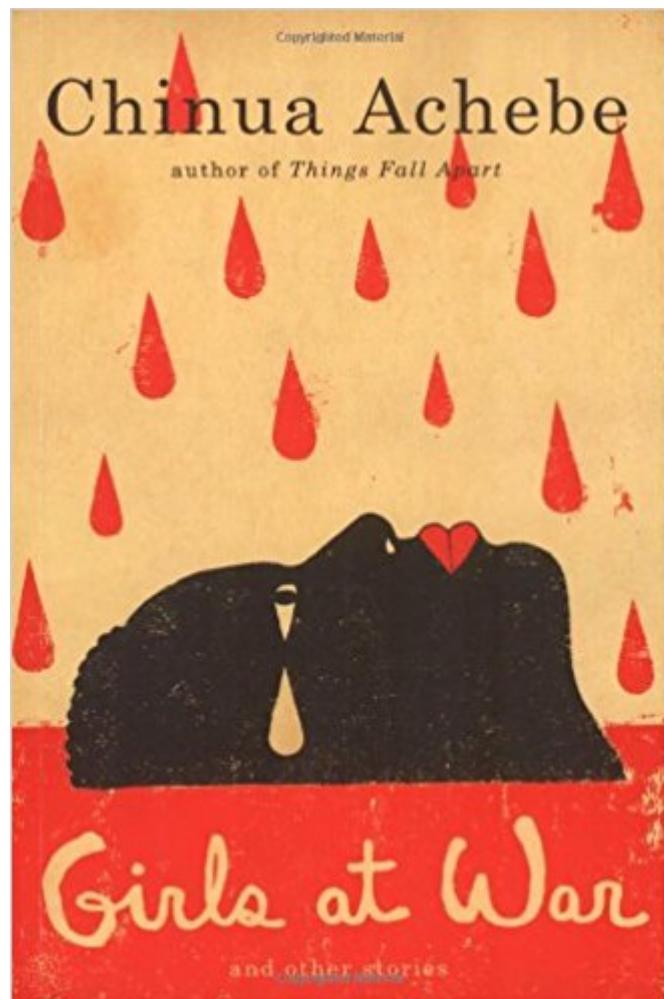


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Girls At War And Other Stories



Synopsis

Twelve stories by the internationally renowned novelist which recreate with energy and authenticity the major social and political issues that confront contemporary Africans on a daily basis.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Anchor; Reprint edition (August 1, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385418965

ISBN-13: 978-0385418966

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.3 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #223,373 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > African #3685 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies > Short Stories #8741 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary

Customer Reviews

This is an impressive collection of short stories that covers a twenty-year period of Achebe's writing. They also cover a period of history in his native Nigeria that spans from the late colonial period to the Biafran war. In them Achebe explores various aspects of a predominant theme in his work, i.e. tradition vs. modernism in his country (as introduced by British colonial administration). The various stories offer glimpses into the lives of people from various classes and walks of life. Achebe has a concise and eloquent writing style; he has an almost singular talent for making very pertinent observations in an extremely pithy fashion. Thus, for example, in the few pages of a story like "Dead Man's Path," Achebe brings to life the problems which ensue from the drive for quick modernization, the desire to adhere to tradition and the hypocrisy of Nigeria's colonial administrators. Also impressive is Achebe's mastery of narrative styles, i.e. first person, omniscient, etc. These stories can be read on their own, or as a supplement to Achebe's similarly powerful novels.

Did you know that free schooling was only briefly offered in Nigeria? There's a poignant story about it here. I learned a lot about Nigeria from these stories. Sometimes, the stories seemed to end a little too abruptly, but I guess that's part of the story format: it has to end sooner than a short novel, anyway. Mr. Achebe is a fine storyteller and he has many interesting things to say about the people

and customs of Nigeria. I recommend this book, but only after first reading his classic novel about 19th century Ibo tribe people, *Things Fall Apart*. After reading these stories, I was both attracted to Nigeria and repelled by it (I've never been to Africa). Achebe does a good job of capturing the ambivalence aroused by Nigeria's exotic nature (to Americans) mixed with its societal dysfunctions. *Diximus*.

A great way to learn about African culture and folkways while at the same time being entertained by wonderful storytelling.

The later stories set during the Biafran war, including the title story are the best - all give you glimpses of challenging reality in Nigeria/Biafra a few decades ago.

This book is intended for those wanting to know the political, and cultural history of the country and it's impact on the lives of the people living through the war.

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