



Apollo

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

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“Nothing changed when Raphael came to live with us, not at first.”

Apollo Details

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Foe says

De lo poco que he leído de Adichie, quizá sea lo que menos me ha gustado. Conserva muchas características de su estilo, tanto en las situaciones como en el ligero tono humorístico que subyace en muchas de las escenas, y temáticamente hila perfectamente el costumbrismo y la crítica social.

Sin embargo, no me ha convencido la estructura narrativa: creo que la introducción es demasiado larga y alejada del nudo del relato, en lugar de servir para dar perspectiva al lector y orientarlo en la dirección de la trama principal, posee sus propios temas, como si fueran en realidad dos relatos que cuentan cosas distintas. Uno de ellos se queda a medias con el cambio de línea temporal y el otro tiene un final muy precipitado, y el intento de atar cabos al final es tan confuso que da la sensación de que ni siquiera el protagonista se ha enterado de que tendría que haber pasado por un conflicto y un cambio.

Me da la impresión de que la excusa para el *flashback* lastra el relato. Es demasiado compleja, por lo que la autora necesita más tiempo para llegar hasta ella de forma creíble, y tiene demasiado significado, de forma que abre no solo la historia que se cuenta en el relato sino otra historia oculta con otro protagonista. Esta dualidad temática reduce la cohesión narrativa y debilita la historia principal. Con una excusa más trivial el relato habría sido más simple y directo, y posiblemente alternando entre las dos líneas temporales la perspectiva que da el presente a la historia principal se habría reforzado.

Sangeetha Ramachandran says

This simple, short yet a great story can be read at: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/04/13/apollo>

Charlotte says

Adichie has such a captivating voice. I found this online (<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/20...>) and read it in about 30 minutes. It's a sweet, cold, haunting short story about a man looking back on his childhood - the experience of his first friend and his first betrayal.

Emer says

Twice monthly Okenwa visits his ageing parents. He sees them grow visibly older with each visit, become more settled in their view points and fears that they will not be around much longer. One week Okenwa's parents tell him of the fate of their former houseboy Raphael and this causes him to reflect on the past and contemplate his evolving relationship with his parents.

"My mind had been submerged in the foggy lull of my parents' storytelling, and I struggled now with the sharp awakening of memory."

This is a slow revealing short story that leads to an interesting conclusion that I did not expect. It is nicely written and the language is very evocative. If you would like to read it for yourself then it can be found here.

three stars

Noah Sim says

Apollo is a short story written by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Spoiler alert this story is about a guy named Okenwa visiting his parents for their sake. As he was conversing with them he notice that they changed in personality. After catching up with their lives, his mother talked about a news on the robbers and their leader happened to be his childhood friend. From this talk he began explaining his childhood life to the reader. I totally recommend this story to those who wants to read something short and gain something from it. This story is around five pages and a lesson that I took away from this is that people change as time goes on. I could kind of relate to the characters in this story because long time ago I also got betrayed by my friends. A quote from the story that caught my attention said,"The houseboy before him, Hyginus, had been sent home for insulting my mother"(Apollo). This quote caught my attention because you know that there is conflict between the past workers and the mother. As the result I can relate to how Okenwa was feeling when he was betrayed. Overall this is a great story for those who just want to pass time.

Patrícia Gonçalves says

Love her short stories! Chimamanda has a special talent for creating such impactful reads in just a few pages. Apollo is one of my favourites so far.

Ana ? says

We read this at class today and I liked it. Yet, because it is a short story I cannot give it a too high rating. An issue I have all the time with short stories it that they are short; which yes, that is the whole point of a short story but it is the same reason why I am not a huge fan of them. I always think that any short story can develop into more and because it is so short there are so many things that end up unanswered which bothers me a lot.

But I adore Chimamanda and I really like her writing, so I guess I'm being more generous with the rating. I'm going to give it a 2.5, because it is some thing between "it was okay" and "i like it". I have read non-fiction from Adichie but now I really want to try more of her fiction work, especially novels.

Jwk says

Easy read

DebsD says

3.5*

Franxine (Shadowtearling) says

3.5

Chels Patterson says

A really beautiful but simple story, one we can all relate to, the pain one can inflict when we feel betrayed and wounded.

Akylina says

This is my first time reading Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's work and I'll make sure it's not the last.

I really enjoyed this short story. The writing was simple, yet magical, and its flow was great. It kept my interest throughout, wanting to read more and more. The only thing I disliked was the ending - it was too abrupt and it seemed to me like the author simply left it unfinished. I would have liked at least one more paragraph to be included, just to wrap things up properly.

I'm really intrigued to read more of Adichie's works now, and even more so since some people say this story doesn't even belong to her best works.

Olivia says

Short story read for class! Full review maybe to come later

Alyce Hunt says

I know that one of the points of short stories is for them to be short, but this was just too brief for me. Establishing Okenwa's relationship with his elderly parents and then flashing back to his childhood, in which his only friend was house boy Raphael, I was expecting Chimamanda to take the story full circle and to rejoin Okenwa in the present day with his parents.

Unfortunately, because that didn't happen it just felt too abrupt for me to fall in love with it as wholly as I otherwise would have.

Because this is wonderful.

The only other piece of Chimamanda's writing that I've experienced was 'We Should All Be Feminists', the transcript of her legendary TED talk. This was the first piece of her fiction that I've read, but I absolutely

adored the friendship between Raphael and Okenwa contrasted with the fraught relationship between Okenwa and his parents. The dynamics are built beautifully. It's strongly hinted that Okenwa might have liked Raphael as more than a friend, it's written so subtly that you can't help but yearn to read more of Okenwa's story. As I said earlier, if this had gone full circle and returned to the scene established at the start of the story, it would have been impossible to give this a less than perfect rating.

Canavan says

☆☆☆☆
