



# Nzinga African Warrior Queen

*Moses L. Howard*

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Across the savannah and into the green mountains, people shouted her name:

“Nzinga, Nzinga, Child of the Flame!”

“Nzinga, Daughter of the Old Ngola, Savior of Ndongo!”

In the governor’s palace Luanda, the Portuguese courtiers whisper in shock: A woman!

Sent to make a treaty with the invaders, Nzinga of Angola is swept into world history, a generation after Elizabeth I ruled England. For forty years, Queen Nzinga fights to destroy the imperial colonists who seek to enslave her people.

This fictional biography delivers exhilarating adventure and passionate stories of friendship, love, and family. Luminous storytelling brings to life the Angolan culture in a flourishing African kingdom, now lost, where early maps of West Africa call out: “Here reigned the celebrated Queen Nzinga!”

## Nzinga African Warrior Queen Details

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Author : Moses L. Howard

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## From Reader Review Nzinga African Warrior Queen for online ebook

### JJ says

This is a fictional biography and I wasn't quite certain what that meant before I started it. There is tragically little history about Nzinga's life and this attempts to fill in the details. It stops short of being a bildungsroman novel, relaying facts more than story in some parts, but each chapter is essentially episodic about the life the real Nzinga might have lived. What I love most about this is the humanity it gives Nzinga. Instead of making her a superhuman warrior princess, or overly dramatizing her life, it simply relays what might have been: a relatable, privileged woman who cared more about statecraft and warcraft than her wastrel brother. Indulged by her father, the king of what is basically present day Angola, Nzinga worries about the changing of her country after the Portuguese come. When called upon she uses what power she has to save her people after her father dies. The most affecting part of this book is the picture it shows of an African nation on the edge of colonization. Of course I knew how colonization ravaged African countries, but this is a very human face to the devastation. Not just the horrors of slavery, but the wealth that was stripped from the land and stolen as the people were also stolen. It's just horrifying to see it this close in. But as emotional as I am about the larger tragedy of this story, I missed the closer emotions of it. This is "biography" relying on "facts," however fictional they actually are, but often in times of joy it leans in close to Nzinga and reads with the personal emotional intensity of a novel. But it leans right back out in the more tragic or painful parts, understandably as "biography." However the closeness of the happy parts make me wish for that throughout the story (though I did cry a couple times toward the end). It is a very enjoyable and informative read, piecing together bits of history I learned in school into a real human story. Absolutely recommend to everyone. I assume most people know as little as I did, or never bothered to think what life must have been like in pre-colonial African countries. This does focus narrowly in the Angola region, but it paints in bright color a piece that was missing from my picture of global history.

Disclosure: this book is from the publisher I work for. I have not previously read it, but got an advance copy of the forthcoming audiobook and the narration is fantastic. Clear with the cool, emotional distance of a biography, but the voices are done with a masterful touch that adds to the storytelling aspect, maybe makes these characters more real and human.

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### Michelle Olms says

Great book

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### Cindy Marsch says

I served as proofreader on this book and therefore will not post a review.

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### Kali says

I won this in a giveaway. I started to read it but I didn't like some of the element so I didn't finish it.

### **Whitlaw Mugwiji says**

This is a historical fiction novel about the life and the exploits of Queen (King) Nzinga, Africa's greatest warrior queen. Although the author has dramatised this biography, it is none the less rich in its historical importance because the biographical novel is drawn from a fairly wide range of sources about actual historical events.

Queen Nzinga or as she called herself and her people called her "Ngola" King Nzinga demonstrated diplomatic prowess, courage and intelligence and sheer force of will power in this male dominated world of politics. Her rise to power embodies the classic case of an African woman who succeeds against odds in a heavily male dominated patriarchal society.

It is indeed a great story and the way it was narrated is captivating, I couldn't sit the book down. A must read for all Africans, especially those interested in Pan Africanism, feminism and anti colonial narrative of Africa.

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### **Sam says**

Well told. An informative, enjoyable read.

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### **Wayne Turmel says**

#### **Wonderful story not enough have heard**

This story hasn't been heard by enough people, not even history geeks like me. The story is a bit too full of individual episodes to hang together but those episodes are fascinating and the author's descriptions paint a terrific picture of time and place.

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### **Terry says**

#### **Excellent**

Great read - fast moving storyline - characters well rounded - captured the hierarchy of ancient African tribal life -

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### **Alice says**

#### **Nzinga is heroine like Joan of Arc, Boadicea**

I enjoyed this biography of a heroine of African 17th century history. The details of life in Angola, then

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called Ndongo, were vividly presented from the politics, social structure, community and religious life to the always interesting subjects of food, clothing, fun, and sexual mores. Nzinga's rise to power and long-standing fight against the incursions of the Portuguese are believably presented. It was moving to witness the slave trade through the eyes of contemporary African observers.

I was reminded of Mark Twain's remarkable book about Joan of Arc (which I discovered totally by chance in a Paris bookshop -- I had never heard of it.) Nzinga belongs in the pantheon of women heroes with Joan, Boadicea (who led a rebellion against the Romans in the UK) and the Trung sisters who were military leaders in Vietnam around 2,000 years ago. While this book is too long for young girls -- they should know this story! One thing I think Nzinga would quibble with is the subtitle of African Warrior Queen. She makes the point throughout that she is the king -- Ngola -- and not a mere queen!

I received an ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Jackie says**

I received this free from Good Reads.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Looking back in time and how the kingdom worked to how they dealt with the Portuguese but not just that - the rise and ambition of a woman.

I did not like putting this book down.

It did have some areas which I felt went on a bit too long or maybe not necessary but a great read!

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