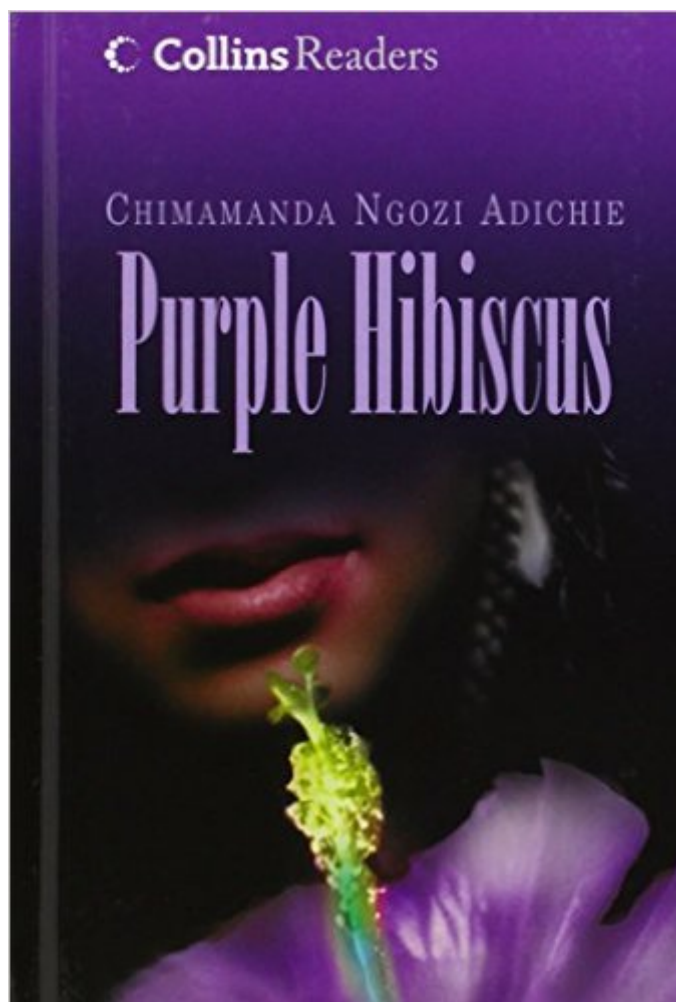


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# Purple Hibiscus (Collins Readers)



## Synopsis

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie tells the evocative story of 15-year old Kambili's life growing up in Nigeria during a military coup. This set text for AQA GCSE is an ideal reader for any Key Stage 4 classroom. The limits of fifteen-year-old Kambili's world are defined by the high walls of her family estate and the dictates of her repressive father. Her life is regulated by schedules: prayer, sleep, study, and more prayer. When Nigeria begins to fall apart during a military coup, Kambili's father is involved mysteriously in the political crisis, while Kambili and her brother are sent away to live with their aunt. In this house, full of energy and laughter, Kambili discovers life and love - and a terrible, bruising secret deep within her family. Centring on the promise of freedom and the pain and exhilaration of adolescence, *Purple Hibiscus* is the extraordinary debut of a Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the prize-winning author of *Half of a Yellow Sun*.

## Book Information

Series: Collins Readers

Hardcover: 320 pages

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Product Dimensions: 3.5 x 1 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (521 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #305,454 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #94 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence](#) #101 in [Books > Travel > Europe > Ireland > General](#) #151 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#)

## Customer Reviews

In *Purple Hibiscus*, we listen to the plaintive voice of Kambili, whose skill at language does not extend to the spoken word, as those necessary words remain trapped in her throat, a girl who knows her place and keeps her silence. In Kambili's family, there are too many things "we never talk about". Growing up in the political upheaval of Nigeria, Kambili and her older brother, Jaja, are poster children for domestic violence, quiet, well-mannered, high achievers that their father points to with pride, "his" children: extensions of himself in the world. A generous man, beloved in their

village, only Eugene Achike's nuclear family suffers his rages behind closed doors. Jaja's emotions are closer to the surface, more accessible to his spirit of rebellion. But Kambili is her mother's daughter, cautious, constrained and eager to please. Her slow awakening is all the more significant because of the tremendous act of will necessary to break free of her conditioning. This experience is agonizing for Kambili, like the prickling of a limb that has fallen asleep. Her adolescent physical and emotional flowering enhanced by newly found self-expression and self-awareness, Kambili is a product of a world that leaves children unprotected, at the mercy of a merciless man. She is the observer, the reporter, emotionless as she describes the constant abuse. Like a sieve, Kambili filters every action, sorting, learning. Eugene passes on the lessons he has learned in his own childhood, taught by brutal Catholic missionaries who used temporal punishment; the abused is the abuser. Rigid religious instruction, intolerant and unforgiving, is the tool with which this man terrorizes his wife and children.

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