

half of a yellow sun

half of a yellow sun is a powerful and evocative novel by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie that has captivated readers worldwide. This comprehensive article delves into the intricate layers of the book, exploring its historical context, central themes, key characters, and its cultural and literary significance. Readers will gain a thorough understanding of how half of a yellow sun illuminates the realities of the Nigerian Civil War, the human cost of conflict, and the enduring impact of history on personal lives. By examining the narrative structure, symbolism, and reception of the novel, this article provides valuable insights for literature enthusiasts, students, and anyone interested in African history and storytelling. Discover why half of a yellow sun remains a vital work in contemporary literature and how it continues to inspire important conversations about identity, resilience, and hope.

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Overview of half of a yellow sun

half of a yellow sun is a critically acclaimed novel published in 2006 by Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The story is set in Nigeria during the tumultuous period of the late 1960s, a time marked by the Biafran War. The narrative follows the lives of three central characters—Olanna, Ugwu, and Richard—as they navigate love, loyalty, and survival amidst the devastation of civil conflict. Through their intertwined stories, Adichie provides a deeply human perspective on the horrors of war, the complexities of identity, and the resilience of the human spirit. The novel's title references the emblem of the short-lived Republic of Biafra, symbolizing both hope and loss. half of a yellow sun has earned global recognition for its vivid storytelling, insightful social commentary, and rich exploration of Nigerian culture and history.

Historical Background: The Biafran War

The Outbreak of Conflict

The Nigerian Civil War, also known as the Biafran War, lasted from 1967 to 1970 and was one of the most devastating conflicts in African history. The war began after the southeastern region of Nigeria declared its independence as the Republic of Biafra, largely due to ethnic tensions and political instability following a series of military coups. The struggle for secession was fueled by deep-rooted grievances among the Igbo people, who felt marginalized within the Nigerian federation.

Impact on Nigerian Society

The war resulted in immense suffering, including widespread famine, displacement, and loss of life. It is estimated that up to two million civilians, mainly children, died from starvation and disease. The conflict left a lasting imprint on Nigerian society, shaping national discourse and collective memory. half of a yellow sun expertly weaves these historical realities into its fictional narrative, providing readers with a poignant and authentic portrayal of the human cost of war.

- Ethnic divisions and political unrest as causes of conflict
- Humanitarian crisis and international response
- Legacy of the Biafran War in contemporary Nigeria

Major Themes Explored in the Novel

War and Its Consequences

half of a yellow sun places the brutality and chaos of war at the center of its narrative. The novel explores the physical and psychological trauma experienced by individuals and communities, highlighting how conflict disrupts daily life and alters relationships. Adichie examines the nuances of survival, the loss of innocence, and the enduring scars left by violence.

Identity and Belonging

The theme of identity is intricately woven throughout the novel. Characters grapple with questions of ethnicity, nationality, and personal allegiance. Olanna and Ugwu, both Igbo, face challenges in asserting their cultural identity amid the shifting political landscape. Richard, a British expat, struggles to find his place in Nigerian society and the Biafran cause. The novel interrogates what it means to belong and the complexities of identity formation during times of upheaval.

Love and Loyalty

Relationships form the emotional core of half of a yellow sun. The narrative

explores the bonds of love, friendship, and loyalty tested by war. Characters confront betrayal, forgiveness, and the need for connection in the face of adversity. Through these intimate portrayals, Adichie emphasizes the resilience of human relationships even during profound hardship.

1. The effects of war on families and communities
2. Exploration of cultural and personal identity
3. Enduring power of love and loyalty

Character Analysis and Relationships

Olanna: Strength and Compassion

Olanna is a central figure in *Half of a Yellow Sun*, depicted as intelligent, compassionate, and resilient. Her journey reflects the struggles faced by women during wartime, including the challenges of displacement and trauma. Olanna's relationship with Odenigbo, a university professor and her partner, is marked by both passion and conflict, providing a lens into the complexities of love under pressure.

Ugwu: Innocence and Transformation

Ugwu, a young houseboy, represents innocence and the transformative impact of war. His character evolves from a naïve teenager to a witness of violence and suffering, embodying the loss of innocence experienced by many during the conflict. Ugwu's loyalty to his employers and his quest for knowledge highlight the themes of growth and hope.

Richard: Outsider Perspective

Richard, a British writer, offers an outsider's perspective on Nigerian society and the Biafran struggle. His relationship with Kainene, Olanna's twin sister, adds depth to the narrative, exploring issues of cultural difference and empathy. Richard's attempts to document the war underscore the importance of storytelling and historical memory.

- Olanna's role as a survivor and nurturer
- Ugwu's coming-of-age journey
- Richard's struggle for understanding and acceptance

Narrative Structure and Literary Devices

Multiple Perspectives

half of a yellow sun employs a multi-layered narrative structure, shifting between the viewpoints of Olanna, Ugwu, and Richard. This approach allows readers to experience the war from diverse angles, deepening the emotional resonance and complexity of the story. The use of alternating chapters creates suspense and maintains engagement throughout the novel.

