

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was born in Nigeria in 1977.

She is the author of three novels:

Purple Hibiscus, *Half of a Yellow Sun*, and *Americanah*, and a short story collection *The Thing around Your Neck* and her work has been translated into 30 languages.

She has received numerous awards and distinctions, including the Orange Prize for Fiction and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship .

Her impassioned speech about feminism given at a conference in London has even been included in Beyonce's track 'Flawless'

"We teach girls to shrink themselves, to make themselves smaller. We say to girls, 'You can have ambition, but not too much. You should aim to be successful, but not too successful. Otherwise you will threaten the man.' Because I am female, I am expected to aspire to marriage. I am expected to make my life choices always keeping in mind that marriage is the most important. Now marriage can be a source of joy and love and mutual support. But why do we teach to aspire to marriage and we don't teach boys the same? We raise girls to see each other as competitors – not for jobs or for accomplishments, which I think can be a good thing, but for the attention of men. We teach girls that they cannot be sexual beings in the way that boys are. Feminist: the person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes."

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