

Chapter 1 : Dust by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor reviewed | AERODROME

Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor's prose can burn your skin off. Her narrative power tears through the landscapes of Kenya: life, cheap death, torture, love, friendship. Dust is a most visceral, moving novel about a family caught up in the smelt of a Kenya roiling inside the lusts and violences of its adolescence, determined to move past it.

I have reshaped trails, places, narratives, people, creatures, landscape and names in order to carve out this story. The novel paints a distinct image of the country through description, character portrayal, and historical coverage. It bleeds Kenya, bleeds for Kenya: Blood seemed to leak from too many holes there. Red mud roads bled. Oozing life, seeping death. The full moon bled on water. Other journeys are also charted in the story. We learn that they, like other white settlers of the time, sought adventure in blank-slate kingdoms, where [they] owned the rules and would make a country in [their] image. There is also the journey of Isaiah Bolton, who comes to Kenya to seek out his father. The element of ownership resonates throughout the story, and as all of the characters seek some sense of belonging, there is the begging question, who can lay claim and to what? Hugh Bolton is determined to make Kenya his country. To build a life in it for himself and his bride, Selene. This is my country. In its richness, Dust is an epic tale, covering vast distances, charting wide journeys both in the physical and mental spaces. Some of the widest distances are covered through the use of memory. Memory is unconfined, ethereal, re creation. English, Kiswahili and Silence. But there was also memory own italics. He is a constant haunting. He is what Akai-ma wants that she cannot have back and what Ajany seeks but cannot find. He is the collective trauma of the story. Details that flesh out the story come down in dribbles as one event catalyses another and another. Dust is filled with many vivid descriptions of setting, at times immersing the reader in them and in other instances, especially when shifting through memories, displacing the reader. The northern territories of Kenya tend to be so removed, yet in the novel, Owuor makes it very present. The absence of regular fruit. Few opportunities to speak English. His eyes had deepened, gone grayer, bolder, older. His cheeks were sunken, contoured, scarred, tinged with heat, his skin mottled. He laughed, much louder, head thrown back. Each is given a history, even when it seems completely irrelevant as in the case of the Indian innkeeper, Baba Chaudhari, who only makes two appearances and whose story, though colourful, does not add to the context or content of the story. Nevertheless, the central characters are capably handled. The personal loss of the Oganda family is looked at from the perspective of a national one. In one of his many diatribes against the crop of Kwani? She delineates a lost and soon to be forgotten history, creating a collective memory in which [the current] generation is forced to ask: Where did this begin? Where did this wounding start? In doing so, we undertake a journey similar to that of Ajany or Isaiah who return to retrace. It is a cultural inheritance. Reading Dust felt like a sort of homecoming, which is the most prevalent theme in the novel. Ajany returns on account of her brother. People left stories at springs. These were passed on from one season to another. Upon completion of the house, he has the following conversation with Nyipir, who at the time is his houseboy: What word can be used to name this home?

Chapter 2 : Dust by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor (, Paperback) | eBay

Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor (born) is a Kenyan writer, who was named "Woman of the Year" by Eve Magazine in Kenya in for her contribution to the country's literature and arts. She won the Caine Prize for African Writing for her story "Weight of Whispers", which considers an aristocratic Rwandan refugee in Kenya.

She and I were going to spend the week together as I guided her through a programme of events for Kwani? I like to think that the first time we met, or shall I say our spirits met, was when I read her Caine Prize winning short story Weight of Whispers. Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor Dust is a novel which speaks from hidden histories and landscapes. As a region often forgotten and misunderstood, I was apprehensive yet impatient to discover how Yvonne was going to portray the place I thought of as home. Dust-filled cupules containing red, black, green, and white pebbles speckle the land; unfinished sand games entice drifters to sit and play. Fresh dung tracks on gold-flecked violet stones. The dust in every nook and cranny of my body, the searing heat, the sudden bursts of wind, the naked yet ancient and majestic landscape. She is a child of the desert who understands that the dunes, the rocks, the mountains, the wells, the cattle, the sun, the moon, the stars, the winds that carry the stories and secrets of ancestors who lived in these lands. Like the histories of Kenya, the desert of Turkana is complex and intense. The loss of Odidi Oganda shatters his family as they all try to come to terms with their grief and guilt. The plot allows an exploration of the psychology of loss and is partly driven by the question: Akai runs off into the desert unwilling to accept her son is gone, while Nyipir decides to tackle the unforgiving land by digging a cairn for his son. Ajany goes in pursuit of her brother, refusing to believe that he would leave her lost and alone. But the Oganda family are not the only ones who search for and mourn a loved one. Isaiah Bolton has come from England to look for the father he never knew and longs for. This is a tale of death, love, despair, hope, discovery, betrayal, forgiveness, stolen lives and histories, identities, and new beginnings. Yvonne reveals the ways these events shaped and continue to shape not only Kenya, but each one of us. She writes with elegant anger and has the rare ability to affect the human soul. Reading Dust, I felt a profound sense of belonging. She grew up in Kenya where she and her younger sister spent an important part of their childhood and youth in Lake Turkana, where their parents run safaris. During her studies, she discovered a passion for decolonial and feminist theories, with an emphasis on silenced histories.

Chapter 3 : Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor (Author of Dust)

Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor was born in Kenya. Winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing, she has also received an Iowa Writers' Fellowship. Her work has appeared in McSweeney's and other publications, and she has been a TEDx Nairobi speaker and a Lannan Foundation resident.

Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor was born in Kenya and lives in Australia. She is a previous winner of the Caine prize and *Dust* was shortlisted for the Folio prize. It is an epic and ambitious novel. Against this backdrop, the prologue searingly relates the murder of Moses Ebewesit Odidi Oganda and the novel explores the shattering effects of his death on his family. Her situation is not unusual: Individual pain is thus set against communal or national pain; both are the subject of *Dust*. The assassination of Tom Mboya in is a central cataclysmic event in the novel: English, Kiswahili, and Silence. Recovering memory becomes a boldly political act. The protagonists of the novel must follow their own maps of memory home, to trace the beginnings of their stories and puncture the silence that has defined their lives. Like a refrain, the question of what endures recurs throughout. These pages commemorate the unknown dead, but also celebrate the pulsing heartbeat of the living. Alternative travel networks are thus explored as is the role of Kenya in the global imagination. Owuor is equally adept at capturing both the bustling cityscape and the desolation and loneliness of the desert. The novel encompasses many writing styles as it shifts geographies and focalisers. At times one feels that less flowery language might be more effective, but these moments are few. The novel is potentially unwieldy, containing these many narrative strands and juggling its large cast of characters, but Owuor is masterful in retaining control. Days after turning the last page, the characters still populated my dreams. As Binyavanga Wainaina says in his cover shout: *Dust* will not leave you unmoved and I hope it finds a big, big readership. *Dust* is published by Granta.

Chapter 4 : Dust : Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor :

Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor (born) is a Kenyan writer, who won the Caine Prize for African Writing for her story "Weight of Whispers", which considers an aristocratic Rwandan refugee in Kenya.

Pumping new life into the corpse of the book review Title: Dust Who wrote it: Plot in a Box: Invent a new title for this book: I have to say, just about anything would be more intriguing than Dust. Read this if you like: Dust is less about a single person than a group of interconnected individuals, but the focus falls mainly on Ajany Oganda. Said lead would be portrayed in a movie by: Would you want to live here? What was your favorite sentence? In the contours of old pasts, she retrieves an image: Dust is a novel of conflict; both in the narrative and in the prose itself. Sometimes lucid and piercing, sometimes merely chaotic, Owuor sketches a country in the midst of great turbulence with writing that is lush but choppy. Intriguing visuals are combined with a jarring sense of perspective, occasionally making it difficult to disentangle what is happening from scene to scene. For example, there are a lot of moments like this: He is flying home with his children. Yet he is alone. Memories are solitary ghosts: Characters bounce in and out with little to no introduction, and the plot never truly coheres into a solid form. The story is less driven by individual growth than it is by the character of an entire country. Folklore and superstition are mingled throughout the story, adding yet another layer of cultural intricacies to an already irascible and convoluted equation. Dust is not a perfect novel, but it is a powerful one.

Chapter 5 : Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor - Wikipedia

YVONNE ADHIAMBO OWUOR was born in Kenya. She is the author of the novel Dust, which was shortlisted for the Folio Prize. Winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing, she has also received an Iowa Writers' Fellowship.

Owuor demonstrates extraordinary talent and range in these pages. Here in this remarkable novel is a brave, healing voice. Dust [is] the next step in what I anticipate to be a prodigious career. This searing novel, though informed by her Kenyan roots, should not be pigeonholed. These unforgettable characters and universal themes will speak to all readers who seek truth and beauty in their literature. Her writing is exceptionally chiseled. Her narrative power tears through the landscapes of Kenya: Dust is a most visceral, moving novel about a family caught up in the smelt of a Kenya roiling inside the lusts and violences of its adolescence, determined to move past it. Epic in scope, Dust covers over sixty years of betrayals, love, mysterious caves, colonial brutalities, epic love, political betrayals. A crisis that brings the nation to the brink of self-destruction. You will meet a mother with an AK you will never forget, a father shamed by a secret, betrayed by a nation. The varied landscapes of Kenya have never been more tenderly made alive. We gush and cry through the floods of rivers and rage that burst past civilities and boundaries; we melt at love that has to live with blood needlessly shed; we gasp at lives most unexpectedly saved. We can carry all of this unbearable world, Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor proposes, because it is beautiful. This is the novel my twenty-first century has been waiting for, for our world in these seismic times. Owuor has style to spare. In this remarkable novel is a brave, healing voice. Owuor demonstrates extraordinary talent. Let the sensuous language of Dust wash over you. Owuor channels Faulkner or a certain kind of Pynchon. A dazzling narrative, Faulknerian in many ways. The rewards are significant, especially [the] unforgettable characters. The next step in what I anticipate to be a prodigious career. Her writing is exceptionally chiseled and achieves a poetic dimension. Unforgettable characters and universal themes will speak to all readers who seek truth and beauty in their literature. In this dazzling novel you will find the entirety of human experience--tearshed, bloodshed, lust, love--in staggering proportions. Although written by an East African, Dust is not just for Afrophiles. It is for bibliophiles. Akai-ma ranks among the most inimitable female characters in modern literature.

Chapter 6 : Dust by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor

Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor was born in Kenya. She won the Caine Prize and is a past recipient of a Chevening Scholarship and an Iowa Writers' Fellowship. She was named Woman of the Year by Eve magazine in Kenya in for her contribution to the country's literature and arts.

Chapter 7 : BBC Radio 4 - Open Book, Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor on her novel Dust

This winter offers an unusually rich bounty of novels about Africa. "Radiance of Tomorrow," Ishmael Beah's gracious story of rebuilding a village in Sierra Leone, was just the beginning.

Chapter 8 : Bookshots: 'Dust' by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor | LitReactor

A brutal death in Nairobi prompts a reunion of the victim's family and unlocks a host of troubling memories. The center of Owuor's moody debut novel is Ajany, a young woman who returns to her family's northern Kenya homestead from Brazil after learning that her brother Odidi has been gunned.

Chapter 9 : "Dust"™ by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor " review

Dust, Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor's absorbing first novel - which has been shortlisted for the Folio prize - is set against the backdrop of the presidential and parliamentary elections in.