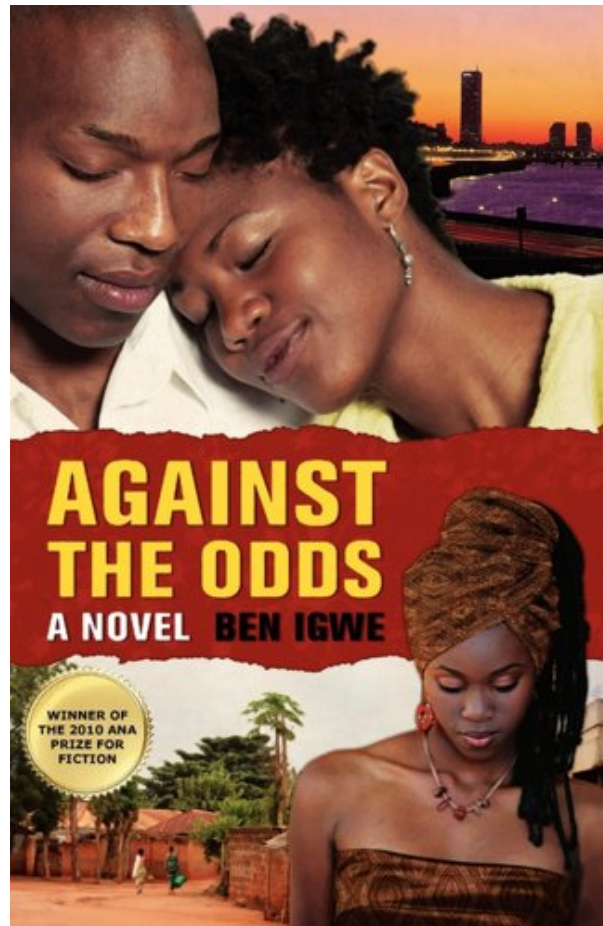
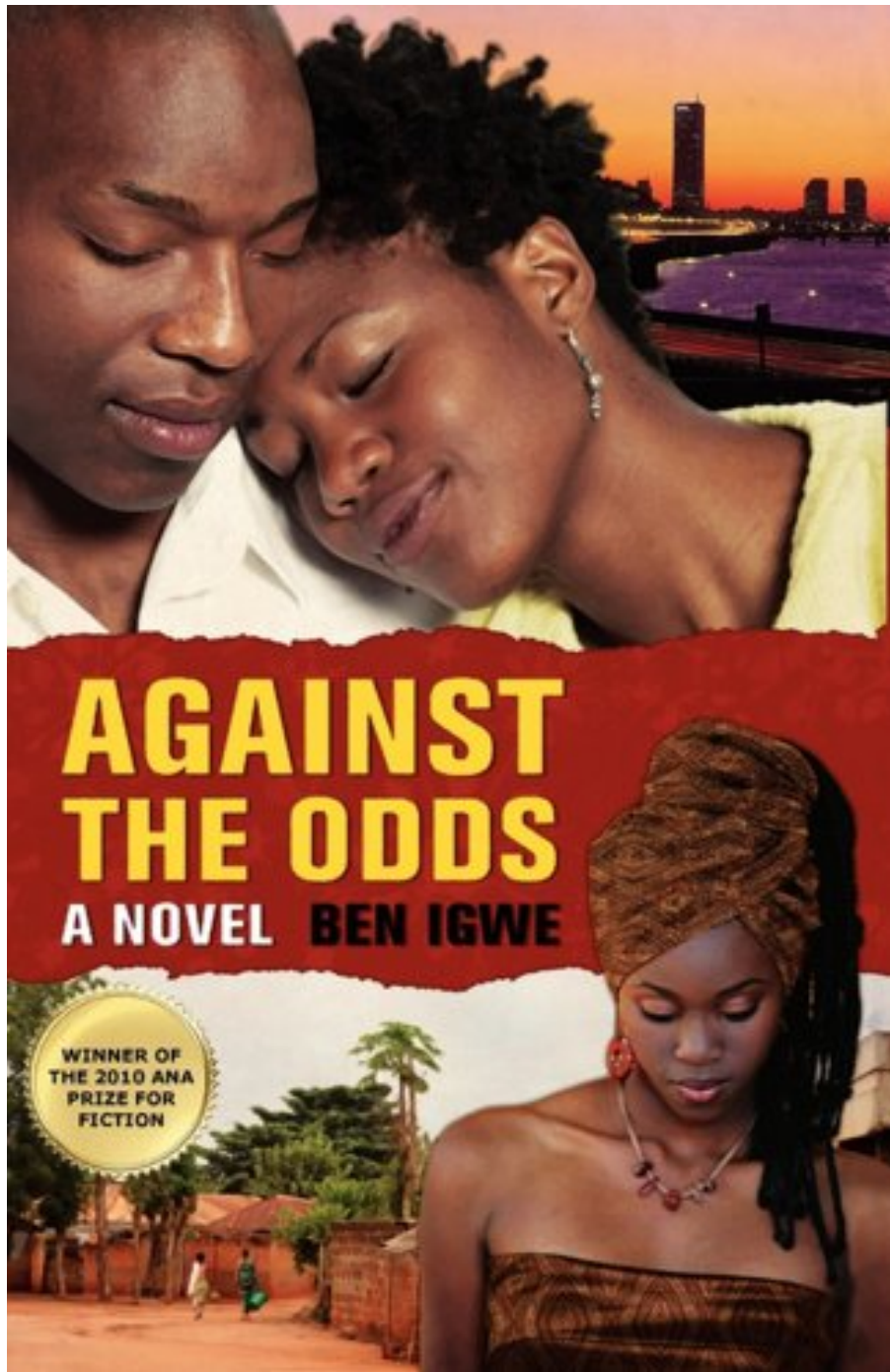


