

Additional Contemporary Authors Who Write About Nigeria

Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche was born in 1977 in Enugu, the fifth of sixth children. She is the writer of novels, short stories, and nonfiction. Adiche started her studies at the University of Nigeria but soon came to the US to study, first to Drexel and then to Eastern Connecticut University where she graduated summa cum laude in 2001. She has received many fellowships and honorary degrees and has had taught workshops and given lectures both in the US and Nigeria. She is best known for her books:

Purple Hibiscus, 2003

Half a Yellow Sun, 2006

The Thing Around Your Neck, 2009

Americanah, 2013

Teju Cole was born in Kalamazoo, MI, the oldest of four children. His childhood was spent in Nigeria but he returned to the US at age 17 to study at the University of Michigan. He is now the Distinguished Writer in Residence at Bard College after receiving his doctorate in art history from Columbia. In addition to his essays and other writing, for which he has received numerous awards, he is also a photography critic. His best known books are:

Every Day Is For the Thief, 2007

Open City, 2012

Chigozie Obioma was born in Akure in 1986, and has lived in Nigeria, Cyprus, and Turkey. His first novel, The Fisherman, has enjoyed critical acclaim and has been highly successful. The jacket describes the book as " modern African literature, echoing its older generation's masterly storytelling with contemporary fearlessness and purpose." Obioma, who is also known for his short stories, recently finished his MFA degree in creative writing at the University of Michigan.

Helon Habila has published three novels: Oil on Water, Measuring Time, and Waiting For An Angel. He has gained recent attention for his 2016 book, The Chibok Girls: The Boko Haram Kidnappings and Islamist Militancy in Nigeria. Habila grew up in northern Nigeria and returned to Chibok to gain access to the families of the kidnapped girls. His book chronicles the indifference of the international community as well as the media. He comments on the dynamics, including colonialism, and cultural and religious influences, that gave rise to the conflicts that afflict northern Nigeria today.

Will Ferguson, a Canadian writer who has never been to Nigeria, is known for his writings on travel, Canadian history, culture, and fiction. So what's the opinion of his book, 419, which has been described as a thriller, revenge novel, a story of complex twists? It embraces the email scams, problems with the oil boom in Port Harcourt, family loyalty and greed. And, if you read it, you'll learn about 419.