. The reader is left to infer meanings and contemplate the weight of unsaid words, adding layers of complexity to the narrative.

H2: The Enduring Legacy of "So Long a Letter"

"So Long a Letter" continues to resonate with readers worldwide for its honest portrayal of female experience, its insightful critique of societal norms, and its exploration of universal themes of love, loss, and resilience. It has been translated into numerous languages, ensuring its accessibility to a global audience. The novel's impact extends beyond its literary merit; it has also spurred conversations about women's rights, polygamy, and the complexities of post-colonial societies. It stands as a testament to the power of literature to challenge perspectives and promote understanding.

Conclusion

"So Long a Letter" is more than just a novel; it is a poignant reflection on life, loss, and the strength of the human spirit. Mariama Bâ's masterful storytelling, coupled with the powerful epistolary structure, creates a reading experience that is both emotionally resonant and intellectually stimulating. The novel's enduring legacy lies in its ability to connect with readers across cultures and generations, prompting reflection on societal norms, gender dynamics, and the enduring power of female friendship.

FAQs

1. Is "So Long a Letter" suitable for all readers? While the novel delves into mature themes, its accessibility and powerful storytelling make it a rewarding read for a broad audience. However, some readers might find certain aspects emotionally challenging.
2. What makes "So Long a Letter" a significant work of African literature? It provides a powerful and authentic voice to the female experience in post-colonial Senegal, challenging patriarchal norms and offering a nuanced perspective on societal issues.
3. How does the epistolary format enhance the novel's impact? The intimate nature of the letter format fosters a deep connection between the reader and Ramatoulaye, offering an unfiltered view into her emotions and thoughts.
4. What are the key themes explored in "So Long a Letter"? Key themes include female friendship,

polygamy, societal expectations, loss, resilience, and the complexities of love and betrayal.

5. Where can I find "So Long a Letter"? The novel is widely available in bookstores, both physical and online, as well as through various digital platforms.

so long a letter: *So Long a Letter* Mariama Bâ, 2012-05-06 Written by award-winning African novelist Mariama Bâ and translated from the original French, *So Long a Letter* has been recognized as one of Africa's 100 Best Books of the 20th Century. The brief narrative, written as an extended letter, is a sequence of reminiscences —some wistful, some bitter—recounted by recently widowed Senegalese schoolteacher Ramatoulaye Fall. Addressed to a lifelong friend, Aissatou, it is a record of Ramatoulaye's emotional struggle for survival after her husband betrayed their marriage by taking a second wife. This semi-autobiographical account is a perceptive testimony to the plight of educated and articulate Muslim women. Angered by the traditions that allow polygyny, they inhabit a social milieu dominated by attitudes and values that deny them status equal to men. Ramatoulaye hopes for a world where the best of old customs and new freedom can be combined. Considered a classic of contemporary African women's literature, *So Long a Letter* is a must-read for anyone interested in African literature and the passage from colonialism to modernism in a Muslim country. Winner of the prestigious Noma Award for Publishing in Africa.

so long a letter: *So Long a Letter* Mariama Bâ, 1989 An intense and poised novel in the form of a letter written by Ramatoulaye, who has recently been widowed.

so long a letter: *So Long a Letter* Mariama Ba, 2024-12-05

so long a letter: *Scarlet Song* Mariama Bâ, 1994 Cultural differences between the families of Mireille, daughter of a French diplomat, and Ousmane, son of a poor Muslim family in Senegal, threatens to destroy their marriage.--Amazon.com viewed Dec. 12, 2022.