Imagery and Symbolism

Adichie's vivid imagery and rich symbolism enhance the novel's impact. The descriptions of landscapes, everyday life, and wartime devastation immerse readers in the characters' experiences. Symbolic motifs, such as food, clothing, and the yellow sun itself, add layers of meaning and evoke cultural specificity.

Dialogue and Language

The novel's authentic dialogue and use of indigenous languages contribute to its realism. Adichie skillfully blends English with Igbo phrases, reflecting the linguistic diversity of Nigeria. This linguistic authenticity deepens the reader's connection to the characters and setting.

Symbolism and Title Significance

The Meaning of "half of a yellow sun"

The title half of a yellow sun refers to the emblem on the Biafran flag—a rising sun that symbolized hope, renewal, and the promise of a brighter future. In the novel, this symbol becomes a poignant metaphor for the aspirations and struggles of the Biafran people. The "half" aspect suggests both incompleteness and the reality of shattered dreams, reflecting the outcome of the war and the enduring sense of loss.

Symbolic Elements in the Story

Beyond the title, Adichie incorporates various symbols to reinforce her themes. The use of the sun, food, and traditional artifacts enriches the narrative and highlights the cultural identity of the characters. These elements serve as reminders of heritage and resilience, even in the face of destruction.

- Biafran flag and rising sun symbolism
- Traditional Igbo artifacts and customs
- Food as a symbol of culture and survival

Cultural Impact and Reception

Critical Acclaim and Awards

half of a yellow sun has received widespread critical acclaim, earning several prestigious awards, including the Orange Prize for Fiction. Critics have praised Adichie's masterful storytelling, compelling characters, and nuanced portrayal of historical events. The novel is celebrated for bringing global attention to a pivotal moment in African history that is often overlooked.

Influence on African Literature

Adichie's work is recognized as a landmark in contemporary African literature. half of a yellow sun has inspired a new generation of writers to explore themes of identity, conflict, and resilience. The book is frequently included in academic curricula and literary discussions, solidifying its status as a modern classic.

Global Readership

The novel's universal themes of love, loss, and survival have resonated with readers worldwide. Translated into multiple languages, half of a yellow sun continues to attract a diverse audience and provoke important conversations about history, humanity, and the power of storytelling.

1. Recognition in international literary awards
2. Adoption in educational settings
3. Positive reviews from critics and readers

Adaptations and Influence

Film Adaptation

In 2013, half of a yellow sun was adapted into a feature film directed by Biyi Bandele. Starring Chiwetel Ejiofor and Thandiwe Newton, the film brought the story to a wider audience and visually captured the emotional intensity of the novel. While the adaptation received mixed reviews, it succeeded in raising awareness of both the book and the historical events it depicts.

Educational and Social Influence

The novel has influenced educational programs, humanitarian initiatives, and discussions about post-conflict reconstruction. Its portrayal of the Biafran War has encouraged dialogue about reconciliation, memory, and healing in Nigeria and beyond.

- Film adaptation and its impact
- Role in educational and humanitarian discourse
- Contribution to global understanding of African history

Questions and Answers about half of a yellow sun

Q: What is the main plot of half of a yellow sun?

A: half of a yellow sun follows the lives of three central characters—Olanna, Ugwu, and Richard—during the Nigerian Civil War, exploring themes of love, survival, and the impact of historical conflict on personal lives.

Q: Who is the author of half of a yellow sun?

A: The author of half of a yellow sun is Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a prominent Nigerian writer known for her insightful exploration of African history and identity.

Q: What historical event does half of a yellow sun depict?

A: The novel depicts the Biafran War (Nigerian Civil War) from 1967 to 1970, focusing on its causes, consequences, and the human cost of the conflict.

Q: What does the title half of a yellow sun symbolize?

A: The title refers to the emblem on the Biafran flag, symbolizing hope, renewal, and the shattered dreams of the Biafran people during the war.

Q: Who are the main characters in half of a yellow sun?

A: The main characters are Olanna, Ugwu, and Richard, whose lives intersect as they navigate love, loyalty, and survival during wartime.

Q: Has half of a yellow sun been adapted into a film?

A: Yes, half of a yellow sun was adapted into a feature film in 2013, directed by Biyi Bandele and starring Chiwetel Ejiofor and Thandiwe Newton.

Q: What are some major themes explored in half of a yellow sun?

A: Major themes include war and its consequences, identity and belonging, love and loyalty, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Q: How has half of a yellow sun impacted African literature?

A: The novel is considered a landmark in contemporary African literature, inspiring writers to explore complex historical and cultural themes.

Q: What awards has half of a yellow sun won?

A: half of a yellow sun has won several awards, including the Orange Prize for Fiction, recognizing its literary excellence and global impact.

Q: Why is half of a yellow sun important for understanding Nigerian history?

A: The novel provides a deeply human perspective on the Nigerian Civil War, shedding light on the cultural, social, and emotional ramifications of the conflict.

