

The River Between (African Writers Series)

By Ngugi Wa Thiong'o

Christian missionaries attempt to outlaw the female circumcision ritual and in the process create a terrible rift between the two Kikuyu communities on either side of the river.

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The River Between (African Writers Series) Summary Details

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editorial:

Review

‘It has rare qualities of restraint, intelligence and sensitivity’

The Times Literary Supplement

‘ A sensitive novel about Gikuyu in the melting pot that sometimes touches the grandeur of tap-root simplicity.’

The Guardian

About the Author

Ngugi wa Thiong'o was born in Limuru, Kenya, in 1938, was educated at the Alliance High School, Kikuyu, at Makerere University, Uganda and at the University of Leeds.

His novel, *Weep Not, Child*, was published in 1964 and this was followed by *The River Between* (1965), *A Grain of Wheat* (1967), and *Petals of Blood* (1977). *Devil on the Cross* (1980), was conceived and written during the author's one-year detention in prison, in Kenya, where he was held without trial after the performance by peasants and workers of his play *Ngaahika Ndeenda* (I Will Marry When I Want). This was his first work to be published in his own language, Gikutu, and then translated into English and many other languages. His novel *Matigari*, was published in Gikuyu in Kenya in 1986.

The author has also written collections of short stories, plays and numerous essays. Ngugi is an active campaigner for the African language and form, and he writes, travels and lectures extensively on this theme. His work is known throughout the world and has made powerful impact both at home and overseas.

He now lives and works in the United States, writing and lecturing, and is a Professor at New York University.

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