

Synopsis

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi is a novel about the Atlantic slave trade and its aftermath. The story begins with two half-sisters that were born in different tribes. In Ghana, both were born in the eighteenth century. Effia was born in the Fante tribe in the night when the village was on fire, and later left by her biological mother Maame. Esi was born in the Asante tribe and grew up by the love of her family until twelve. The two have contrasting destinies. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold with thousands of others into the Gold Coast's booming slave trade, and shipped off to America, where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery. One line of *Homegoing* follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana, incorporated with slave trade and British colonization. The other line follows Esi and her children into America.

Generation after generation, Yaa Gyasi's first novel sets the fate of the individual against the obliterating movements of time. It tells a story about how each of the descendant's lives go through the time and major historical events. Until one day, Effia and Esi's descendants are reunited by a black stone that Maame had left to Effia and Esi. The novel delivers unforgettable characters whose lives were shaped by historical forces beyond their control. *Homegoing* is a breathtaking read written by an amazing woman.