Half Of A Yellow Sun

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Half of a Yellow Sun: A Deep Dive into Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Masterpiece

Are you ready to be transported to the heart of Biafra? Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Half of a Yellow Sun isn't just a novel; it's a visceral experience, a poignant exploration of love, war, and the enduring human spirit against the backdrop of Nigeria's devastating Biafran War. This post delves deep into Adichie's masterpiece, analyzing its powerful narrative, unforgettable characters, and enduring legacy. We'll explore the historical context, thematic depth, and literary brilliance that make Half of a Yellow Sun a must-read for anyone interested in African history, compelling fiction, and the power of storytelling. Prepare to be moved.

The Historical Context: Understanding the Biafran War

Before diving into the novel's narrative, understanding the historical context of the Biafran War (1967-1970) is crucial. This conflict, stemming from ethnic tensions and political instability in post-colonial Nigeria, resulted in a brutal civil war that claimed millions of lives. *Half of a Yellow Sun* doesn't shy away from depicting the horrors of war, showcasing its devastating impact on individuals and communities. The novel accurately portrays the starvation, displacement, and violence that defined this tragic period in Nigerian history. Understanding this background significantly enhances the reading experience and allows for a deeper appreciation of Adichie's skillful weaving of fact and fiction.

Key Characters: Exploring the Multifaceted Narratives

Adichie masterfully constructs a narrative centered around several unforgettable characters whose intertwined lives mirror the complexities of the war.

Olanna: The Intellectual and the Idealist

Olanna, a brilliant university lecturer, embodies the educated elite of Nigeria. Her journey from a privileged life in Lagos to the heart of Biafra showcases her intellectual evolution and the shattering of her idealistic worldview as the war unfolds. Her relationship with Odenigbo and her subsequent experiences paint a vivid picture of personal transformation amidst societal upheaval.

Ugwu: The Humble Servant and the Witness

Ugwu, Odenigbo's young houseboy, provides a crucial counterpoint to Olanna's privileged perspective. His narrative offers a grounded, intimate glimpse into the lives of ordinary Biafrans, showcasing their resilience and their struggles for survival. Ugwu's experiences humanize the war, highlighting the devastating impact on those who were often marginalized and overlooked.

Kainene: The Strong and Independent Woman

Kainene, Olanna's twin sister, demonstrates incredible strength and independence in the face of adversity. Her journey, marked by pragmatism and resourcefulness, provides a different perspective on the war, emphasizing the challenges faced by women, especially during periods of conflict. Her character adds another layer of complexity to the overall narrative.

Thematic Exploration: Love, War, and Identity

Half of a Yellow Sun is not simply a historical novel; it is a profound exploration of several interwoven themes.

The Crushing Weight of War

The novel unflinchingly portrays the brutality and devastation of the Biafran War, showcasing its impact on the physical and emotional landscape. The descriptions of starvation, violence, and displacement resonate powerfully, reminding readers of the human cost of conflict.

The Power of Love and Loss

Amidst the chaos and destruction, the novel explores the strength and resilience of human connection. The relationships between Olanna, Odenigbo, and Richard, as well as the bond between Olanna and Kainene, highlight the enduring power of love even in the face of immense loss.

Identity and Belonging

The novel delves into the complexities of identity and belonging in a nation grappling with ethnic tensions. The characters' struggles to define themselves and their place in a rapidly changing society add another layer to the story's emotional depth.

Literary Brilliance: Adichie's Masterful Storytelling

Adichie's prose is both lyrical and visceral. Her ability to seamlessly blend historical events with deeply personal narratives creates a compelling and emotionally resonant reading experience. The novel's structure, shifting perspectives between the key characters, allows for a rich tapestry of experiences and perspectives, giving the reader a complete and multifaceted understanding of the war.

Conclusion

Half of a Yellow Sun is more than just a historical fiction novel; it's a powerful testament to the human spirit's ability to endure unimaginable hardship. Adichie's masterful storytelling, combined with the rich historical context and complex characters, creates a literary masterpiece that lingers long after the final page is turned. This book is a must-read for anyone seeking a profound and moving exploration of love, war, and the enduring legacy of conflict.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is Half of a Yellow Sun a true story? While based on the historical events of the Biafran War, Half of a Yellow Sun is a work of fiction. However, Adichie draws heavily on historical events and research to create a realistic and compelling narrative.

2. What is the significance of the title, "Half of a Yellow Sun"? The title symbolizes the hope and promise of Biafra, initially represented by the rising sun, which is tragically cut short by the war, leaving only "half" of the yellow sun.
3. What are the major themes explored in the novel? The major themes include the devastating impact of war, the resilience of the human spirit, the complexities of love and loss, and the exploration of identity and belonging within a fractured society.
4. Is the novel suitable for all readers? Due to its graphic depictions of war and violence, the novel may not be suitable for younger or more sensitive readers.
5. What other books by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie should I read? Adichie has penned several other acclaimed novels, including *Purple Hibiscus*, *Americanah*, and *The Thing Around Your Neck*. These novels offer equally compelling narratives and explorations of diverse themes.

