

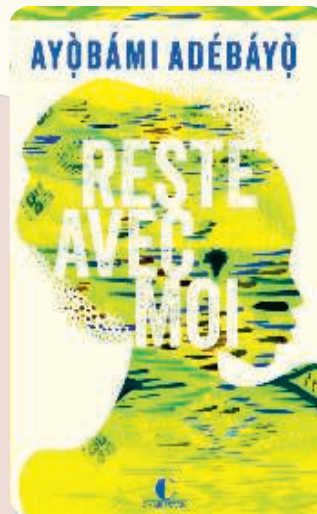


## PRESS RELEASE

Ecublens, november 27, 2020

**The 2020 "LES AFRIQUES" Prize is awarded to the Nigerian writer AYÒBÁMI ADÉBÀYÒ for her novel *RESTE AVEC MOI (STAY WITH ME)***

We are pleased to announce the fifth edition of the literary prize "LES AFRIQUES" is awarded to the nigerian novelist **Ayòbámi ADÉBÀYÒ** for her novel entitled *RESTE AVEC MOI (STAY WITH ME)*. This novel was first published in English under the title "Stay with me". Secondly, it was translated into French by Josette CHICHEPORTICHE and published by Charleston Editions in 2019.



The work mainly evokes the following themes: marriage, family, patriarchal mentalities and traditions, sterility, mourning and loneliness. It plunges us into the intimate universe of the two main characters, **Akin** and **Yedidje**. The story takes place in the **eighties in Nigeria, a double political and social violence** will put love in this relationship under severe test.

### Testimonial

Ugandan writer **Jennifer Makumbi** (short list Prize Les Afriques 2020) said about "Stay with me", "*it was a compulsive reading, Ayobami ADÉBÀYÒ is just impressive. She is an outstanding storyteller!* ».

Literary columnist **Michiko Kakutani** (New York Times) also praised the novel. She said Ayobami **ADÉBÀYÒ** is "**an exceptional storyteller,**" adding: "**She writes not only with extraordinary grace, but also with genuine wisdom about love, grief and redemption. She wrote a powerful, magnetic and heartbreaking book**".

### Biography and background

**Ayòbámi ADÉBÀYÒ** was born in Lagos in 1988. Passionate about storytelling since her early childhood, she has been writing short stories since the age of nine, inspired by the oral tradition tales so dear to the Nigerian culture.

She studied English literature at the Obafemi Awolowo University of Ile - Ife in Nigeria.

At 19 years old, she participated in a writing workshop organized by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in Lagos. This workshop had a huge impact on her willingness to write fiction. She lives mainly in Nigeria.

*Stay with me* is her first novel.

# THE LITERARY PRIZE LES AFRIQUES

The literary prize " **LES AFRIQUES** " was created in 2015 by the association of readers LA CENE Littéraire. This prize is awarded once a year to an **African or Afro-descendant writer of fiction**.

This fiction must highlight a **human, societal, ideological, political, cultural, economic or even historical cause** of the moment related to Africa or its diaspora.

This prize includes a **cash award of €5300, a work of art worth €3500, the purchase of 100 copies of winning book or the acquisition of the rights** of the winning book for the geographical area of French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa.

## JURY

This year 2020, jury **chaired by Professor Ambroise KOM** was also composed of :

- **Boubacar Boris DIOP** (novelist, professor of literature)
- **Koulsy LAMKO** (novelist, professor of literature)
- **Bourahima OUATTARA** (writer, professor of literature)
- **Sada KANE** (journalist, literary critic, literary promoter)
- **Hortense SIME** (doctor, passionate about literature)

## THE SHORTLIST

The members of the jury praised the remarkable quality of the books shortlisted for the 2020 edition, namely:

- ***The Confessions of Frannie Langton*** ,  
Sara Collins, Jamaica  
translated from English by Charles Recoursé.  
(Éditions Belfond)



- ***Red Emperor***,  
Léonora Miano, Cameroon  
( Éditions Bernard Grasset )



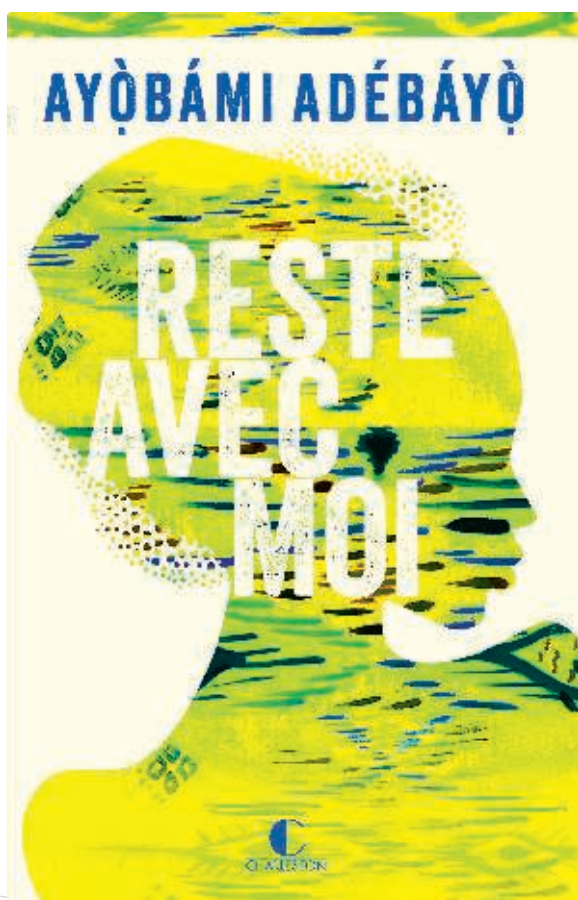
- ***Love, Homeland and Crab Soup***  
Johary Ravaloson, Madagascar  
(Éditions Dodo Vole)



