



Ghana Must Go

By Taiye Selasi

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Kweku Sai is dead. A renowned surgeon and failed husband, he succumbs suddenly at dawn outside his home in suburban Accra. The news of Kweku's death sends a ripple around the world, bringing together the family he abandoned years before. *Ghana Must Go* is their story. Electric, exhilarating, beautifully crafted, *Ghana Must Go* is a testament to the transformative power of unconditional love, from a debut novelist of extraordinary talent.

Moving with great elegance through time and place, *Ghana Must Go* charts the Sais' circuitous journey to one another. In the wake of Kweku's death, his children gather in Ghana at their enigmatic mother's new home. The eldest son and his wife; the mysterious, beautiful twins; the baby sister, now a young woman: each carries secrets of his own. What is revealed in their coming together is the story of how they came apart: the hearts broken, the lies told, the crimes committed in the name of love. Splintered, alone, each navigates his pain, believing that what has been lost can never be recovered—until, in Ghana, a new way forward, a new family, begins to emerge.

Ghana Must Go is at once a portrait of a modern family, and an exploration of the importance of where we come from to who we are. In a sweeping narrative that takes us from Accra to Lagos to London to New York, *Ghana Must Go* teaches that the truths we speak can heal the wounds we hide.

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Ghana Must Go By Taiye Selasi Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

A father's death leads to a new beginning for his fractured family in this powerful first novel. Kweku Sai is felled by a sudden heart attack at his home in Ghana. At the moment of his death, Kweku is filled with regret for his abandonment of his first wife, Fola, and their four children in Baltimore, many years ago, after losing his job as a surgeon. His four children are now scattered across the East Coast: Olu, a gifted surgeon who followed in his father's footsteps; twins Taiwo and Kehinde, who share a terrible secret from childhood; and youngest daughter Sadie, who is struggling with her body image and sexuality. In the wake of their father's death, the four siblings, along with Olu's wife, Ling, reunite to journey to their mother's home in Ghana, where secrets, resentments, and grief bubble to the surface. A finely crafted yarn that seamlessly weaves the past and present, Selasi's moving debut expertly limns the way the bonds of family endure even when they are tested and strained. --Kristine Huntley

Review

Nell Freudenberger, *The New York Times Book Review*:

"Selasi's ambition—to show her readers not "Africa" but one African family, authors of their own achievements and failures—is one that can be applauded no matter what accent you give the word."

The Wall Street Journal:

"Irresistible from the first line—'Kweku dies barefoot on a Sunday before sunrise, his slippers by the doorway to the bedroom like dogs'—this bright, rhapsodic debut stood out in the thriving field of fiction about the African diaspora."

The Economist:

"*Ghana Must Go* comes with a bagload of prepublication praise. For once, the brouhaha is well deserved. Ms. Selasi has an eye for the perfect detail: a baby's toenails 'like dewdrops', a woman sleeps 'like a cocoyam. A thing without senses... unplugged from the world.' As a writer she has a keen sense of the baggage of childhood pain and an unforgettable voice on the page. **Miss out on *Ghana Must Go* and you will miss one of the best new novels of the season.**"

The Wall Street Journal:

"Buoyant... a joy... Rapturous."

Entertainment Weekly:

"[Selasi] writes elegantly about the ways people grow apart — husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, parents and kids."

Elle magazine:

"In *Ghana Must Go*, Selasi drives the six characters skillfully through past and present, unearthing old betrayals and unexplained grievances at a delicious pace. By the time the surviving five convene at a funeral in Ghana, we are invested in their reconciliation—which is both realistically shaky and dramatically satisfying... Narrative gold."

The Daily Beast:

"Selasi's prose... is a rewarding mix of soulful conjuring and intelligent introspection, and points to a bright future."

Booklist:

"Powerful... A finely crafted yarn that seamlessly weaves the past and present, Selasi's moving debut expertly limns the way the bonds of family endure even when they are tested and strained."

Publishers Weekly (starred review):

"Gorgeous. Reminiscent of Jhumpa Lahiri but with even greater warmth and vibrancy, Selasi's novel, driven by her eloquent prose, tells the powerful story of a family discovering that what once held them together could make them whole again."

Elizabeth Gilbert, author of Eat, Pray, Love:

"Taiye Selasi is a young writer of staggering gifts and extraordinary sensitivity. *Ghana Must Go* seems to contain the entire world, and **I shall never forget it.**"

Sapphire, author of The Kid and Push:

"Taiye Selasi is **a totally new and near perfect voice** that spans continents and social strata as effortlessly as the insertion of an ellipsis or a dash. With mesmerizing craftsmanship and massive imagination she takes the reader on an unforgettable journey across continents and most importantly deeply into the lives of the people whom she writes about. She de-'exoticizes' whole populations and demographics and brings them firmly into the readers view as complicated and complex human beings. Taiye Selasi's *Ghana Must Go* is a big novel, elemental, meditative, and mesmerizing; and when one adds the words 'first novel,' we speak about the beginning of an amazing career and a very promising life in letters."

Teju Cole, author of Open City:

"*Ghana Must Go* is both a fast moving story of one family's fortunes and an ecstatic exploration of the inner lives of its members. With her perfectly-pitched prose and flawless technique, **Selasi does more than merely renew our sense of the African novel: she renews our sense of the novel, period. An astonishing debut.**"

About the Author

TAIYE SELASI was born in London and raised in Massachusetts. She holds a B.A. in American studies from Yale and an M.Phil. in international relations from Oxford. "The Sex Lives of African Girls" (Granta, 2011), Selasi's fiction debut, will appear in *Best American Short Stories 2012*. She lives in Rome.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jamie Brewer:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive today, people have to do something to make these individuals survive, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a publication your ability to survive enhance then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading the book, we give you that *Ghana Must Go* book as beginning and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Michelle Beltran:

Do you one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys

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