

P.p1 fail his  
expectations. kambili  
becomes an

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0px; font: 11. 5px ' Times New Roman'} Purple Hibiscus is a coming-of-age novel centered around fifteen-year-old Kambili Achike's development from a child to a mature woman. Kambili and her brother Jaja are very quiet and withdrawn children. As it is revealed later, this is due to them being regularly physically and emotionally abused by their religious father Eugene. He happens to be a public defender of freedom of speech and social justice in Nigeria and a corruption fighter, although at the same time he is a tyrannical father and husband. Apart from that, his obsession with discipline and his religious fanaticism forces his children and his wife Beatrice to sever contacts with the outside world.

Kambili focuses only on achieving the highest grades at schools, fulfilling her father's exacting tasks and a time-consuming schedule. She becomes obsessed with satisfying her father and terrified when she happens to fail his expectations. Kambili becomes an outsider at her school and is considered a snob among the children of the same age. Eugene is a very prominent person who owns a pro-democracy newspaper and generously donates to his parish, schools and also people in need. He is extremely popular with people, celebrated for his generosity and is regarded as a synonym for justice in Nigeria despite the fact that he uses his masculine power to control his family members and often uses violence to achieve his goals.

For Christmas, the family usually goes to Abba, their ancestral town. Eugene allows his children to see their grandfather, Papa-Nnukwu only for fifteen minutes every time because he considers him to be a heathen, still following

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nonsense Igbo traditions. The children also visit their Auntie Ifeoma's family in Nsukka, where they get to know an utterly different family environment, full of laughter and noise and freedom, respect and intellectual curiosity which auntie Ifeoma, Eugene's sister, supports to a great degree. Ifeoma teaches their children to question everything, not to simply accept what they are told. Kambili and Jaja's lives start to change after their stay in Nsukka. Kambili also meets Father Amadi, a Catholic priest, who she falls in love with. Thanks to him, her cousin Amaka and Auntie Ifeoma, who is a role model for her, Kambili learns about her African Igbo identity and becomes more confident and aware of herself. Meanwhile, Ade Cooker, Eugene's co-worker, is murdered.

Eugene gets stressed and is under constant pressure. When he finds out that Kambili owns a painting of her heathen father, he brutally beats her. She ends up in hospital. Auntie Ifeoma decides to take the children to her house and they spend some time there. Eugene also attacks his wife who has a miscarriage. Beatrice always excuses Eugene for his brutal and violent actions but then the readers learn about her killing him by poisoning his tea. Her son, Jaja, takes the blame for the murder upon himself and is then sent to prison. Only after Jaja's release can the family finally live freely and be satisfied.

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