so long a letter: *Verity* Colleen Hoover, 2021-10-05 Whose truth is the lie? Stay up all night reading the sensational psychological thriller that has readers obsessed, from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Too Late* and *It Ends With Us*. #1 New York Times Bestseller · USA Today Bestseller · Globe and Mail Bestseller · Publishers Weekly Bestseller Lowen Ashleigh is a struggling writer on the brink of financial ruin when she accepts the job offer of a lifetime. Jeremy Crawford, husband of bestselling author Verity Crawford, has hired Lowen to complete the remaining books in a successful series his injured wife is unable to finish. Lowen arrives at the Crawford home, ready to sort through years of Verity's notes and outlines, hoping to find enough material to get her started. What Lowen doesn't expect to uncover in the chaotic office is an unfinished autobiography Verity never intended for anyone to read. Page after page of bone-chilling admissions, including Verity's recollection of the night her family was forever altered. Lowen decides to keep the manuscript hidden from Jeremy, knowing its contents could devastate the already grieving father. But as Lowen's feelings for Jeremy begin to intensify, she recognizes all the ways she could benefit if he were to read his wife's words. After all, no matter how devoted Jeremy is to his injured wife, a truth this horrifying would make it impossible for him to continue loving her.

so long a letter: *A Letter of Mary* Laurie R. King, 2010-08-24 The third book in the Mary Russell-Sherlock Holmes series. It is 1923. Mary Russell Holmes and her husband, the retired Sherlock Holmes, are enjoying the summer together on their Sussex estate when they are visited by an old friend, Miss Dorothy Ruskin, an archeologist just returned from Palestine. She leaves in their protection an ancient manuscript which seems to hint at the possibility that Mary Magdalene was an apostle—an artifact certain to stir up a storm of biblical proportions in the Christian establishment. When Ruskin is suddenly killed in a tragic accident, Russell and Holmes find themselves on the trail of a fiendishly clever murderer. *A Letter of Mary* by Laurie R. King is brimming with political intrigue, theological arcana, and brilliant Holmesian deductions.

so long a letter: *What We Lose* Zinzi Clemmons, 2017-07-11 A National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree NBCC John Leonard First Book Prize Finalist Aspen Words Literary Prize Finalist

Named a Best Book of the Year by Vogue, NPR, Elle, Esquire, BuzzFeed, San Francisco Chronicle, Cosmopolitan, The Huffington Post, The A.V. Club, The Root, Harper's Bazaar, Paste, Bustle, Kirkus Reviews, Electric Literature, LitHub, New York Post, Los Angeles Review of Books, and Bust "The debut novel of the year." —Vogue "Like so many stories of the black diaspora, *What We Lose* is an examination of haunting." —Doreen St. Félix, The New Yorker "Raw and ravishing, this novel pulses with vulnerability and shimmering anger." —Nicole Dennis-Benn, O, the Oprah Magazine "Stunning. . . . Powerfully moving and beautifully wrought, *What We Lose* reflects on family, love, loss, race, womanhood, and the places we feel home." —Buzzfeed "Remember this name: Zinzi Clemmons. Long may she thrill us with exquisite works like *What We Lose*. . . . The book is a remarkable journey." —Essence From an author of rare, haunting power, a stunning novel about a young African-American woman coming of age—a deeply felt meditation on race, sex, family, and country Raised in Pennsylvania, Thandi views the world of her mother's childhood in Johannesburg as both impossibly distant and ever present. She is an outsider wherever she goes, caught between being black and white, American and not. She tries to connect these dislocated pieces of her life, and as her mother succumbs to cancer, Thandi searches for an anchor—someone, or something, to love. In arresting and unsettling prose, we watch Thandi's life unfold, from losing her mother and learning to live without the person who has most profoundly shaped her existence, to her own encounters with romance and unexpected motherhood. Through exquisite and emotional vignettes, Clemmons creates a stunning portrayal of what it means to choose to live, after loss. An elegiac distillation, at once intellectual and visceral, of a young woman's understanding of absence and identity that spans continents and decades, *What We Lose* heralds the arrival of a virtuosic new voice in fiction.

