

FAMILY FIRST



Born in Nguithie, a village near the town of Bambey in Senegal, Gorgui DIENG was a primary school teacher, and then a secondary school teacher. Now a full professor of African literature and civilization at the Dakar Cheikh Anta DIOP University and Director of the Laboratory of African and Postcolonial Studies, the author has written several journal articles, a book-length literary essay on Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong'O and George Orwell, a novel in English (*A Leap Out of the Dark*, translated into French by the author as *Un saut hors des ténèbres*) and an English grammar book (*Leçons d'anglais pour francophones*).

Family First is a novel that depicts the sometimes conflicting destinies of many individuals from different backgrounds ; which results in the presence of a plurality of central characters and of stories that revolve around the many realities of modern Senegalese society and family, including emigration and its many negative consequences on the immigrants and their families.

Being economic immigrants in Italy, and totally disoriented and gnawed by male jealousy, Samba and his friend Demba, stealthily and separately, hurry back home, after hearing doubtful information about the pregnancy, in their absence, of their respective women, Kumba and Nogy.

In fact, tired of having been severed from their husbands for very long years, the two ladies hatch a plan to win them back... Their coming back home is a mixture of surprise and happiness, even for the deceived husbands, who forgive their wives and decide to stay in the country and make a living there.

Alasaan, the hidden son of Samba born on the wrong side of his Italian mother's bed, discovers Senegal with Clara, a young Italian lady whom he met on a flight between Milan and Lagos. He decides to settle in Senegal, his father's country, after being warmly welcomed and adopted by his paternal family. He severely castigates his maternal family that has never accepted him because of his skin colour, but also the American society for its spitting at the white in the black.

In Dakar from Lagos to reunite himself with her fiancé Birima, Clara discovers that the latter is now a married man and the father of a baby boy. Devastated, she suddenly returns to Italy, leaving her friend Alasaan behind. And Clara's mother, who has a terminal cancer, dies shortly after her arrival home. She immediately calls Alasaan to inform him about her desire to marry him after making him understand, during their stay in Lagos, that she was only actually interested in him because of his resemblance to the one she really loves : Birima.

While Alasaan is being pompously celebrated by his paternal family discovered almost at random, in Italy, a group of Senegalese immigrants are victims of a gun woman named... Carla.



PRESSES UNIVERSITAIRES DE DAKAR

ISBN : 978-2-36895-050-0



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