

Nigerian short story writer is Oprah Book Club pick

Written by GIN

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(GIN) – For the first time, a collection of short stories has been selected by talk show host Oprah Winfrey for her book club. She said the stories, by Nigerian author Uwem Akpan, “left me stunned and profoundly moved.”

The collection, *Say You’re One of Them*, published in 2008, includes five separate stories that capture the resilience of children caught in the tragedies that have lately befallen the continent, from AIDS to genocide to the comparatively banal business of grinding poverty.

Akpan, who runs a parish in Lagos, was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 2003 and received his master’s degree in creative writing from the University of Michigan in 2006.

“Fiction that gives the children of Africa a voice is the heart and soul of this book,” wrote Juliana Davidson in her online review. “These are voices that are difficult to listen to from our sheltered lives. This book is for anyone who ever said, ‘Why didn’t I ever hear about this?’ upon discovering an injustice in this world.”