so long a letter: *A Small Place* Jamaica Kincaid, 2000-04-28 A brilliant look at colonialism and its effects in Antigua--by the author of *Annie John* If you go to Antigua as a tourist, this is what you will see. If you come by aeroplane, you will land at the V. C. Bird International Airport. Vere Cornwall (V. C.) Bird is the Prime Minister of Antigua. You may be the sort of tourist who would wonder why a Prime Minister would want an airport named after him--why not a school, why not a hospital, why not some great public monument. You are a tourist and you have not yet seen . . . So begins Jamaica Kincaid's expansive essay, which shows us what we have not yet seen of the ten-by-twelve-mile island in the British West Indies where she grew up. Lyrical, sardonic, and forthright by turns, in a Swiftian mode, *A Small Place* cannot help but amplify our vision of one small place and all that it signifies.

so long a letter: [Letter from Birmingham Jail](#) Martin Luther King, 2025-01-14 A beautiful commemorative edition of Dr. Martin Luther King's essay *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, part of Dr. King's archives published exclusively by HarperCollins. With an afterword by Reginald Dwayne Betts On April 16, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., responded to an open letter written and published by eight white clergymen admonishing the civil rights demonstrations happening in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. King drafted his seminal response on scraps of paper smuggled into jail. King criticizes his detractors for caring more about order than justice, defends nonviolent protests, and argues for the moral responsibility to obey just laws while disobeying unjust ones. *Letter from Birmingham Jail* proclaims a message - confronting any injustice is an acceptable and righteous reason for civil disobedience. This beautifully designed edition presents Dr. King's speech in its entirety, paying tribute to this extraordinary leader and his immeasurable contribution, and inspiring a new generation of activists dedicated to carrying on the fight for justice and equality.

so long a letter: *P.S. Longer Letter Later* Paula Danziger, Ann M. Martin, 2018-09-25 Twelve-year-old best friends Elizabeth and Tara*Starr continue their friendship through letter-writing after Tara*Starr's family moves to another state, in a complex and emotionally rich novel about two friends coping with overwhelming change.

so long a letter: *The Purple Violet of Oshaantu* Neshani Andreas, 2017-03-27 Through the voice of Mee Ali, readers experience the rhythms and rituals of life in rural Namibia in interconnected stories. In Oshaantu, a place where women are the backbone of the home but are expected to submit to patriarchal dominance, Mee Ali is happily married. Her friend, Kauna, however, suffers at the

hands of an abusive husband. When he is found dead at home, many of the villagers suspect her of poisoning him. Backtracking from that time, the novel, with its universal appeal, reveals the value of friendships, some of which are based on tradition while others grow out of strength of character, respect, and love.

so long a letter: *Dear Senthuran* Akwaeke Emezi, 2021-06-08 FEATURED ON THE COVER OF TIME MAGAZINE AS A 2021 NEXT GENERATION LEADER “A once-in-a-generation voice.” – Vulture “One of our greatest living writers.” – Shondaland A full-throated and provocative memoir in letters from the New York Times bestselling author, “a dazzling literary talent whose works cut to the quick of the spiritual self” (Esquire) In three critically acclaimed novels, Akwaeke Emezi has introduced readers to a landscape marked by familial tensions, Igbo belief systems, and a boundless search for what it means to be free. Now, in this extraordinary memoir, the bestselling author of *The Death of Vivek Oji* reveals the harrowing yet resolute truths of their own life. Through candid, intimate correspondence with friends, lovers, and family, Emezi traces the unfolding of a self and the unforgettable journey of a creative spirit stepping into power in the human world. Their story weaves through transformative decisions about their gender and body, their precipitous path to success as a writer, and the turmoil of relationships on an emotional, romantic, and spiritual plane, culminating in a book that is as tender as it is brutal. Electrifying and inspiring, animated by the same voracious intelligence that distinguishes Emezi's fiction, *Dear Senthuran* is a revelatory account of storytelling, self, and survival.