half of a yellow sun: *Half of a Yellow Sun* Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2010-10-29 With her award-winning debut novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was heralded by the Washington Post Book World as the "21st century daughter" of Chinua Achebe. Now, in her masterly, haunting new novel, she recreates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra's impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in Nigeria during the 1960s. With the effortless grace of a natural storyteller, Adichie weaves together the lives of five characters caught up in the extraordinary tumult of the decade. Fifteen-year-old Ugwu is houseboy to Odenigbo, a university professor who sends him to school, and in whose living room Ugwu hears voices full of revolutionary zeal. Odenigbo's beautiful mistress, Olanna, a sociology teacher, is running away from her parents' world of wealth and excess; Kainene, her urbane twin, is taking over their father's business; and Kainene's English lover, Richard, forms a bridge between their two worlds. As we follow these intertwined lives through a military coup, the Biafran secession and the subsequent war, Adichie brilliantly evokes the promise, and intimately, the devastating disappointments that marked this time and place. Epic, ambitious and triumphantly realized, *Half of a Yellow Sun* is a more powerful, dramatic and intensely emotional picture of modern Africa than any we have had before.

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half of a yellow sun: *Sade* Anne Giwa-Amu, 1996

half of a yellow sun: *Half of a Yellow Sun, Americanah, Purple Hibiscus: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Three-Book Collection* Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2014-04-07 'A delicious, important novel'

The Times 'Alert, alive and gripping' Independent 'Some novels tell a great story and others make you change the way you look at the world. Americanah does both' Guardian

half of a yellow sun: The Last Wild Horses Maja Lunde, 2022-02-15 Translated into 40 languages, winner of the Norwegian Bookseller's Prize, and the most successful Norwegian author of her generation, Maja Lunde returns with a heart-wrenching tale, set in the distant past and the dystopian future, about extinction and survival, family and hope. Mikhail lives in Russia in 1881. When a skeleton of a rare wild horse is brought to him, the zoologist plans an expedition to Mongolia to find the fabled Przewalski horse, a journey that tests not only his physicality, but his heart. In 1992, Karin, alongside her troubled son Mathias and several Przewalski horses, travels to Mongolia to re-introduce the magnificent horses to their native land. The veterinarian has dedicated her life to saving the breed from extinction, prioritizing the wild horses, even over her own son. Europe's future is uncertain in 2064, but Eva is willing to sacrifice nearly everything to hold onto her family's farm. Her teenage daughter implores Eva to leave the farm and Norway, but a pregnant wild mare Eva is tending is about to foal. Then, a young woman named Louise unexpectedly arrives on the farm, with mysterious intentions that will either bring them all together, or devastate them one by one. Spanning continents and centuries, *The Last Wild Horses* is a powerful tale of survival and connection—of humans, animals, and the indestructible bonds that unite us all. Translated from the Norwegian by Diane Oatley

half of a yellow sun: The Manningtree Witches A. K. Blakemore, 2022-08-30 Wolf Hall meets *The Favourite* in this beguiling debut novel that brilliantly brings to life the residents of a small English town in the grip of the seventeenth-century witch trials and the young woman tasked with saving them all from themselves. This is an intimate portrait of a clever if unworldly heroine who slides from amused observation of the 'moribund carnival atmosphere' in the household of a 'possessed' child to nervous uncertainty about the part in the proceedings played by her adored tutor to utter despair as a wagon carts her off to prison. —Alida Becker, *The New York Times Book Review* England, 1643. Puritanical fervor has gripped the nation. And in Manningtree, a town depleted of men since the wars began, the hot terror of damnation burns in the hearts of women left to their own devices. Rebecca West, fatherless and husbandless, chafes against the drudgery of her days, livened only occasionally by her infatuation with the handsome young clerk John Edes. But then a newcomer, who identifies himself as the Witchfinder General, arrives. A mysterious, pious figure dressed from head to toe in black, Matthew Hopkins takes over the Thorn Inn and begins to ask questions about what the women on the margins of this diminished community are up to. Dangerous rumors of covens, pacts, and bodily wants have begun to hang over women like Rebecca—and the future is as frightening as it is thrilling. Brimming with contemporary energy and resonance, *The Manningtree Witches* plunges its readers into the fever and menace of the English witch trials, where suspicion, mistrust, and betrayal run amok as a nation's arrogant male institutions start to realize that the very people they've suppressed for so long may be about to rise up and claim their freedom.

half of a yellow sun: Purple Hibiscus Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2012-11-29 The limits of fifteen-year-old Kambili's world are defined by the high walls of her family estate and the dictates of her fanatically religious father. Her life is regulated by schedules: prayer, sleep, study, prayer.

half of a yellow sun: Notes on Grief Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2021-05-11 From the internationally acclaimed, bestselling author of *We Should All Be Feminists* and *Americanah*, a profound reckoning with loss, written in the wake of her father's death. During the brutal summer of 2020, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's beloved father, a celebrated professor at the University of Nigeria and an irreplaceable figure in a close-knit family, succumbed unexpectedly to complications of kidney failure. *Notes on Grief* is Adichie's tribute to him, and a moving meditation on loss. Here Adichie offers a candid snapshot of the shock, loneliness, and disillusionment that followed the news of her father's death. Her family, unable to be together except for on video calls, struggles to go through the rites of mourning amid a global crisis of unimaginable scale. As Adichie wrestles with his passing, she recalls with vivid, poignant detail who her father was: a remarkable survivor of the