- ***Kintu***,  
Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi Ouganda  
translated from English by Céline Schwaller  
(Éditions Métailié)



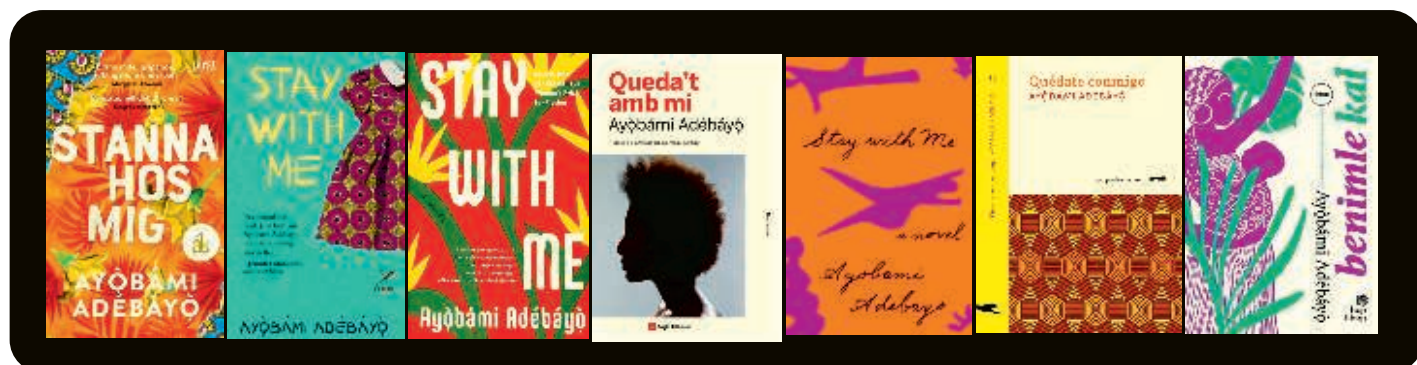
## About *Reste avec moi*



This celebrated, unforgettable first novel, shortlisted for the prestigious Women's Prize for Fiction and set in Nigeria, gives voice to both husband and wife as they tell the story of their marriage--and the forces that threaten to tear it apart.

Yejide and Akin have been married since they met and fell in love at university. Though many expected Akin to take several wives, he and Yejide have always agreed: polygamy is not for them. But four years into their marriage--after consulting fertility doctors and healers, trying strange teas and unlikely cures--Yejide is still not pregnant. She assumes she still has time--until her family arrives on her doorstep with a young woman they introduce as Akin's second wife. Furious, shocked, and livid with jealousy, Yejide knows the only way to save her marriage is to get pregnant, which, finally, she does--but at a cost far greater than she could have dared to imagine. An electrifying novel of enormous emotional power, *Stay with Me* asks how much we can sacrifice for the sake of family.

This critically acclaimed debut novel has been translated and published in 18 languages in various countries such as **the United States, England, Kenya, Brazil, Finland, Israel, etc..**





We remind you that the winners of the previous editions of literary prize "

Les AFRIQUES" were :

- 2016 Edition : Hemley Boum, *Les Maquisards*, La Cheminante, 2015\*
- 2017 Edition : Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin, *Le Messie du Darfour*, Zulma, 2016
- 2018 Edition : Kei Miller, *By the rivers of Babylon*, Zulma, 2017
- 2019 Edition : Elnathan John, *Né un mardi*, 2018



## A PROPOS DE LA CENE LITTÉRAIRE

La CENE littéraire is a non-profit association founded on 1 July 2015 by Flore Agnès NDA ZOA MEILTZ (Cameroonian and Swiss lawyer established in Switzerland) and registered in the Commercial Register of the Canton of Vaud under number CHE-256.373.796.

This association develops numerous initiatives to promote African and Afro-descendant literature, including:

- > A literary prize: Le Prix LES AFRIQUES
- > A literary residency in Cameroon
- > Financial assistance for literary projects
- > Literary cafés
- > The active promotion of books through different communication networks
- >> [www.cene.lacnelitteraire.com](http://www.cene.lacnelitteraire.com)
- >> Facebook (21 890 abonné-es) : <https://www.facebook.com/lacnelitteraire/>
- >> Instagram (954 abonné-es) : <https://www.instagram.com/lacnelitteraire/?hl=fr>
- >> Twitter (295 abonné-es) : <https://twitter.com/lacnelitterair>
- >> Une chaîne YouTube : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/lacnelitteraire>

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[cene.lacnelitteraire.com](http://cene.lacnelitteraire.com)

**LaCeneLittéraire**  
*Lecteurs engagés!*