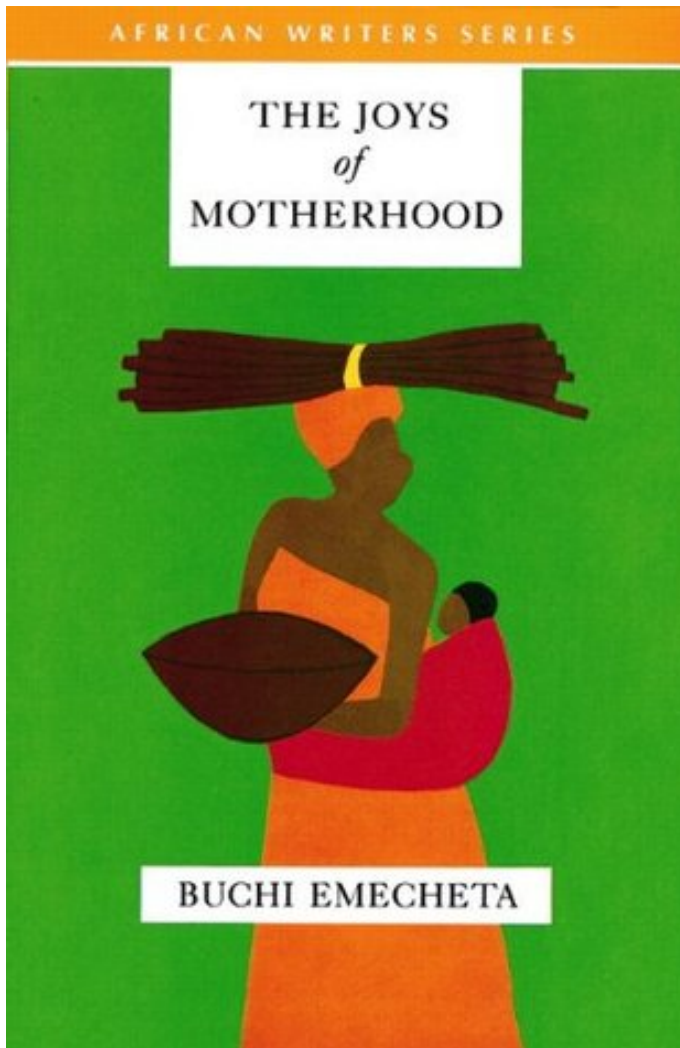


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**Buchi Emecheta**

**The Joys of Motherhood**



Title: The Joys of Motherhood

Author: Buchi Emecheta

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 224

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## Description

Nnu Ego is a woman who gives all her energy, money and everything she has to raising her children - leaving her little time to make friends.

## Insightful reviews

Amy Herrington: I was expecting a more difficult read, but found this actually very readable. It was like chick-lit based in Africa.

It focused on one particular woman/family's struggles over a number of years in an important period in Africa's history. The trials and tribulations were like something out of a soap opera. Just when you think everything's going to be OK... BAM! Another unplanned pregnancy, or a wife turns up out of the blue.

I liked the fact you could see things changing towards the end of the novel. The staunch traditions were starting to fall away in favour of more Westernised practices. It was a case of having to make those changes or get left behind, for better or worse.

The blurb on the back of my copy mentioned a strong feminist message. The inequality of men and women in this society did come through, but it didn't really bother me. Wrong perhaps, but as the book is set many years ago and in a country I've never been to, I couldn't help feeling detached from the messages it was trying to send. I kept thinking "well, it's probably nothing like that these days..." It was still interesting to read about the history though.

Not much of an uplifting read, but that suits my reading tastes. I enjoyed this more than I thought I would.

