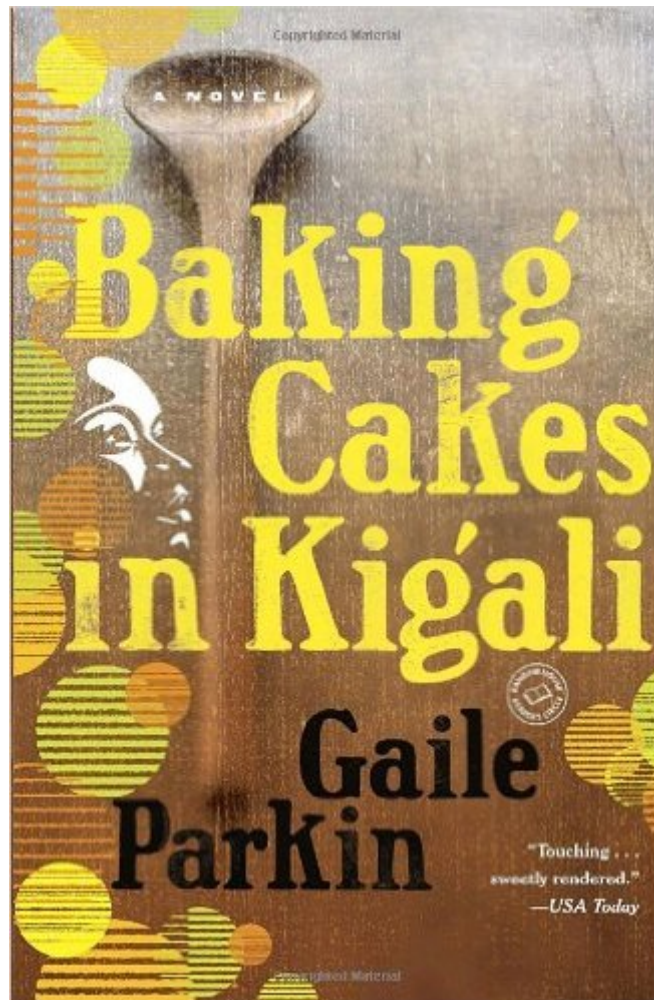


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Baking Cakes In Kigali: A Novel



Synopsis

Look for the discussion guide inside. This soaring novel introduces us to Angel Tungaraza: mother, cake baker, pillar of her community, keeper of secrets big and small. Angelâ€™s kitchen is an oasis in the heart of Rwanda, where visitors stop to order cakes but end up sharing their stories, transforming their lives, leaving with new hope. In this vibrant, powerful setting, unexpected things are beginning to happen: A most unusual wedding is planned, a heartbreaking mystery involving Angelâ€™s own family unravels, and extraordinary connections are madeâ€”as a chain of events unfolds that will change Angelâ€™s life and the lives of those around her in the most astonishing ways.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I only bought this book because I've been sponsoring a boy in Rwanda for some years. Most of what I hear about Rwanda relates to the genocide, but I am curious to learn more about what might be happening in that extraordinary part of the world. In describing the fictional lives of people who currently live in Kigali, as motley a crowd as one might expect in any capital city these days, Gaile Parkin, through the voice and perceptions of Angel, presents a tapestry of the socio-cultural issues that I feel plausibly exists there these days. Ascribing excellent cake-making skills to Angel gives Parkin the requisite entree to people of all social strata in her community, and to raise a large number of issues that are problematic in many areas of the world, including the Western part, where I live - all of which invoke not only of Rwanda's horrific recent history but also deal with the matter of

inclusion/exclusion that caused the genocide there and continues to fuel suspicion, fear, hostility, and violence all over the world. Parkin touches tellingly on a large number and wide range of troubling and contentious social issues that exist just as much in Western industrialized countries as they do in the Kigali environment that forms the locus of her novel, such as the introduction of Muslim religious views and cultural practices, homosexuality, prostitution, infidelity, female circumcision, AIDS, and much more as just what being part of the human variety entails among her wide circle of friends and acquaintances in a newly formed multi-cultural, urban environment.

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