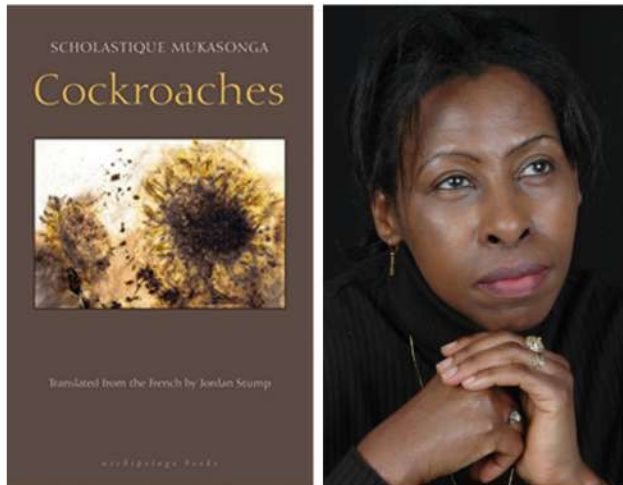


# Why you should read Scholastique Mukasonga's *Cockroaches*

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Scholastique Mukasonga, a Rwandan writer, occupies a significant place and stance in today's literary world, especially in Africa, emerging as a potent and strong voice that shines a light on Rwanda's heart-breaking and incredibly powerful history as well as showcasing the indomitable and unbeatable spirit of the Rwandan population. The Book I will discuss here is *Cockroaches*, a memoir. The narrative explores Mukasonga's past and how it has affected her up to the present day as well. The book also sheds light on Mukasonga's family, and their life before and during the Rwandan Genocide.

The profound importance and significance of *Cockroaches* lies in its ability to understand and humanize the victims of the

Rwandan genocide, a certain population whose voices have often been silenced. Mukasonga's narrative serves as a conduit for the Rwandan community as it transports readers into the heart of Rwanda and the lives of Rwandans. As part of the Tutsi minority, Mukasonga and her family were forced to endure the brutality of the genocide. This was portrayed through her vivid and natural storytelling.

The effects of *Cockroaches* reaches beyond the book itself, advocating for readers to think about, and face, the harsh truths of genocide. Mukasonga shows the victims as real, living people not just numbers. This allows the reader to grieve over real individuals. The story reminds us of the terrible things that happened and why it's vital to remember and learn from them, so we can create a solution or prevent problems occurring in the future. Furthermore, Mukasonga's writings show how storytelling can help heal and bring people together. It makes people think about Rwanda's difficult past and what the future might bring. *Cockroaches* is important for anyone who wants to understand Rwanda better and learn from its history to make the world a fairer and kinder place.

Scholastique Mukasonga was born in Rwanda in 1956. As a Tutsi, she was a victim of ethnic conflicts and had to leave for Burundi in 1959 like many Tutsi Rwandans at that time. Afterward, she moved to France, where she worked in

social services and started writing. Her writing about Rwanda's past and culture has earned her awards, like the Prix Renaudot for her book *Our Lady of the Nile*.

### Other notable works by Scholastique Mukasonga

