

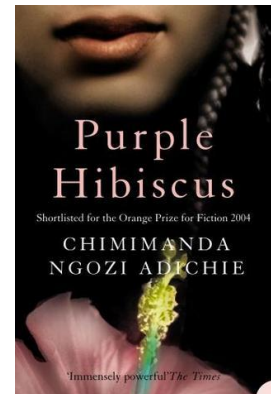


Discussion Questions for Purple Hibiscus By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

These discussion questions were prepared by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) for the *Reader with a Cause* book club group on Goodreads.com.

If you like our questions please feel free to use them – and don't forget to join the conversation online at:

https://www.goodreads.com/topic/group_folder/223446?group_id=114966



1. Opinions & Reactions

What were your overall impressions of Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie? How did you feel about the ending?

2. Other works by Adichie

Have you read anything else (besides Purple Hibiscus) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie? If so, how does this one compare?

We're currently reading another book by Adichie - Americanah, what about this book are you looking forward to (or enjoying)?

3. Religion in Purple Hibiscus

Religion was used as a mask for Kambili's family to hide behind (e.g., "her father is such a good man, well-loved, pious; he couldn't possibly be an abuser"). Over the course of the book, Kambili's relationship with her family and religion changes due to her interactions with other characters and change in her experiences. What did you think of this change?

Did this resonate with you? That is, have there been any experiences and people in your own life that have significantly changed how you feel about something important to you? (It doesn't have to be religion, but it can be.)

4. Public/Private Dichotomy in Purple Hibiscus

There was a significant discrepancy between the Kambili's father's public image and the abuse that he perpetuated at home. How does Kambili's family cope with this discrepancy?

"Had Jaja forgotten that we never told, that there was so much that we never told? When people asked, he always said his finger was 'something' that had happened at home. That way, it was not a lie and it let them imagine some accident, perhaps involving a heavy door." (154)

What advice would you give someone coping with a similar situation? How can we as community members break down the barriers around domestic violence to reduce the stigma and encourage healthy dialogue and the creation of a supportive community response?



5. Environmental Changes

When Kambili moves in with Aunty Ifeoma, she begins to see an alternative family life that doesn't involve abuse. How do our external environments help shape our worldview and serve to either empower or silence us? Have you been in a situation where a move or change of environment has impacted your perspective, either positively or negatively?