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Undaunted by hardship, a determined widow, Uridiya, arranges a wife of her choice for her western-educated only son. Little does she know that her son, Jamike, had fallen in love and married a foreigner against her wishes and the expectations of his village. In a show of love, loyalty and commitment he rejects the arranged wife to the disappointment of his mother and the community. Can his defiance succeed against all odds? Set in an Igbo village in Eastern Nigeria from the late 1950's to early 1970's and in the United States in the early 1970's, the author sympathetically handles the powerlessness of the widow in rural African societies and addresses with candor and sensitivity the problems of race, human sexuality, cultural disengagement and the role of love in blurring the "color line".

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A masterpiece

By Ngozi Martin-Oguike

True love knows no boundaries and abides in all circumstances. As I eagerly await the sequel to Ben Igwe's dynamic and moving novel. It is expedient that we celebrate the power of truth in a milieu that delights in fallacies.'Against the Odds' is a most captivating theatrical piece that depicts all kinds of love from phileo to eros and to agape. It is worth rejoicing that a man of both generations, who has lived in both worlds, tells an unbiased version of the human race issue from a merger of several perspectives.

The style is easy and realistic and portrays an understanding of both the African suburbia and metropolitan cities in the 1970s up to the modern era of African entrants into the US. Dr. Ben Igwe tells the truth that others fear to admit: human beings are one, made by God and bound to reunite, no matter how long it takes. As we enjoy our different cultures, let us also judge them by their virtues and vices, so that we will truly be free.

'Against the odds' will move you to tears and exhilaration. You will be forced to agree with Jamike as he undergoes cultural shocks, admits his human limitations, and determines what he truly wants without compromising his background and ethnicity. Consequently he yields to the convictions of his heart. The suspense of what will happen at home appears to be the climax of this novel and like in all enduring love stories Jamike convinces the world around him to see from his own lenses thereby conquering all odds.

'Against the Odds' is a must read for all who are interested in the coexistence of all peoples. It is a masterpiece on African communal lifestyles and a great resource to all people of the Diasporas.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Buy This Book!!

By Lisa Wheeler

If you want to read about how a young Nigerian boy becomes a man, raised by his grief-stricken widowed mother and her village, this book is for you.

Read how Jamike comes to America, attends a Pennsylvania University, with the help of a white American. Learns about life and its pitfalls.

Then Jamike falls in love with an American woman, and asks her to marry him. This unbeknown to his mother, who is in Nigeria choosing his wife for him upon his return home.

Must read how it all ends!!

Buy it now, I did and have thoroughly enjoyed the book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

This is a true love story.

By R. Walter

The author, Dr. Ben Igwe, has woven a story that illustrates how love can span cultures, distance and time. The in-depth description of village life provides readers from western cultures an insight into the role the village culture plays in the growth and development of its young people. This firm foundation gave Jamike the resources he needed to adapt to the U.S. society in the 1970's and the author illustrated those societal challenges through this young man's eyes.

Setting cultural anthropology aside, this is book is really a love story which is set on a global stage that stretched from a small rural African village to a college campus nestled in the hill of Western Pennsylvania. Finding ones soul mate sometimes happens in the most unlikely of ways. This book gives credence to the idea that loves conquers all.

This book shows the power of love and acceptance, something often lacking in relationships at all levels. Many works of fiction are a "good read" but in this case, you will carry away from this book nuggets of wisdom that will stay with you. I am looking forward to the next chapter in Jamike's life.

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