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# Yetunde: An Ode To My Mother



## **Synopsis**

Yetunde: An Ode to My Mother This is a heart-warming story about the power of a mother's love; truly an ode to women and mothers all over the world. It is a captivating and emotional story that talks about love and loss! Follow baby Yetunde as she narrates her mother's ode to her grandmother. It is the Yoruba praise poetry for a mother known as the Oriki Iya. Yetunde is also thrilled and delighted by the ancient Yoruba tale passed down to her by her mother about Labake, a young maiden who was kidnapped to be forced to marry a warrior chief. Will Iya Labake save her child in time? Is Iya Labake just a simple defenceless mother? Or . . . ? This is a short story dedicated to past, present and future mothers, a perfect Mother's day present! This book is mostly in English and all Yoruba words are translated, so everyone can enjoy the book fully.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (June 2, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1533553076

ISBN-13: 978-1533553072

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,230,296 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African

## **Customer Reviews**

"This book is all about mothers and I have to say, it had me on the brink of tears."

[https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/1638854940?book\\_show\\_action=false&from\\_review\\_page=1](https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/1638854940?book_show_action=false&from_review_page=1) "Mothers are priceless jewels and this book has made me remember the worth of my mother and what she has done and is still doing on my behalf :)"

[https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/1626810977?book\\_show\\_action=false&from\\_review\\_page=1](https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/1626810977?book_show_action=false&from_review_page=1) "It was incredibly interesting and thoughtful in the way it was written."

[https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/1625897412?book\\_show\\_action=false&from\\_review\\_page=1](https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/1625897412?book_show_action=false&from_review_page=1) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Segilola Salami is mom to a beautiful little girl and writes bilingual Yoruba English children's books.

She is the host of top podcast The Segilola Salami Show and is also a Self Publishing strategist. She helps aspiring authors navigate the minefield that is self publishing. Segilola attends festivals and events doing readings from her books or other suitable activities

\*\*I received a copy of this book free from the author in exchange for an honest review\*\*This is a very short story (about 26 pages) from the point of view of a very young child listening to her mother tell her a story about a Yoruban daughter that is abducted. Though it wasn't something I would personally choose to read on my own, it was a sweet reminder of the mother-daughter connection. I have no children, but I can imagine the passion behind the story and the strength of a mother's love. This story is more suited to a younger audience...maybe a fable for 3rd-6th grade? It's a moving story...but I think it's geared for children rather than adults. The tale has an interesting part where the Yoruban alphabet is used to teach a child: I found that quite informative. Once again. Not my genre or type PERSONALLY, but good for younger audiences. I enjoyed the story. Could also make a great read-aloud picture book. Very nice concept and executed well. Thank you to the author for allowing me to RaR this book. I recommend to all who enjoy fables and tales from other cultures.

The story line was very hard for me to follow and get into. Personally, I was bored. It's not that it's not well written; it's not even because there are a few typos. I was bored I'm guessing because the story starts in what I would call the middle of a scene. It made it very hard for me to follow. I don't really like reading books that are of someone telling a story as if they were in front of me having a conversation. This book just was not for me. I couldn't even finish it. This may be a book that other people will enjoy. I found it to be kind of dumb...In your quest for the truth about this book, I hope that you have found my review both informative and helpful. And as always, HAPPY SHOPPING!!!

This is a sweet little story with a lot of heart perfect for young and older readers alike. We have an unusual and delightful nine-month-old narrator and her mother, who teach us in a simple but beautiful way about mothers' strength, the loss of a loved one, cultural identity, and Yoruba folktale. A perfect read for a quiet morning or afternoon. First of all, let's talk about the plot. It's very straightforward, as we find ourselves thrown in the middle of a normal day in the life of Yetunde in which her mother decides to tell her more about her culture through a Nigerian folktale. My only complaint about the plot is actually about the ending, which

teases a new story out of the blue. I am interested in reading the continuation, but I didn't like such a blunt introduction to it. My favorite thing about the story were the main characters. Our first narrator is Yetunde. She is a baby and, as such, she is just discovering the world, but her innocence makes her very wise. I loved hearing the story from her perspective. When I started reading I thought it would be condescending to have a baby as the narrator, as the story would be told too childishly for adult readers, but that is not what happened at all. We learn to appreciate the story through her eyes because her mother treats her with a lot of respect and love. "She just loves it when I give her a kiss, especially when she doesn't even ask. I don't do it very often though. I think it makes it even more special and precious when I do." Her mother is clever, patient and sweet. She wants Yetunde to learn about her culture, not only because she deems her heritage really important, but also because its connection to her own mother. Although I liked her and loved the tale she told Yetunde, I would have preferred to read the whole story through the baby's perspective. With such an unusual and successful narrator, changing to the mother was not something I loved. "I'm simply telling you this so you know about your heritage, Yetunde. Where you come from. I don't necessarily want for you to become a worshiper when you grow up." For such a short story, it touches many important themes and handles them well. The most important one is clearly motherhood. We see through Yetunde's eyes the admiration and love of a child towards their mother, and then we get to see it again in Yetunde's mom towards her own mother. The recognition of women and mother's strength is empowering and endearing, told with a simplicity that helps this story reach a younger audience, but with a lesson that is deep enough for people of all ages to ponder about. "No matter how strong a man he was born by a woman. When you oppress a mother, you oppress your own mother." Woe unto he who makes a mother cry. For her cry is the sound of the war-drum you struck." The story also talks of grief and loss, topics that are hard to discuss but that are treated touchingly and with subtlety. Finally, the last theme I would like to mention is culture and identity. Yetunde's mother tells her about the Yoruba culture and its deities through a beautiful tale and even a fun little reference to Avatar: The Last Airbender. I loved learning more about the Orishas and there were many beautiful passages that I adored that tell us how much women are valued in the Yoruba culture. Yetunde's mother talks to her in English and Yoruba, intertwining both cultures through language to help Yetunde grow understanding her

identity and which helped me get more immersed in the story. Overall, this was a sweet and moving little story that I recommend to anyone who just wishes to relax and read on a quiet day, it will brighten it.

I have to admit, when I began to read *Yetunde: An Ode to My Mother*, I thought I was reading a short story about a cheetah and her cub. Yes, I judged a book by its cover. So at the first mention of a career and telephone calls with grandad, I had an amusing image in my head. This isn't a story about cheetahs. There isn't a lot of setup to this brief tale. We are dropped into the middle of a moment between a mother, who may be dying, and her child. The mother recites poetry and shares what I'm assuming is a traditional Nigerian folk tale. This folk tale makes up the bulk of the story and is written in both English and Yoruba, a Nigerian language. At times the bilingual nature of the story within the story made it difficult to follow the narrative. A translation is given after every each sentence. Once the folk tale is over, we are given a phonetic reading of the Nigerian alphabet and then a short, confusing skype scene concludes the book. Despite my issues with the structure and ending, there were many enjoyable bits of wisdom scattered throughout *Yetunde*. *Yetunde* is "Water has no enemy. Anyone who tries to fight with water has doomed himself." And the author made several insightful comments, like "I would have liked to have asked Death why he didn't take all the bad people in the world away instead, but I guess no matter how bad anybody is, someone would still be very sad about their passing." The structure here is a bit of a jumble. But all in all, I enjoyed the spirit of this short story. The author's voice is caring, sympathetic, and eager to share Nigerian culture with its readers. I would recommend this book to those who enjoy learning about other cultures. 3.5 stars rounded up to 4.

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