

Rejection



Mariama Bâ

About the writer:

Born: 17 April 1929, Dakar, Senegal

Died: 17 August 1981 (aged 52), Paris,
France

Resting place: unknown

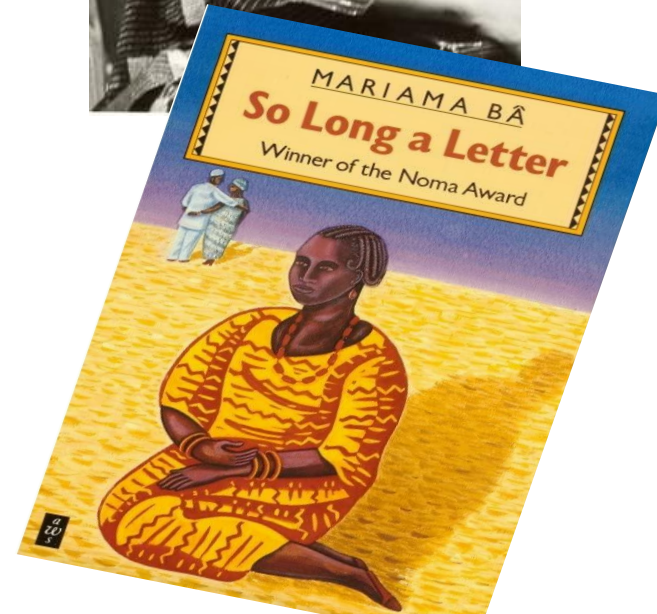
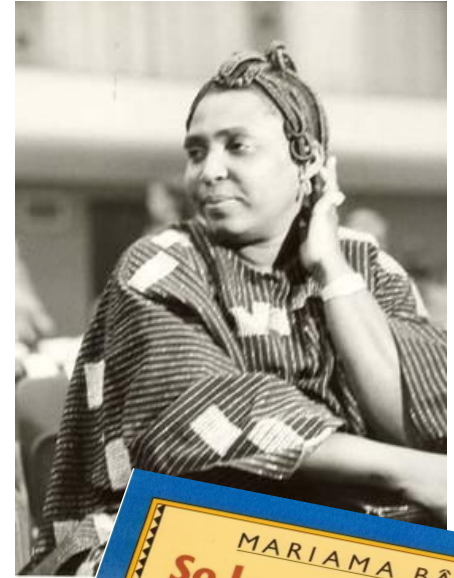
Occupation: Author

Language: French

Nationality: Senegalese

Citizenship: Senegal

Genre: novel



Title

Rejection

 /ˌɪdʒˈɛkʃən/

 /ˌɪˈdʒɛkʃən/, /ɪˈdʒɛkʃən/

[NOUN]

The action of refusing to approve, accept, consider or support something.