?Emily : If I tell you that the title of the book is ironic, that will really tell you everything you need to know. Nnu Ego is a Nigerian woman raising a family in a swiftly changing society. Raised in a typical African village, she is thrust into a rapidly growing city of Lagos when she marries a man working there. There is no family support for her as she tries to adjust to married life in a strange environment. Her first child dies in the first chapter of the book and she is devastated by the loss. However, she gradually recovers when she has a second child. She then has many more children. She devotes her life in educating her oldest son, trusting in the African tradition that he will support her and help educate his siblings. However, he does not do that. Instead he goes to America to continue his education, contributing nothing. Her other children are also a disappointment. Her husband is no help. He spends his money on drink. Even though he can't afford it, he takes on a second and later a third wife. He has nothing left emotionally or financially for Nnu Ego and her children. When his children don't meet his expectations, he blames Nnu Ego. Everything that can go wrong, does. It is not a cheerful, hopeful book.

Intertwined in Nnu Ego's story, is the changing face of Nigeria. The English has colonial control over Nigeria in beginning of the book. When the English enter World War II, they force Nnu Ego's husband to become a soldier. He goes to Burma to fight for a cause and an enemy that is

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unknown to him. The war changes him for the worse. After the war, Nigeria is striving and preparing for independence. The young are eager for change, but the older generation tries to cling to the past and its traditions.

I got the feeling that if Nnu had been born ten or fifteen years earlier or later, she would have had a fulfilling role as a productive member of society. Instead, torn between two cultures and unable to adapt, she dies at the side of road, unwanted and unloved.

Diane Brown: Beautifully written, authentic story and captivating. Buchi is a great writer. She has taken a story and told it simply to give a glimpse of the plight of a woman in Nigeria, but can be applied everywhere. She handles the issues of patriarchy, the eldest son, the value of a girl child and the contradictions and complexities of culture and traditions, against the backdrop and an Africa getting colonised. Simply masterful.

Ishita: Heart-wrenching, complex, and idea provoking, Emecheta's deceptively basic prose questions the assumption of childbearing as synonymous with lady fulfillment. Set in Emecheta's local Nigeria in the course of global struggle II, this story follows the lifetime of Nnu Ego who's suffering to discover her position inside a global that's in flux among culture and modernity, and always wondering the role, responsibilities, and standing of women. An intensely emotional read.

Nasser Aldhafeeri: i'm attempting to supply a evaluate of the radical "The Joys of Motherhood" written via Buchi Emecheta. Buchi Emecheta used to be born on twenty first July 1944 in Lagos. She has released over 20 books. She brings topics and factor of maternity, woman rights and ladies rights to loose schooling in her writings. She has been praised for her writing and feature been provided many overseas prizes. This novel is an expression of ideas that makes a speciality of the feelings, habit and tradition that have been existed round moment global conflict in Nigerian society that normally emphasizes on Nigerian woman, extra in particular on a mother. It used to be released by means of Heinemann academic (Botswana) in 1991. This novel is taken into account as a fiction. Emecheta expresses various expects of lifestyles within the novel. She took Nnu Ego as a reference personality and cleverly expresses her suggestions triumphing within the society. She increases very important count on of social and cultural ideals and values. She increases suggestion on ladies and femininity character, joy, anxiety, legal responsibility and expectation of motherhood, males and masculinity character, mortality of life, responsibility of a person, diversified degrees of education, traditions, customs, slavery, racism and supernatural belief. In fact, the radical is a balanced production of combine concept from the place we will be able to research very important features of society and alter ourselves. I learn this novel as a demand for my background class. The language is especially easy and it's a effortless learn novel. i might suggest someone who want to comprehend the life-style and background of African Women. additionally the cost is especially cheap for this novel.

Maria C: i actually cherished interpreting this novel since it calls the entire inspiration approximately being a mom into question. i will be able to comprehend why humans provide three stars to this novel simply because there are components the place it may be very lengthy and drag, yet i feel it's a great transition among what the protagonist defines herself us, and the instant whilst she involves discover that she is a sufferer of her personal doing. a good way to

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learn this book, i'd recommend additionally examining issues collapse so that you can see the distinction among gender roles within the Igbo culture. it's not that i am African and that i inspiration this publication used to be attention-grabbing since it ultimately replied my query approximately why they preserve having childrens while the location is so bad. Sure, this occurs 70 years within the past, yet tradition is handed down in nearly each society. I cherished it. i feel a woman who does not wish kids, or disagrees with society's powerful emphasis on Motherhood would favor this book.

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