Biafran war, a man of kindness and charm, and a fierce supporter of his youngest daughter. Here is a uniquely personal, profound work of remembrance and hope by one of today's luminaries—a book to bring us together in a time when we need it most.

half of a yellow sun: Stay with Me Ayobami Adebayo, 2017-08-22 “Powerfully magnetic. . . . In the lineage of great works by Chinua Achebe and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. . . . A thoroughly contemporary—and deeply moving—portrait of a marriage.” —The New York Times Book Review Ilesa, Nigeria. Ever since they first met and fell in love at university, Yejide and Akin have agreed: polygamy is not for them. But four years into their marriage—after consulting fertility doctors and healers, and trying strange teas and unlikely cures—Yejide is still not pregnant. She assumes she still has time—until her in-laws arrive on her doorstep with a young woman they introduce as Akin's second wife. Furious, shocked, and livid with jealousy, Yejide knows the only way to save her marriage is to get pregnant. Which, finally, she does—but at a cost far greater than she could have dared to imagine. The unforgettable story of a marriage as seen through the eyes of both husband and wife, *Stay With Me* asks how much we can sacrifice for the sake of family. A New York Times Notable Book One of the Best Books of the Year: NPR, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, Chicago Tribune, BuzzFeed, Entertainment Weekly, The New York Post, Southern Living, The Skimm A 2017 BEA Buzz Panel Selection A Belletrist Book-of-the-Month A Sarah Jessica Parker Book Club Selection Shortlisted for the 2017 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction Shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize and the 9mobile Prize for Literature Longlisted for the International Dylan Thomas Prize

half of a yellow sun: Christmas in Biafra, and Other Poems Chinua Achebe, 1973

half of a yellow sun: Discovering Home, 2003 This third edition of stories from the Caine Prize for African Writing includes works by writers from Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa, most of whom have never before been published.

half of a yellow sun: Of Mice and Men John Steinbeck, 2018-11 *Of Mice and Men* es una novela escrita por el autor John Steinbeck. Publicado en 1937, cuenta la historia de George Milton y Lennie Small, dos trabajadores desplazados del rancho migratorio, que se mudan de un lugar a otro en California en busca de nuevas oportunidades de trabajo durante la Gran Depresión en los Estados Unidos.

half of a yellow sun: Jerningham Christina Sanders, 2020-06-09 Edward Jerningham Wakefield was the wild-child of the Wakefield family that set up the New Zealand Company to bring the first settlers to this country. His story is told through the eyes of bookkeeper Arthur Lugg, who is tasked by Colonel William Wakefield to keep tabs on his brilliant but unstable nephew. As trouble brews between settlers, government, missionaries and Māori over land and souls and rights, Jerningham is at the heart of it, blurring the line between friendship and exploitation and spinning the hapless Lugg in his wake. Alive with historical detail, Jerningham tells a vivid story of Wellington's colonial beginnings and of a charismatic young man's rise and inevitable fall--Back cover.

half of a yellow sun: Americanah Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2023-05-11 SHORTLISTED FOR THE BAILEY'S WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION 'A delicious, important novel' The Times 'Alert, alive and gripping' Independent 'Some novels tell a great story and others make you change the way you look at the world. *Americanah* does both.' Guardian As teenagers in a Lagos secondary school, Ifemelu and Obinze fall in love. Their Nigeria is under military dictatorship, and people are fleeing the country if they can. Ifemelu--beautiful, self-assured--departs for America to study. She suffers defeats and triumphs, finds and loses relationships and friendships, all the while feeling the weight of something she never thought of back home: race. Obinze--the quiet, thoughtful son of a professor--had hoped to join her, but post-9/11 America will not let him in, and he plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Thirteen years later, Obinze is a wealthy man in a newly democratic Nigeria, while Ifemelu has achieved success as a writer of an eye-opening blog about race in America. But when Ifemelu returns to Nigeria, and she and Obinze reignite their shared passion--for their homeland and for each other--they will face the toughest decisions of their lives.

Fearless, gripping, spanning three continents and numerous lives, *Americanah* is a richly told story of love and expectation set in today's globalized world.