Source: <https://dictionary.langeek.co/en/word/153078?entry=rejection>

Senegal Culture

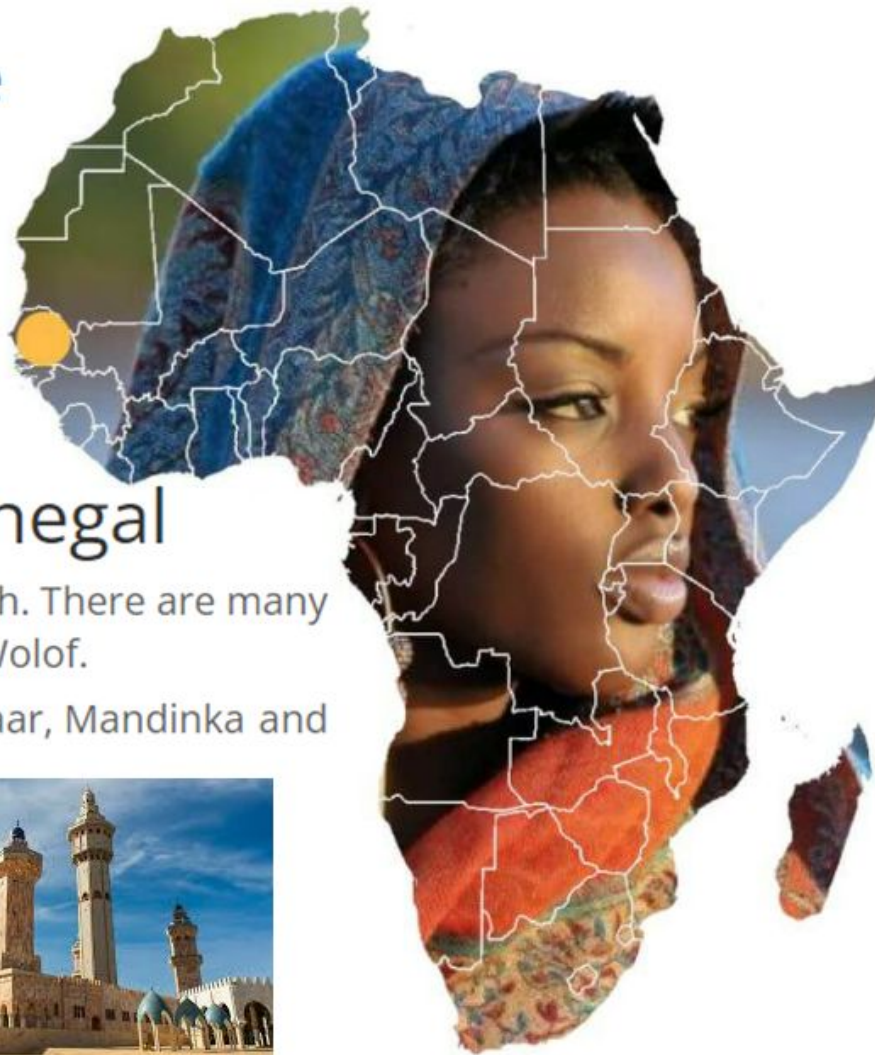
Religion in Senegal

Around 95% Muslim,
4% Christian and a minority
holds traditional beliefs.

Language in Senegal

The official language is French. There are many
local languages, principally Wolof.

Other languages include Pulaar, Mandinka and
Balanta-Ganja.



3. Climax

Narrator and daughter experience shock and rejection – father's new wife, Binetou

Falling Action

Husband dies – his elder brother proposes marriage to the narrator. Narrator rejects the proposal

2. Rising Action

father-in-law inappropriate relationship with daughter's best friend.
Binetou transforms – wears

5. Resolution

Narrator regains her power/ independence

PLOT

The structure or organization of events that make up a fictional story.

1. Exposition

expensive
Binetou, Daba's classmate, visits frequently. She is young, beautiful, poor

Characters

- **The narrator**
 - Emotionally strong/ faithful wife
 - Rejected by her husband's after 25 years of marriage.
 - Shocked/ disappointed by his marriage to Binetou, their daughter's friend.
 - Blames herself for her failed marriage
 - Dependent on her husband
 - Revengeful at the end of the story – rejects her

- **Daba** (the narrator's daughter)
 - Supportive; caring; protective of her mother
 - Opposed to her father's second marriage to Binetou – “her pride wounded”
- **Modou** (the narrator's husband)
 - Has an inappropriate relationship with Binetou
 - A sugar-daddy:
 - buys her new clothes
 - promises to send her parents to Mecca
 - Promises her a beautiful house

- **Binetou** (Daba's friend)
 - Young; beautiful; shy; naïve; poor
 - Untrustworthy; betrays her friend
 - Sees marriage to Modou as her only way out of poverty – easily impressed by Modou's promises.
- **Binetou's mother**
 - Manipulative; desperate; poor
 - Encouraged Binetou's marriage to Modou
 - Recorded the marriage as a "success" from

- **Tamsir** (Modou's elder brother)
 - Supported Modou's marriage to Binetou
 - Later claimed to have advised Modou against the marriage
 - Proposed marriage to the narrator after his brother's death
 - An opportunist – tells the narrator she is his good luck charm
- **Mawdo** (Father's faithful friend)

– Supported Modou's second marriage

- **Imam**
 - Supported and justified Modou's second marriage
- **Aunty Aissatou**
 - Experienced a similar crisis in her marriage

Themes:

o Cultural and religious practices

- As an Islamic wife, the narrator is submissive
- The narrator mourns the passing of her husband – observes th



Themes:

o Broken relationships

- The narrator's relationship with her husband is shaken when he marries a second wife without consulting her.
- Daba's friendship with Binetou ends when she becomes her step-daughter.
- The narrator's relationship with her in-laws are shaken when she witnesses her husband's marriage.



Themes:

o Betrayal

- Modou betrays his wife and daughter
- Takes a second wife without consulting his wife
- Daba is betrayed by her close friend, Binetou



o Abuse

- Binetou's mother abuses her daughter when she

Themes:

o Gender inequality

- Modou dominates his marriage
- Treats his wife as an object
- No respect to females
- Exploits the young Binetoun



Figurative language:

- **Simile** – “as if the words were glowing embers in his mouth.” (Page 53)
- **Metaphor** – “the thorns thus removed from the way”. (Page 53)
- **Metaphor** – “Binetou, like many others, was a lamb slaughtered on the altar of affluence”. (Page 55)
- **Metaphor** – “Binetou was a lamb who had a...” (Page 55)

