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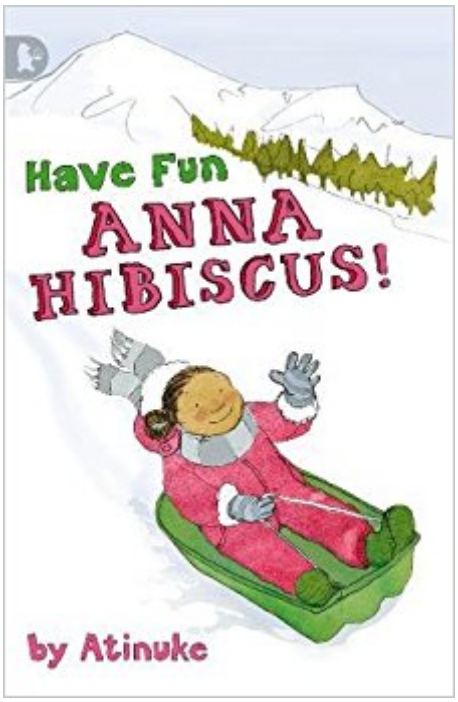
Have Fun, Anna Hibiscus!



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Synopsis

Anna Hibiscus lives in Africa. Amazing Africa.Anna Hibiscus has never been away from her home in Africa, surrounded by her parents and baby brothers, as well as all of her aunts and uncles and cousins. But now she is going to Canada to visit her grandmother for Christmas. She has never met Granny Canada and she can’t wait to see snow! Canada is very cold and it takes Anna a little while to get used to wearing lots of clothes and eating different types of food. She also has to get used to Granny’s dog, Qimmac. And though she misses her brothers and cousins, Anna soon makes lots of friends and has a wonderful time playing with them in the snow and celebrating Christmas with Granny Canada.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born in Nigeria, Atinuke grew up in both Africa and the UK and is now a professional storyteller living in Wales. Her first book, Anna Hibiscus, was published in October 2007 and was inspired by the Africa of her childhood.Lauren Tobia worked as an intensive care nurse for many years before taking a foundation course and gaining a degree in illustration at the University of the West of England in Bristol. She lives in Bristol with her family.

Wonderful early chapter book for girls and boys. My 3.5-year-old daughter loves these books and I do too. Positive portrayals of family, friends and different cultures. Interesting content--I am happy to

reread these books as my daughter requests.

We love Anna Hibiscus! I’m so sad this series is not more readily available here in the US. I hope it is reprinted, so more people can enjoy these lovely books!

Love this series, a must for kids. Shows a loving, warm family in Africa. Pictures are sweet. Good multicultural family story.

Anna Hibiscus lives in a lovely old house in Africa with her twin baby brothers (aptly named Double and Trouble), parents, aunties, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. With all these people, Anna is never lonely, and everyone does what they can to contribute to the needs of the household. Their compound, which encloses the most beautiful garden that Anna has ever seen, is nestled in a busy city filled with markets, lagoons, roads, skyscrapers, and shanty towns.In this setting, Anna navigates through a series of adventures and learning moments that take her anywhere from the garden to the market and well beyond, even to Canada where her mother was born. Each of these adventures is described as a short story in a series of four books.This fourth installment in the series sees Anna embarking on her much-anticipated month-long voyage to Canada to visit her grandmother. Anna experiences a roller coaster of emotions, including great sadness in saying goodbye to her family, sheer excitement from seeing and feeling snow for the first time, and utter panic in facing a dog inside of grandmother’s house. She does not know what to feel when a group of children invite her to join them for skating and sledding. They seem to be interested in her only because she is from Africa, not because she is Anna Hisbiscus. Anna will have to speak her mind and let them know she does not want to be prejudged before she can truly enjoy herself in these new winter activities.The book series is written by a gifted story-teller, Nigerian-born Atinuke, and illustrated by Lauren Tobia with an abundance of expressive sketches. Many of the stories include some sort of an economics theme, including the role of markets, the contrast between abject poverty and wealth, and the gender division of labor within the home. Although the author does not specify which country Anna is from, which could contribute to unrealistic generalizations, the books provide young readers with a unique view of the wonders of life in a large extended family in an urban African context.

This charming series features easy to read, realistic fiction short stories about Anna Hibiscus, an earnest and funny little girl growing up in "Africa. Amazing Africa." She lives with her parents, her

extended family, and her two baby twin brothers who simply go by the names, "Double" and "Trouble."In this set of adventures, Anna is off to Canada to visit with her white grandmother. She has never seen snow before, is frightened of Grandma Canada's pet dog, isn't sure if she'll be able to stomach foreign food, and initially doesn't get along with the other kids in town. Everything resolves happily, of course, when Anna discovers that she loves playing in snow and Grandma's dog Qimmiq is able to come to her rescue when she finds herself lodged in a snowbank. While nothing will ever replace the tasty African food she is used to, Anna Hibiscus finds traditional Canadian Christmas food delicious too, and eventually comes to befriend the neighbor kids.While the book never explicitly states what country Anna Hibiscus lives in, or how old she is, I have to assume that she is probably a first-grader, and writer Atinuke says she was inspired by her own childhood growing up in Nigeria. The appealing illustrations which decorate nearly every page and large type make for a comfortable read for readers new to chapter books. I will put this series into the hands of children who are hungry for stories with black characters that are not set during the Civil War, or the 1960's. Warm, relateable, and unique, Anna Hibiscus is certain to take her rightful place beside Junie B. Jones, Clementine, Ruby Lu, Ramona and other classic early middle-grade fiction.

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