so long a letter: *Sensuous Knowledge* Minna Salami, 2020-03-25 In *Sensuous Knowledge*, Minna Salami draws on Africa-centric, feminist-first and artistic traditions to help us rediscover inclusive and invigorating ways of experiencing the world afresh. Combining the playfulness of a storyteller with the insight of a social critic, the book pries apart the systems of power and privilege that have dominated ways of thinking for centuries – and which have led to so much division, prejudice and damage. And it puts forward a new, sensuous, approach to knowledge: one grounded in a host of global perspectives – from Black Feminism to personal narrative, pop culture to high art, Western philosophy to African mythology – together comprising a vision of hope for a fragmented world riven by crisis. Through the prism of this new knowledge, Salami offers fresh insights into the key cultural issues that affect women’s lives. How are we to view Sisterhood, Motherhood or even Womanhood itself? What is Power and why do we conceive of Beauty? How does one achieve Liberation? She asks women to break free of the prison made by ingrained male-centric biases, and build a house themselves – a home that can nurture us all. *Sensuous Knowledge* confirms Minna Salami as one the most important spokespeople of today, and the arrival of a blistering new literary voice.

so long a letter: *Gone So Long: A Novel* Andre Dubus III, 2018-10-02 Taut with tension.... [E]nding with a hint of hope.—Rob Merrill, Associated Press Cathartic, affirming, and steeped in the empathy and precise observations of character for which Dubus is celebrated, *Gone So Long* explores how the wounds of the past afflict the people we become. *Gone So Long* is a riveting family drama about an ex-con who did time for murder, the estranged daughter he hasn’t seen in forty years, and the grandmother angry enough to kill him. A profound exploration of the struggle between the selves we wish to be, and the ones—shaped by chance and circumstance, as well as character—that we can’t escape, it confirms Andre Dubus’s reputation as a novelist whose “compassion is unsentimental and unblinking, total and unwavering” (Paul Harding).

so long a letter: *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* Thornton Niven Wilder, 2022-12-19 The story is based on a fictional disaster that occurred in Peru on July 20, 1714. A rope bridge woven by the Incas on the road between Lima and Cuzco collapsed when five people were crossing it. They all fell into the river from a great height and were killed. Brother Juniper, a Franciscan friar who was about to cross the bridge himself, witnessed the tragedy. Being deeply pious, he saw in what happened a possible divine providence. Did the dead deserve to have their lives cut short in such a terrible way? The monk tries to learn as much as he can about the five victims, finding and questioning people who knew them. As a result of years of investigation, he compiles a voluminous book with all the

evidence he has gathered that the beginning and end of human life are part of God's plan... The Bridge of San Luis Rey won the 1928 Pulitzer Prize for the Novel, and remains widely acclaimed as Wilder's most famous work. In 1998, the book was rated number 37 by the editorial board of the American Modern Library on the list of the 100 best 20th-century novels. Time magazine included the novel in its TIME 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005.

so long a letter: So Long a Letter Mariama Ba, 1982-08-01

so long a letter: The Spider King's Daughter Chibundu Onuzo, 2012-03-13 Winner of a Betty Trask Award Shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize and the Commonwealth Book Prize Longlisted for the Desmond Elliot Prize The Spider King's Daughter is a modern-day Romeo and Juliet set against the backdrop of a changing Lagos, a city torn between tradition and modernity, corruption and truth, love and family loyalty. Seventeen-year-old Abike Johnson is the favourite child of her wealthy father. She lives in a sprawling mansion in Lagos, protected by armed guards and ferried everywhere in a huge black jeep. But being her father's favourite comes with uncomfortable duties, and she is often lonely behind the high walls of her house. A world away from Abike's mansion, in the city's slums, lives a seventeen-year-old hawker struggling to make sense of the world. His family lost everything after his father's death and now he runs after cars on the roadside selling ice cream to support his mother and sister. When Abike buys ice cream from the hawker one day, they strike up an unlikely and tentative romance, defying the prejudices of Nigerian society. But as they grow closer, revelations from the past threaten their relationship and both Abike and the hawker must decide where their loyalties lie.

so long a letter: The Long, Long Letter Elizabeth Spurr, 1997-10-01 Mother's long, long letter brings Aunt Hetta surprise and adventure, as the loose pages bury her house and keep her warm during the winter.

