



Title: Half of a Yellow Sun
Author: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Imprint: Vintage
Publisher: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group
On sale date: September 4, 2007
ISBN: 9781400095209
Format: Paperback

BOOK RESUME: HALF OF A YELLOW SUN

BOOK SYNOPSIS

With effortless grace, celebrated author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie illuminates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra's impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in southeastern Nigeria during the late 1960s. We experience this tumultuous decade alongside five unforgettable characters: Ugwu, a 13-year-old houseboy who works for Odenigbo, a university professor full of revolutionary zeal; Olanna, the professor's beautiful young mistress who has abandoned her life in Lagos for a dusty town and her lover's charm; and Richard, a shy young Englishman infatuated with Olanna's willful twin sister Kainene.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Instantly enthralling. . . . Vivid. . . . Powerful . . . A story whose characters live in a changing wartime atmosphere, doing their best to keep that atmosphere at bay." —*The New York Times*

"Ingenious. . . . [With] searching insight, compassion and an unexpected yet utterly appropriate touch of wit, Adichie has created an extraordinary book." —*Los Angeles Times*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Awards
- Winner of the 2007 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie On Writing *Half Of A Yellow Sun*, Service95 Book Club \(2023\)](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie's "Half of A Yellow Sun:" The danger of a single untold story, PEN America \(2022\)](#)
- [On the Podcast: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Isn't Worried About Her Books Being Banned, Vogue \(2025\)](#)

Updated 3/31/2026

Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.