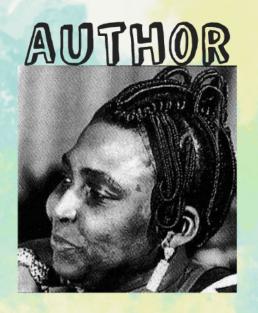




so long to singlestop? (A)



- April 17, 1929 August 17, 1981
- Born in Dakar, Senegal
- Received education in French
- After mother's death, she was raised by her maternal grandparents
- Attended Koranic school
- Muslim

AUTHOR



- Criticized what she perceived as inequalities between the sexes resulting from African traditions
- Married and eventually divorced a member of the Senegalese Parliament, left to care for their 9 kids
- Died from a chronic illness

SO LONG A LETTER

- Written in letter/diary form
 (Madame de Sévigné/Mistress
 Henley) from the perspective of a
 widow, Ramatoulaye, to her
 childhood friend, Aissatou who lives
 in the U.S.
- Received the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa the year of her death
- Recognizes the immense contributions African women have made and continue to make in the building of their societies

SO LONG A LETTER Thecasesolutions.com • Women not allowed to control their own

- Women not allowed to control their own destiny
- Women are incredibly strong, stronger than perhaps any we have encountered this semester.
- Men's irresponsibility depicted through sexual instincts
- Men feast upon bestial instinct, but
 Mariama Ba believed that a man's
 instinct is "through his self-control, his
 ability, to reason, to choose his power to
 attachment, that individual distinguishes
 himself from animal."
- Joy Luck Club

SO 10

Thecase

Mariama

"has not given up Despite everythir humiliations) hop success of a natio families."

> she also shows tha peaceful weapon p

so long a letter

Thecasesolutions.com

Mariama Ba's lives through her novel
"has not given up waiting to refashion her life.

Despite everything (disappointment and humiliations) hope still lives within her... the success of a nation depends inevitably on just such families."

She also shows that books can be a weapon, "a peaceful weapon perhaps, but they are weapon."

AISSATOU

Ramatoulaye's best friend, to whom the letter is addressed She divorced Mawdo because she did not believe in polygamy; she left him a letter explaining her actions and

She is well off and bought Ramatoulaye a car Her divorce is symbolic because it represents a new life for

She later leaves Senegal with her four sons and moves to the United States to start over. She succeeds in making a

ew life for herself.

RAMATOULAYE

Thecasesolutions.com

- Widowed Senegalese woman
- Narrates the story of her psychological abandonment by her husband, who takes a second wife.
- Physically distances herself from Modou who dies four years after this second marriage.
- Turns down two other marriage proposals.
- · She is well educated and teaches at a university.
- After her husband's second marriage, she must support her family, including her 9 children, after her husband cuts off family ties and financial support.

BIR

foung girl around Ramatoulaye and Modou despite his Ramatoulaye alre Grew up in povert Wanted to live the

unable to do.

Became an outcas
younger couples of

 Ex-husbane
 After being follows Mu young girl r cousin.
 After his m wife] divorce
 He is Mode

THEMES

n - revolves around the erment of the female in a patriarcha equal opportunity for both sexes

minism - acknowledgment that of color have been oppressed by

MODOU

- The husband of Ramatoulaye and of Binetou.
- Well educated, handsome, and charming.
- Out of selfishness, he marries Binetou and cuts ties with his children and first wife, Ramatoulaye.
- He later dies of a heart attack.