

Nigerian-American Novelist

Short-story Writer

Chinelo Okparanta



What is writing to you?



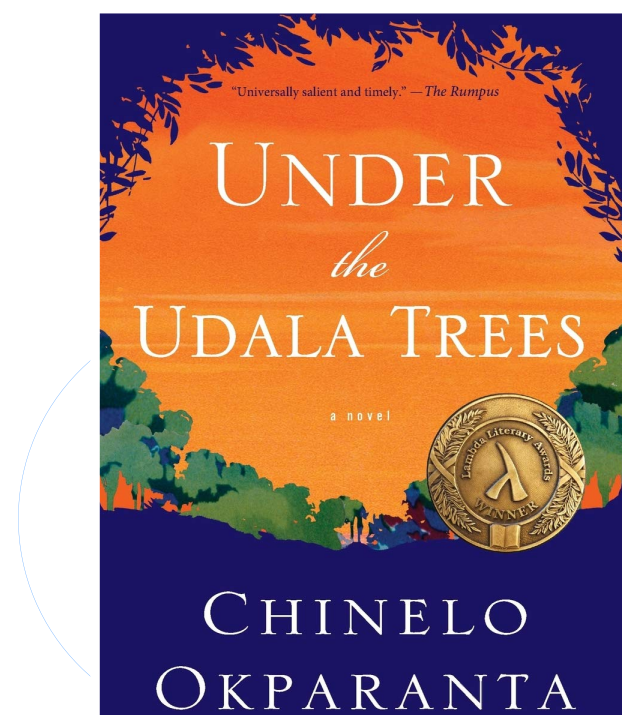
"I was writing because I had a need, a desire, to write stories, that was my way of processing things I saw around me."

"I think many of us write because we want to have an impact at least for people to know that somebody else has felt what they have felt."

"I love playing with stories and I especially love playing with my identity as a mixed child."

Book recommendation:

Under the Udala Trees

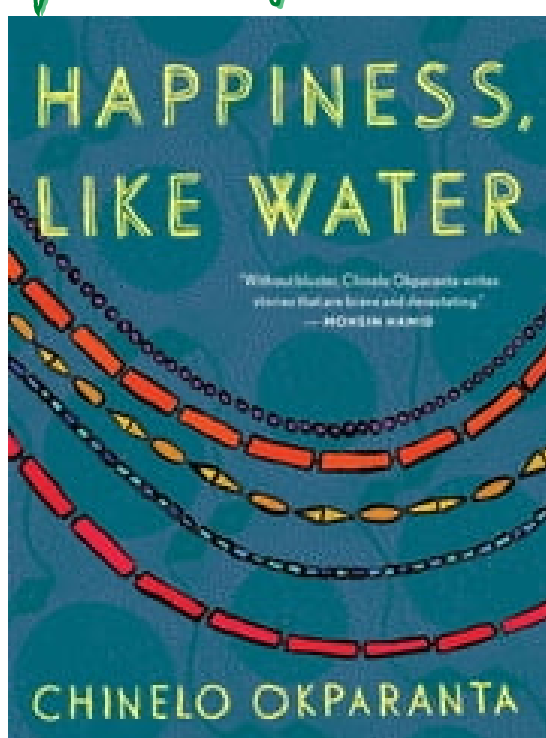


- shows the struggles of lesbians in Nigeria: Lesbian fiction is gradually becoming a genre; however, it still remains a taboo in Nigeria
- touched upon the subject of Christianity Ijeoma's mother thought that her daughter went beyond the boundary of gender roles and the boundary of God
- reflects the brutality of male violence and homophobia in reality

#War #LGBTQ #Homophobia #Religion #Powerful

Dublin Literary Award (2017 shortlist), 28th Annual Lambda Literary Award (Best Lesbian Fiction), The Amelia Bloomer Book List (2017)

Happiness, Like Water



- depicts the life of Nigerians
- highlights social status, spirituality, sexuality and skin tones of the characters
- characters faced with dangerous decisions, children slick with oil from the river, a woman in love with another despite the penalties
- shows the struggles of immigrant life, the burden and strength of love

#Immigrant #LGBTQ #Love #Social Status #Sexuality

Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award (2013 longlist), New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award (2014 Finalist), Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Fiction (2014)