A close-up portrait of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. She has her hair styled in braids and is wearing large, ornate gold earrings. Her hands are clasped together, resting under her chin. She is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a gentle expression. The background is a dark, solid color.

A Companion to  
**Chimamanda  
Ngozi  
Adichie**

Edited by  
ERNEST N.  
EMENYONU

James Currey  
an imprint of  
Boydell & Brewer Ltd  
PO Box 9, Woodbridge  
Suffolk IP12 3DF (GB)  
www.jamescurrey.com

and of

Boydell & Brewer Inc.  
668 Mt Hope Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14620-2731 (US)  
www.boydellandbrewer.com

© Contributors 2017  
First published 2017

All Rights Reserved. Except as permitted under current legislation  
no part of this work may be photocopied, stored in a retrieval  
system, published, performed in public, adapted, broadcast,  
transmitted, recorded or reproduced in any form or by any means,  
without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

The publisher has no responsibility for the continued existence or accuracy  
of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this book,  
and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,  
accurate or appropriate.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data  
available on request

ISBN 978-1-84701-162-6 James Currey (Cloth)  
ISBN 978-1-84701-163-3 (Africa-only paperback)

This publication is printed on acid-free paper

Typeset in 11.5/13pt Garamond MT  
by Avocet Typeset, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6RT

Printed and bound in Great Britain by  
TJ International Ltd, Padstow, Cornwall



Contents

6. Dining Room & Kitchen  
Food-Related Spaces & their Interfaces with the  
Female Body in *Purple Hibiscus* 87  
JESSICA HUME
7. The Paradox of Vulnerability  
The Child Voice in *Purple Hibiscus* 101  
OLUWOLE COKER
8. 'Fragile Negotiations'  
Olanna's Melancholia in *Half of a Yellow Sun* 115  
PAULINE DODGSON-KATIYO
9. The Biafran War & the Evolution  
of Domestic Space in *Half of a Yellow Sun* 129  
JANICE SPLETH
10. Corruption in Post-Independence Politics  
*Half of a Yellow Sun* as a Reflection of *A Man of the People* 139  
CHIKWENDU PASCHALKIZITO ANYANWU
11. Contrasting Gender Roles in Male-Crafted  
Fiction with *Half of a Yellow Sun* 153  
CAROL IJEOMA NJOKU
12. 'A Kind of Paradise'  
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Claim to Agency,  
Responsibility & Writing 169  
SILVANA CAROTENUTO
13. Dislocation, Cultural Memory  
& Transcultural Identity in Select Stories  
from *The Thing Around Your Neck* 185  
MAITRAYEE MISRA & MANISH SHRIVASTAVA
14. 'Reverse Appropriations'  
& Transplantation in *Americanah* 199  
GICHINGIRI NDIGIRIGI

Dislocation, Cultural Memory  
& Transcultural Identity in Select Stories  
from *The Thing Around Your Neck*

MAITRAYEE MISRA & MANISH SHRIVASTAVA<sup>1</sup>

From the very beginning of human civilization, from the day man had built the first shelter and a society to live in, the concept of 'location' became relevant to his existence on this planet. Religio-philosophical ideas like the 'great chain of being' or the 'ladder concept' in medieval and renaissance Europe also insisted on the very similar concept of location of the human being in the hierarchy of existence. The issue of location is relevant for everything which is derivative of spatiality, and also to some extent, of temporality. A kingdom, a country, the modern day nation – everything is subject to a boundary, and therefore, a location. In this context, it may not be a digression to remember the lines of King Lear spoken to Goneril during the division of his kingdom, just to insist on the relationship between location and the boundary that determines the spatiality of location: 'Of all these bounds, even from this line to this / With shadowy forests' (I.i, lines 70–71). One easily remembers that at that time Lear was still the King, demonstrating his division, holding a map of his kingdom. We use this reference just to point out that the concept of location is interlinked not only with kingdom, country, sovereignty or a map on a spatial level, but also with the issue of identity on a purely cognitive level. The politics of location and 'dislocation' has many more things to do with the boundary of a country, a cultural space and most obviously, with identity in this twenty-first century probably as never before.


In this paper our primary objective is to focus on the interplay of the politics of location and culture and the resultant formation of a transcultural identity with particular references to some dislocated

<sup>1</sup> The authors acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Dr Asis De at various stages of the preparation of this essay.

*In its proficient exploration, critique as well as elaboration of the expansive imagination and contemplation expressive in the oeuvre of Adichie as a writer, social thinker, cultural icon and undoubtedly Africa's queen of prose, this volume is an outstanding achievement.* – Wale Adebawwi, Professor of African American and African Studies, University of California, Davis, is the editor of *Writers and Social Thought in Africa* (Routledge, 2015)

*The range of critical studies in this timely volume is a reminder that Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie with each new book crafts fresh literary adventures, unafraid to confront risk and challenge. As her reputation justifiably soars, she has generously acknowledged a debt to her pioneering countrywoman Buchi Emecheta – who, like Adichie, saw herself foremost as a storyteller, and whose diasporic reach extended the traditional boundaries of African literature, while claiming creative space for strong independent female characters, whether in domestic, social or political contexts. In tribute to Buchi Emecheta (1944–2017), Adichie has said: 'We are able to speak because you first spoke', noting elsewhere how important Emecheta's *Destination Biafra* was for the research of *Half of a Yellow Sun*. In her own right, Adichie is laying the foundations on which newer writers will be able to build.*

– Margaret Busby OBE

 JAMES CURREY

an imprint of Boydell & Brewer Ltd  
PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF (GB) and  
668 Mt Hope Ave, Rochester NY 14620-2731 (US)  
[www.boydellandbrewer.com](http://www.boydellandbrewer.com)  
[www.jamescurrey.com](http://www.jamescurrey.com)

ISBN 978-1-84701-162-6



9 781847 011626