

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Quotes

*People, Writing, Thinking, Men, Stories, Girl, Real, World, Problem, Self,
Character, Choices, Yellow Sun, Book, Needs, Home, Believe, Past, Hair,
Feminist*

Never ever accept 'Because You Are A Woman' as a reason for doing or not doing anything.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

We teach girls shame; close your legs, cover yourself, we make them feel as though by being born female they're already guilty of something.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

To choose to write is to reject silence.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Of course I am not worried about intimidating men. The type of man who will be intimidated by me is exactly the type of man I have no interest in.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

If you start thinking about being likable you are not going to tell your story honestly.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

There are people who dislike you because you do not dislike yourself.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Our society teaches a woman at a certain age who is unmarried to see it as a deep personal failure. While a man at a certain age who is unmarried has not quite come around to making his pick.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Privilege blinds, because it's in its nature to blind. Don't let it blind you too often. Sometimes you will need to push it aside in order to see clearly.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Culture does not make people. People make culture.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

You must never behave as if your life belongs to a man. Do you hear me?' Aunty Ifeka said. 'Your life belongs to you and you alone.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I have chosen to no longer be apologetic for my femaleness and my femininity. And I want to be respected in all of my femaleness because I deserve to be.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

You can have ambition But not too much You should aim to be successful But not too successful Otherwise you will threaten the man

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

We teach girls to shrink themselves, to make themselves smaller. We say to girls 'You can have ambition, but not too much'.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I divide my time between Columbia, Maryland, and Lagos, Nigeria.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

This was love: a string of coincidences that gathered significance and became miracles.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

There are some things that are so unforgivable that they make other things easily forgivable.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I'm very feminist in the way I look at the world, and that worldview must somehow be part of my work.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I am a strong believer in the ability of human beings to change for the better. I am a strong believer in trying to change what we are dissatisfied with.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I think you travel to search and you come back home to find yourself there.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The problem with gender is that it prescribes how we should be, rather than recognising how we are.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

She rested her head against his and felt, for the first time, what she would often feel with him: a self-affection. He made her like herself.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

She could not complain about not having shoes when the person she was talking to had no legs.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Is love this misguided need to have you beside me most of the time? Is love this safety I feel in our silences? Is it this belonging, this completeness?

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

She wanted to ask him why they were all strangers who shared the same last name.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

You Americans, always peering under people's beds to look for communism.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I have many problems in my life, but I don't think that identity is one of them.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Feminist: A person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Show a people as one thing, only one thing, over and over again, and that is what they become.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

We did that often, asking each other questions whose answers we already knew. Perhaps it was so that we would not ask the other questions, the ones whose answers we did not want to know.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Power is the ability not just to tell the story of another person, but to make it the definitive story of that person.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

When we realize that there is never a single story about any place, we regain a kind of paradise.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

We do not just risk repeating history if we sweep it under the carpet, we also risk being myopic about our present.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I can write with authority only about what I know well, which means that I end up using surface details of my own life in my fiction.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Being defiant can be a good thing sometimes," Aunty Ifeoma said. "Defiance is like marijuana - it is not a bad thing when it is used right.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

That her relationship with him was like being content in a house but always sitting by the window and looking out

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

For centuries, the world divided human beings into two groups and then proceeded to exclude and oppress one group. It is only fair that the solution to the problem acknowledge that.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Our histories cling to us. We are shaped by where we come from.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

You can't write a script in your mind and then force yourself to follow it. You have to let yourself be.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Dear Non-American Black, when you make the choice to come to America, you become black. Stop arguing. Stop saying I'm Jamaican or I'm Ghanaian. America doesn't care.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The only reason race matters is because of racism.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

There are many different ways to be poor in the world but increasingly there seems to be one single way to be rich.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

You deserve to take up space.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I live half the year in Nigeria, the other half in the U.S. But home is Nigeria - it always will be. I consider myself a Nigerian who is comfortable in the world. I look at it through Nigerian eyes.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Greatness depends on where you are coming from.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

And it's wrong of you to think that love leaves room for nothing else. It's possible to love something and still condescend to it.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Because I am female, I'm expected to aspire to marriage. I am expected to make my life choices always keeping in mind that marriage is the most important.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

At some point I was a HappyAfricanFeminist who does not hate men. And who likes lip gloss and who wears high heels for herself but not for men.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Yes, there's a problem with gender as it is today, and we must fix it, we must do better.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I am interested in challenging the mainstream ideas of what is beautiful and what is acceptable.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

How [stories] are told, who tells them, when they're told, how many stories are told — are really dependent on power.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Your life belongs to you and you alone.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I think human beings exist in a social world. I write realistic fiction, and so it isn't that surprising that the social realities of their existence would be part of the story.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Creative writing programmes are not very necessary. They just exist so that people like us can make a living.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Race doesn't really exist for you because it has never been a barrier. Black folks don't have that choice.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Racism should never have happened and so you don't get a cookie for reducing it.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I often make the mistake of thinking that something that is obvious to me is obvious to everyone else.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Perhaps it is time to debate culture. The common story is that in "real" African culture, before it was tainted by the west, gender roles were

rigid and women were contentedly oppressed.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Then she wished, more rationally, that she could love him without needing him. Need gave him power without his trying; need was the choicelessness she often felt around him.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I was stained by failure.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

This is our world, although the people who drew this map decided to put their own land on top of ours. There is no top or bottom, you see.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Death would be a complete knowingness, but what frightened him was this: not knowing beforehand what it was he would know.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I had consumed a lot of American culture, but I was not quite prepared for the reality of American poverty.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Each time he suggested they get married, she said no. They were too happy, precariously so, and she wanted to guard that bond; she feared that marriage would flatten it into a prosaic partnership.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Why did people ask "What is it about?" as if a novel had to be about only one thing.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

People have crushes on priests all the time, you know. It's exciting to have to deal with God as a rival.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Stories matter. Many stories matter.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

One of the things that struck me when I came to the U.S. was discovering American poverty.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I like the U.S. and feel gratitude towards it.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

There has always been a strange dissonance between the public and the private in Nigeria.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Americans think African writers will write about the exotic, about wildlife, poverty, maybe AIDS. They come to Africa and African books with certain expectations.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The higher you go, the fewer women there are.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

...he did not want me to seek the whys, because there are some things that happen for which we can formulate no whys, for which whys simply do not exist and, perhaps, are not necessary.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I write from real life. I am an unrepentant eavesdropper and a collector of stories. I record bits of overheard dialogue.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

If you followed the media you'd think that everybody in Africa was

starving to death, and that's not the case; so it's important to engage with the other Africa.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

How easy it was to lie to strangers, to create with strangers the versions of our lives we imagined.

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

I didn't know I was even supposed to HAVE issues until I came to America

~Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

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