so long a letter: Tuesdays with Morrie Mitch Albom, 2007-06-29 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A special 25th anniversary edition of the beloved book that has changed millions of lives with the story of an unforgettable friendship, the timeless wisdom of older generations, and healing lessons on loss and grief—featuring a new afterword by the author “A wonderful book, a story of the heart told by a writer with soul.”—Los Angeles Times “The most important thing in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in.” Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was his college professor Morrie Schwartz. Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded, and the world seemed colder. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you, receive wisdom for your busy life today the way you once did when you were younger? Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final “class”: lessons in how to live. “The truth is, Mitch,” he said, “once you learn how to die, you learn how to live.” Tuesdays with Morrie is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.

so long a letter: Where the Crawdads Sing Delia Owens, 2021-03-30 NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE—The #1 New York Times bestselling worldwide sensation with more than 18 million copies sold, hailed by The New York Times Book Review as “a painfully beautiful first novel that is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative and a celebration of nature.” For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

Where the Crawdads Sing is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

so long a letter: Sometimes People March Tessa Allen, 2020-09-01 With a spare, inspiring text and gorgeous watercolor illustrations, this is a timeless and important book for activists of all ages. This hardcover picture book is perfect for sharing and for gifting. Sometimes people march to resist injustice, to stand in solidarity, to inspire hope. Throughout American history, one thing remains true: no matter how or why people march, they are powerful because they march together.

so long a letter: The Postcolonial Novel Richard Lane, 2006-07-21 Richard Lane explores the themes surrounding the postcolonial novel written in English.

so long a letter: Mrs. Dalloway Virginia Woolf, 2023-12-16 Mrs Dalloway, Virginia Woolf's fourth novel, offers the reader an impression of a single June day in London in 1923. Clarissa Dalloway, the wife of a Conservative member of parliament, is preparing to give an evening party, while the shell-shocked Septimus Warren Smith hears the birds in Regent's Park chattering in Greek. There seems to be nothing, except perhaps London, to link Clarissa and Septimus. She is middle-aged and prosperous, with a sheltered happy life behind her; Smith is young, poor, and driven to hatred of himself and the whole human race. Yet both share a terror of existence, and sense the pull of death. The world of Mrs Dalloway is evoked in Woolf's famous stream of consciousness style, in a lyrical and haunting language which has made this, from its publication in 1925, one of her most popular novels.

so long a letter: The Letter Kathryn Hughes, 2015-03-19 Every so often a love story comes along to remind us that sometimes, in our darkest hour, hope shines a candle to light our way. □ This Number One bestseller has captured thousands of hearts worldwide. Perfect for fans of The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks. 'A wonderful, uplifting story' Lesley Pearse _____ Tina Craig longs to escape her violent husband. She works all the hours God sends to save up enough money to leave him, also volunteering in a charity shop to avoid her unhappy home. Whilst going through the pockets of a second-hand suit, she comes across an old letter, the envelope firmly sealed and unfranked. Tina opens the letter and reads it - a decision that will alter the course of her life for ever... Billy Stirling knows he has been a fool, but hopes he can put things right. On 4th September 1939 he sits down to write the letter he hopes will change his future. It does - in more ways than he can ever imagine... THE LETTER tells the story of two women, born decades apart, whose paths are destined to cross, and how one woman's devastation leads to the other's salvation. _____ Join the hundreds of thousands of readers worldwide who have fallen in love with THE LETTER: 'An amazing, heartwrenching, unforgettable story' 'This beautiful story will bring tears and joy' 'Loved this story !! It kept me totally gripped although I was sobbing in places as well' 'A tale of love and hope with lots of twists and turns. A great story!'

so long a letter: The Gift of the Magi O. Henry, 2021-12-22 The Gift of the Magi is a short story by O. Henry first published in 1905. The story tells of a young husband and wife and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been popular for adaptation, especially for presentation at Christmas time.

so long a letter: Rani Jaishree Misra, 2007 Based on the life of Lakshmi Bai, Rani of Jhansi.

