



Love Is Power, or Something Like That: Stories

A. Igoni Barrett

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Vivid, powerful stories of contemporary Nigeria, from a talented young author

* An NPR, *Flavorwire*, and *Largehearted Boy* Best Book of the Year * *One of the Millions's Most Anticipated Books of 2013* *

When it comes to love, things are not always what they seem. In contemporary Lagos, a young boy may pose as a woman online, and a maid may be suspected of sleeping with her employer and yet still become a young wife's confidante. Men and women can be objects of fantasy, the subject of beery soliloquies. They can be trophies or status symbols. Or they can be overwhelming in their need.

In the wide-ranging stories in *Love Is Power, or Something Like That*, A. Igoni Barrett roams the streets with people from all stations of life. A man with acute halitosis navigates the chaos of the Lagos bus system. A minor policeman, full of the authority and corruption of his uniform, beats his wife. A family's fortunes fall from love and wealth to infidelity and poverty as poor choices unfurl over three generations. With humor and tenderness, Barrett introduces us to an utterly modern Nigeria, where desire is a means to an end, and love is a power as real as money.



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