half of a yellow sun: Shadowplay Joseph O'Connor, 2020-06-16 A West End theater in London is shaken up by the crimes of Jack the Ripper in this novel by the New York Times–bestselling author of *The Star of the Sea*. Henry Irving is Victorian London's most celebrated actor and theater impresario. He has introduced groundbreaking ideas to the theater, bringing to the stage performances that are spectacular, shocking, and always entertaining. When Irving decides to open his own London theater with the goal of making it the greatest playhouse on earth, he hires a young Dublin clerk harboring literary ambitions by the name of Bram Stoker to manage it. As Irving's theater grows in reputation and financial solvency, he lures to his company of mummers the century's most beloved actress, the dazzlingly talented leading lady Ellen Terry, who nightly casts a spell not only on her audiences but also on Stoker and Irving both. Bram Stoker's extraordinary experiences at the Lyceum Theatre, his early morning walks on the streets of a London terrorized by a serial killer, his long, tempestuous relationship with Irving, and the closeness he finds with Ellen Terry, inspire him to write *Dracula*, the most iconic and best-selling supernatural tale ever published. A magnificent portrait both of lamp-lit London and of lives and loves enacted on the stage, *Shadowplay*'s rich prose, incomparable storytelling, and vivid characters will linger in readers' hearts and minds for many years. "A vibrantly imaginative narrative of passion, intrigue and literary ambition set in the garish heyday of a theater. . . . Artfully splicing truth with fantasy, O'Connor has a glorious time turning a ramshackle and haunted London playhouse into a primary source for Stoker's Gothic imaginings." —Miranda Seymour, *The New York Times Book Review* "A gorgeously written historical novel about Stoker's inner life. . . . I wasn't prepared to be awed by his prose, which is so good you can taste it. . . . O'Connor dazzles." —Michael Dirda, *The Washington Post* "And Mr. O'Connor's main characters—Stoker, Irving and the beloved actress Ellen Terry—are so forcefully brought to life that when, close to tears, you reach this drama's final page, you will return to the beginning just to remain in their company." —Anna Munday, *The Wall Street Journal* "This novel blows the dust off its Victorian trappings and brings them to scintillating life." —Publishers Weekly, PW Picks, Starred Review FINALIST 2019 COSTA BOOK OF THE YEAR FINALIST 2020 DALKEY LITERARY AWARD 2020 WALTER SCOTT PRIZE

half of a yellow sun: For Love of Biafra Amanda N. Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 1998

half of a yellow sun: Madeleine Is Sleeping Sarah Shun-lien Bynum, 2020-10-27 A National Book Award Finalist, Sarah Shun-lien Bynum's enchanting and inventive first novel is a groundbreaking, contemporary classic. When a girl falls into a mysterious, impenetrable sleep, the borders between her provincial French village and the peculiar, beguiling realm of her dreams begin to disappear: A fat woman sprouts delicate wings and takes flight; a failed photographer stumbles into the role of pornographer; a beautiful young wife grows to resemble her husband's viol. Madeleine, the dreamer, travels in their midst, trying to make sense of her own metamorphosis. She leaves home, joins a gypsy circus, and falls into an unexpected triangle of desire and love. Embracing the earthy and the ethereal, the comical and the poignant, *Madeleine Is Sleeping* is part fairy tale, part coming-of-age story, and above all, an adventure in the discovery of art, sexuality, community, and the self.

half of a yellow sun: A Brief History of Seven Killings Marlon James, 2015-09-08 A tale inspired by the 1976 attempted assassination of Bob Marley spans decades and continents to explore the experiences of journalists, drug dealers, killers, and ghosts against a backdrop of social and political turmoil.

half of a yellow sun: A Little Life Hanya Yanagihara, 2016-01-26 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A stunning "portrait of the enduring grace of friendship" (NPR) about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. A masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century. NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • MAN BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST • WINNER OF THE KIRKUS PRIZE *A Little Life* follows four college classmates—broke, adrift, and

buoyed only by their friendship and ambition—as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A hymn to brotherly bonds and a masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara's stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. Look for Hanya Yanagihara's latest bestselling novel, *To Paradise*.

half of a yellow sun: *The Thing Around Your Neck* Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2010-06-01 These twelve dazzling stories from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie — the Orange Broadband Prize-winning author of *Half of a Yellow Sun* — are her most intimate works to date. In these stories Adichie turns her penetrating eye to the ties that bind men and women, parents and children, Nigeria and the United States. In "A Private Experience," a medical student hides from a violent riot with a poor Muslim woman, and the young mother at the centre of "Imitation" finds her comfortable life in Philadelphia threatened when she learns that her husband has moved his mistress into their Lagos home. Searing and profound, suffused with beauty, sorrow and longing, this collection is a resounding confirmation of Adichie's prodigious literary powers.

half of a yellow sun: *Island Queen* Vanessa Riley, 2021-07-06 "Riveting and transformative, evocative and immersive...by turns vibrant and bold and wise, discovering Dorothy's story is a singular pleasure."--The New York Times A remarkable, sweeping historical novel based on the incredible true life story of Dorothy Kirwan Thomas, a free Black woman who rose from slavery to become one of the wealthiest and most powerful landowners in the colonial West Indies. Born into slavery on the tiny Caribbean island of Montserrat, Doll bought her freedom—and that of her sister and her mother—from her Irish planter father and built a legacy of wealth and power as an entrepreneur, merchant, hotelier, and planter that extended from the marketplaces and sugar plantations of Dominica and Barbados to a glittering luxury hotel in Demerara on the South American continent. Vanessa Riley's novel brings Doll to vivid life as she rises above the harsh realities of slavery and colonialism by working the system and leveraging the competing attentions of the men in her life: a restless shipping merchant, Joseph Thomas; a wealthy planter hiding a secret, John Coseveldt Cells; and a roguish naval captain who will later become King William IV of England. From the bustling port cities of the West Indies to the forbidding drawing rooms of London's elite, *Island Queen* is a sweeping epic of an adventurer and a survivor who answered to no one but herself as she rose to power and autonomy against all odds, defying rigid eighteenth-century morality and the oppression of women as well as people of color. It is an unforgettable portrait of a true larger-than-life woman who made her mark on history.