so long a letter: Let's Tell This Story Properly Ellah Wakatama Allfrey, 2015-05-16 Honouring strong new voices from around the world, the 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize is a global award, open to unpublished as well as published writers, with a truly international judging panel. This global anthology presents the winner of the 2014 Short Story Prize, Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi's "Let's Tell This Story Properly," alongside some of the most promising and original stories entered for the prize during the past three years by emerging writers across the literary landscape of the world. Gathered from over ten thousand entries, the selected stories are provocative, rich in flair and ambition, and push the boundaries of fiction into fresh territory.

so long a letter: This Is How You Lose the Time War Amal El-Mohtar, Max Gladstone, 2019-07-16 * HUGO AWARD WINNER: BEST NOVELLA * NEBULA AND LOCUS AWARDS WINNER: BEST NOVELLA * "[An] exquisitely crafted tale...Part epistolary romance, part mind-blowing science fiction adventure, this dazzling story unfolds bit by bit, revealing layers of meaning as it plays with cause and effect, wildly imaginative technologies, and increasingly intricate wordplay...This short novel warrants multiple readings to fully unlock its complexities." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) From award-winning authors Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone comes an enthralling, romantic novel spanning time and space about two time-traveling rivals who fall in love and must change the past to ensure their future. Among the ashes of a dying world, an agent of the Commandment finds a letter. It reads: Burn before reading. Thus begins an unlikely correspondence between two rival agents hellbent on securing the best possible future for their warring factions. Now, what began as a taunt, a battlefield boast, becomes something more. Something epic. Something romantic. Something that could change the past and the future. Except the discovery of their bond would mean the death of each of them. There's still a war going on, after all. And someone has to win. That's how war works, right? Cowritten by two beloved and award-winning sci-fi writers, *This Is How You Lose the Time War* is an epic love story spanning time and space.

so long a letter: No Night is Too Long Barbara Vine, 2012-09-27 *No Night is Too Long* is a classic crime novel by bestselling, prize-winning author Barbara Vine. Tim Cornish thought he'd gotten away with murder. For months after he'd killed his lover off the Alaskan coast, there hadn't been a word. But then the letters started to arrive. It seems that someone knows what Tim has done . . . This compelling thriller delivers such a dark picture of romantic love that murder seems its natural mate. Frightening, suspenseful, and deeply unsettling, *No Night is Too Long* is a modern crime masterpiece and will be enjoyed by readers of P.D. James and Ian Rankin. 'The Rendell/Vine partnership has for years been producing consistently better work than most Booker winners put together' Ian Rankin 'She deploys her peerless skills in blending the mundane, commonplace aspects of life with the murky impulses of desire and greed' Sunday Times Barbara Vine is the pen-name of Ruth Rendell. Ruth has published fourteen novels under the Vine name, two of which, *Fatal Inversion* and *King Solomon's Carpet*, won the prestigious Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger Award. Also available in Penguin by Barbara Vine: *The Minotaur*, *The Blood Doctor*, *Grasshopper*, *The Chimney Sweeper's Boy*, *The Brimstone Wedding*, *No Night is Too Long*, *Asta's Book*, *King Solomon's Carpet*, *Gallowglass*, *The House of Stairs*, *A Dark-Adapted Eye*.

so long a letter: The Letter For the King Tonke Dragt, 2018-09-04 A NETFLIX ORIGINAL SERIES For fans of Tolkien-inspired fantasy and Arthurian mythos comes this prize-winning fantasy adventure about one knight's battle against evil. It is the dead of night. Sixteen-year-old Tiuri must spend hours locked in a chapel in silent contemplation if he is to be knighted the next day. But, as he waits by the light of a flickering candle, he hears a knock at the door and a voice desperately asking for help. A secret letter must be delivered to King Unauwen across the Great Mountains—a letter upon which the fate of the entire kingdom depends. Tiuri has a vital role to play, one that might cost him his knighthood. Tiuri's journey will take him through dark, menacing forests, across treacherous rivers, to sinister castles and strange cities. He will encounter evil enemies who would kill to get the letter, but also the best of friends in the most unexpected places. He must trust no one. He must keep his true identity secret. Above all, he must never reveal what is in the letter . . . *The Letter for the King* is the thrilling story of one boy's battle against evil, set in an enchanted world of chivalry, courage, and true friendship.