half of a yellow sun: *Revelation*, 1999-01-01 The final book of the Bible, *Revelation* prophesies the ultimate judgement of mankind in a series of allegorical visions, grisly images and numerological predictions. According to these, empires will fall, the Beast will be destroyed and Christ will rule a new Jerusalem. With an introduction by Will Self.

half of a yellow sun: *Shatter Me* Tahereh Mafi, 2011-11-15 The gripping first installment in New York Times bestselling author Tahereh Mafi's *Shatter Me* series. One touch is all it takes. One touch, and Juliette Ferrars can leave a fully grown man gasping for air. One touch, and she can kill. No one knows why Juliette has such incredible power. It feels like a curse, a burden that one person alone could never bear. But The Reestablishment sees it as a gift, sees her as an opportunity. An opportunity for a deadly weapon. Juliette has never fought for herself before. But when she's reunited with the one person who ever cared about her, she finds a strength she never knew she had. And don't miss *Defy Me*, the shocking fifth book in the *Shatter Me* series!

half of a yellow sun: *O Caledonia* Elspeth Barker, 2022-09-20 Originally published in Great Britain in 1991 by Hamish Hamilton Ltd.--Title page verso.

half of a yellow sun: *House of Earth and Blood* Sarah J. Maas, 2020-03-03 A #1 New York Times bestseller! Sarah J. Maas's brand-new CRESCENT CITY series begins with *House of Earth and Blood*: the story of half-Fae and half-human Bryce Quinlan as she seeks revenge in a contemporary

fantasy world of magic, danger, and searing romance. Bryce Quinlan had the perfect life-working hard all day and partying all night-until a demon murdered her closest friends, leaving her bereft, wounded, and alone. When the accused is behind bars but the crimes start up again, Bryce finds herself at the heart of the investigation. She'll do whatever it takes to avenge their deaths. Hunt Athalar is a notorious Fallen angel, now enslaved to the Archangels he once attempted to overthrow. His brutal skills and incredible strength have been set to one purpose-to assassinate his boss's enemies, no questions asked. But with a demon wreaking havoc in the city, he's offered an irresistible deal: help Bryce find the murderer, and his freedom will be within reach. As Bryce and Hunt dig deep into Crescent City's underbelly, they discover a dark power that threatens everything and everyone they hold dear, and they find, in each other, a blazing passion-one that could set them both free, if they'd only let it. With unforgettable characters, sizzling romance, and page-turning suspense, this richly inventive new fantasy series by #1 New York Times bestselling author Sarah J. Maas delves into the heartache of loss, the price of freedom-and the power of love.

half of a yellow sun: Empire of the Vampire Jay Kristoff, 2021-09-14 THE INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY, AND WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLER From New York Times bestselling author Jay Kristoff comes *Empire of the Vampire*, the first illustrated volume of an astonishing new dark fantasy saga. From holy cup comes holy light; The faithful hand sets world aright. And in the Seven Martyrs' sight, Mere man shall end this endless night. It has been twenty-seven long years since the last sunrise. For nearly three decades, vampires have waged war against humanity; building their eternal empire even as they tear down our own. Now, only a few tiny sparks of light endure in a sea of darkness. Gabriel de León is a silversaint: a member of a holy brotherhood dedicated to defending realm and church from the creatures of the night. But even the Silver Order could not stem the tide once daylight failed us, and now, only Gabriel remains. Imprisoned by the very monsters he vowed to destroy, the last silversaint is forced to tell his story. A story of legendary battles and forbidden love, of faith lost and friendships won, of the Wars of the Blood and the Forever King and the quest for humanity's last remaining hope: The Holy Grail.

half of a yellow sun: A Thousand Splendid Suns Khaled Hosseini, 2008-09-18 A riveting and powerful story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship and an indestructible love

half of a yellow sun: The Rime of the Ancient Mariner Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 1875

half of a yellow sun: Flowers and Shadows Ben Okri, 1989 Set in the hustle of Lagos, a series of disturbing events strip the young Jeffia Okwe of his innocence and reveal the ruthlessness of his own father. The tragic climax of the tale leaves Jeffia cleansed of the sins of his father, ready for adult life and optimistic about the future.

half of a yellow sun: The Radio and Other Stories Gil Ndi-Shang, 2021-04-03 On moving into a new apartment abroad in his Bavarian hometown, the narrator realises that some of his possessions and elements of his new neighbourhood open a window into a flurry of memories, serving as allegorical threads to his childhood, self-consciousness and discovery of the world. What begins as a personal narrative quickly cedes to a social archaeology, inviting the reader/listener on a homegoing journey in the backdrop of Cameroon's tottering democratic trajectory. Modulated with poetry and music, *The Radio* tunes in to diaspora, home, nation, education, existence, religion as well as Mbum popular culture, showcasing creative re-appropriation and re-mixing of global trends and icons in specific communities.