so long a letter: Women's Relationships Kadidia Sy, 2009

so long a letter: The Way of Kings Brandon Sanderson, 2014-03-04 A new epic fantasy series from the New York Times bestselling author chosen to complete Robert Jordan's *The Wheel of Time*® Series

so long a letter: Stuart Little E. B. White, 2015-03-17 The classic story by E. B. White, author of the Newbery Honor Book *Charlotte's Web* and *The Trumpet of the Swan*, about one small mouse on a very big adventure. Now available as an ebook! Illustrations in this ebook appear in vibrant full

color on a full-color device and in rich black-and-white on all other devices. Stuart Little is no ordinary mouse. Born to a family of humans, he lives in New York City with his parents, his older brother George, and Snowbell the cat. Though he's shy and thoughtful, he's also a true lover of adventure. Stuart's greatest adventure comes when his best friend, a beautiful little bird named Margalo, disappears from her nest. Determined to track her down, Stuart ventures away from home for the very first time in his life. He finds adventure aplenty. But will he find his friend? Stuart Little joins E. B. White favorites *Charlotte's Web* and *The Trumpet of the Swan* as classic illustrated novels that continue to speak to today's readers. Whether you curl up with your young reader to share these books or hand them off for independent reading, you are helping to create what are likely to be all-time favorite reading memories.

so long a letter: On Purpose Leadership Dominick Quartuccio, 2021-09-17 There is a difference between success and fulfillment. This book is for the leader who demands both. You're professionally accomplished, you lead others to perform, and you drive results. Yet there's a part of you that is unsatisfied with achievement alone: You seek a deeper sense of purpose and fulfillment. How can you instill that same passion in your team to help them become great leaders too? People crave more meaning in the work they do and are no longer putting up with passionless work. They seek leadership rooted in purpose to ignite their natural drive, excitement, and creativity for the work they do. You must show them the way, by living and leading on purpose. This book is for you if you're a leader who: Rejects the idea of suspending dreams and postponing fulfillment until the backend of life. Desires incredible results and high performance, without sacrificing physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing Believes that living on purpose doesn't require a complete upheaval of your life...you can live it right now. Fans of Brene Brown, John Maxwell, and Simon Sinek will love this book and the practical leadership principles it shows you how to apply right now.

so long a letter: The Letters of The Younger Pliny the younger Pliny, 2024-06-17 The Letters of Pliny the Younger, also known as the Epistles of Pliny the Younger, have been studied for centuries, as they offer a unique and intimate glimpse into the daily life of Romans in the 1st century AD. Through his letters, the Roman writer and lawyer Pliny the Younger (whose full name was Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus) discusses philosophical and moral issues; but he also talks about everyday matters and topics related to his administrative duties. One of these letters, Letter 16 from Book VI, addressed to Tacitus, holds unparalleled historical value. In it, Pliny describes the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, which destroyed the city of Pompeii. Many scholars claim that with his letters, Pliny invented a new literary genre: the letter written not only to establish pleasant communication with peers but also to publish it later. Pliny compiled copies of every letter he wrote throughout his life and published those he considered the best in twelve books. This edition presents selected letters chosen for their various characteristics and covering several books, focusing mainly on Books I, II, and III. The work is part of the famous collection: 501 Books You Must Read.

so long a letter: A Letter for Every Mother Kara Lawler, Regan Long, 2018-04-03 HuffPost Parents bloggers, Kara Lawler and Regan Long, have written a beautiful, inspiring collection of essays that speak to mothers at all stages of their journey.--Arianna Huffington, founder and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post While one of the most extraordinary experiences, motherhood can be one of the most isolating experiences a woman will ever face. All that most of us want to hear is that we are not alone on this crazy ride - and that is just what A Letter for Every Mother will accomplish. Compiling a collection of stories that every single person in this market will relate to, with a message that each of them craves, is a genius move. I believe this book will sell itself and I can't wait to see it published. --Tori Grenz, Editor of Mamalode Kara and Regan have managed to capture the entire essence of being a mother - the highs, the lows and everything in between - in this beautiful collection of essays. You will find yourself comforted by the commonalities we all face, and reminded that, even though it doesn't always feel like it, we're all on the same side. Motherhood, like the words on these pages, unites us.--Jill Smokler of Scary Mommy, New York Times bestselling author Kara Lawler and Regan Long invite readers to join their tribe of mothers and be encouraged, uplifted and inspired on their parenting journey. A LETTER FOR EVERY MOTHER is the perfect gift

for every mother. In *A LETTER FOR EVERY MOTHER*, authors Kara Lawler and Regan Long have written a heartwarming compilation of letters addressed to mothers from all walks of life, meant to celebrate, inspire and commiserate with all stages of the parenting journey. This book will encourage, inspire and uplift mothers from all walks of life. Kara and Regan invite readers to join their tribe of mothers, to learn from one another and band together to face one of the hardest jobs in the world: becoming and being someone's mother. Their mission is to inspire and to create a community through this book to remind mothers that we're all in this together—an especially welcome message in the current atmosphere of competition and anxiety of parenting. *A LETTER FOR EVERY MOTHER* is warm, inviting, inclusive—and the tone is inspirational or irreverent, depending on the letter or subject you happen to turn to. After all, motherhood is an oxymoronic experience; it is both exhilarating and exhausting, uplifting and demeaning, wonderful but terrible, too.

so long a letter: Killers of the Flower Moon David Grann, 2018-04-03 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A twisting, haunting true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history, from the author of *The Wager* and *The Lost City of Z*, “one of the preeminent adventure and true-crime writers working today.”—*New York Magazine* • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • NOW A MARTIN SCORSESE PICTURE “A shocking whodunit...What more could fans of true-crime thrillers ask?”—*USA Today* “A masterful work of literary journalism crafted with the urgency of a mystery.” —*The Boston Globe* In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, became a prime target. One of her relatives was shot. Another was poisoned. And it was just the beginning, as more and more Osage were dying under mysterious circumstances, and many of those who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered. As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case, and the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to try to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team, including a Native American agent who infiltrated the region, and together with the Osage began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. Look for David Grann’s latest bestselling book, *The Wager*!

so long a letter: Sula Toni Morrison, 2002-04-05 From the acclaimed Nobel Prize winner: Two girls who grow up to become women. Two friends who become something worse than enemies. This brilliantly imagined novel brings us the story of Nel Wright and Sula Peace, who meet as children in the small town of Medallion, Ohio. Nel and Sula's devotion is fierce enough to withstand bullies and the burden of a dreadful secret. It endures even after Nel has grown up to be a pillar of the black community and Sula has become a pariah. But their friendship ends in an unforgivable betrayal—or does it end? Terrifying, comic, ribald and tragic, *Sula* is a work that overflows with life.

so long a letter: Veils Hélène Cixous, Jacques Derrida, Geoffrey Bennington, 2001 This book combines loosely autobiographical texts by two of the most influential French intellectuals of our time. *Savoir*, by Hélène Cixous is an account of her experience of recovered sight after a lifetime of severe myopia; Jacques Derrida's *A Silkworm of One's Own* muses on a host of motifs, including his varied responses to *Savoir*.

so long a letter: No More Teaching a Letter a Week Rebecca McKay, William H. Teale, 2015 Letter-a-week may be a ubiquitous approach to teaching alphabet knowledge, but that doesn't mean it's an effective one. In *No More Teaching a Letter a Week*, early literacy researcher Dr. William Teale helps us understand that alphabet knowledge is more than letter recognition, and identifies research-based principles of effective alphabet instruction, which constitutes the foundation for phonics teaching and learning. Literacy coach Rebecca McKay shows us how to bring those principles to life through purposeful practices that invite children to create an identity through print. Children can and should do more than glue beans into the shape of a B; they need to learn how letters create words that carry meaning, so that they can, and do, use print to expand their

understanding of the world and themselves.

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