half of a yellow sun: 1,000 Books to Read Before You Die James Mustich, 2018-10-02 "The ultimate literary bucket list." —THE WASHINGTON POST Celebrate the pleasure of reading and the thrill of discovering new titles in an extraordinary book that's as compulsively readable, entertaining, surprising, and enlightening as the 1,000-plus titles it recommends. Covering fiction, poetry, science and science fiction, memoir, travel writing, biography, children's books, history, and more, *1,000 Books to Read Before You Die* ranges across cultures and through time to offer an eclectic collection of works that each deserve to come with the recommendation, You have to read this. But it's not a proscriptive list of the "great works"—rather, it's a celebration of the glorious mosaic that is our literary heritage. Flip it open to any page and be transfixed by a fresh take on a

very favorite book. Or come across a title you always meant to read and never got around to. Or, like browsing in the best kind of bookshop, stumble on a completely unknown author and work, and feel that tingle of discovery. There are classics, of course, and unexpected treasures, too. Lists to help pick and choose, like *Offbeat Escapes*, or *A Long Climb, but What a View*. And its alphabetical arrangement by author assures that surprises await on almost every turn of the page, with Cormac McCarthy and *The Road* next to Robert McCloskey and *Make Way for Ducklings*, Alice Walker next to Izaac Walton. There are nuts and bolts, too—best editions to read, other books by the author, “if you like this, you’ll like that” recommendations, and an interesting endnote of adaptations where appropriate. Add it all up, and in fact there are more than six thousand titles by nearly four thousand authors mentioned—a life-changing list for a lifetime of reading. “948 pages later, you still want more!” —THE WASHINGTON POST

half of a yellow sun: And After Many Days Jowhor Ile, 2016 In the aftermath of a teen's disappearance from bustling Port Harcourt in 1995 Nigeria, a once-ordered family is irreparably shattered in ways that prompt its youngest member, Ajie, to embark on a quest for answers that reveals long-forgotten secrets and regional brutalities.

half of a yellow sun: *Exoticizing the Past in Contemporary Neo-Historical Fiction* E. Rousselot, 2014-11-13 This collection of essays is dedicated to examining the recent literary phenomenon of the 'neo-historical' novel, a sub-genre of contemporary historical fiction which critically re-imagines specific periods of history.

half of a yellow sun: Harvest of Thorns Shimmer Chinodya, 2018-02-01 The 1990 Commonwealth Writers Regional Prize voted *Harvest of Thorns* the winner in the Best Book category. *Harvest of Thorns* tells the story of Benjamin Tichafa who grows up in Rhodesia in the 1960s. From a conservative, religious family, but exposed to the heady ideas of the black nationalist movements, the young student is pulled in different directions. Isolated and troubled at boarding school, he is provoked into leaving, making his way to Mozambique, and joining the freedom fighters. There, in the crucible of a bitter civil war of liberation, the young man develops into manhood. Returning, hardened, at independence, he feels that little has changed, not least within his own family circumstances, and asks himself what it means to be free in the new Zimbabwe.

half of a yellow sun: Ulysses,

half of a yellow sun: 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 of the most important spokespeople of today, and the arrival of a blistering new literary voice.

half of a yellow sun: *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* Toshikazu Kawaguchi, 2020-11-17 PREORDER YOUR COPY OF *BEFORE WE FORGET KINDNESS*, the fifth book in the best-selling and much loved series, NOW! *NOW AN LA TIMES BESTSELLER* *OVER ONE MILLION COPIES SOLD* *AN INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER* If you could go back in time, who would you want to meet? In a small back alley of Tokyo, there is a café that has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than one hundred years. Local legend says that this shop offers something else besides coffee—the chance to travel back in time. Over the course of one summer, four customers visit the

café in the hopes of making that journey. But time travel isn't so simple, and there are rules that must be followed. Most important, the trip can last only as long as it takes for the coffee to get cold. Heartwarming, wistful, mysterious and delightfully quirky, Toshikazu Kawaguchi's internationally bestselling novel explores the age-old question: What would you change if you could travel back in time? Meet more wonderful characters in the rest of the captivating Before the Coffee Gets Cold series: Tales from the Cafe Before Your Memory Fades Before We Say Goodbye And the upcoming BEFORE WE FORGET KINDESS

half of a yellow sun: The Great Plains Trilogy Willa Cather, Willa Cather was the 1922 winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Her breakthrough in literature were the three novels featured here in this edition, the so-called "Great Plains Trilogy". All three novels stage in Nebraska and the surrounding Great Plains territory and deal with the life there, family challenges and romance. Included are: O Pioneers! The Song of the Lark My Antonia

half of a yellow sun: Ankomst Gørril Gabrielsen, 2020-06-30 An environmental scientist has chosen to spend the winter on a remote peninsula in the far north of Norway in order to collect data on the activities of the seabird population. She is determined to prove a link between climate change and the decline in numbers of various species. She is also waiting for her lover to arrive. But cut off from human contact, tested by the primal forces of nature, she finds herself drawn into a dark and uncomfortable place that defies scientific logic. As she delves into the past, she has to face up to her earlier decisions. What are her true motives for coming here? Why has she left her young daughter and ex-husband behind? And will her lover ever join her?

half of a yellow sun: *The Landscapes Within* Ben Okri, 1981

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