Twin sisters Hassana and Husseina's home is in ruins after a brutal raid. This is not the end but the beginning of their story, one that will take them to unfamiliar cities and cultures, where they will forge new families, ward off dangers and truly begin to know themselves.

As the twins pursue separate paths in Brazil and the Gold Coast of West Africa, they remain connected through shared dreams of water. But will their fates ever draw them back together? A sweeping adventure with richly evocative historical settings, The Deep Blue Between is a moving story of the bonds that can endure even the most dramatic change.

About the Author

Ayesha Harruna Attah grew up in Accra, Ghana, and was educated at Mount Holyoke College, Columbia University, and New York University.

She is the author of the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize nominated Harmattan Rain, Saturday Shadows, The Hundred Wells of Salaga - currently translated into four languages and finalist of the William Saroyan Writing Prize - and the YA novel The Deep Blue Between. Her romcom debut novel Zainab Takes New York is coming out in 2021.

Her writing has appeared in the New York Times, New York Times Magazine, Elle Italia, Asymptote Magazine, and the 2010 Caine Prize Writers’ Anthology. Attah is an Instituto Sacatar Fellow and was awarded the 2016 Miles Morland Foundation Scholarship for non-fiction.

She lives in Senegal.

About the Book

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Other books by the author

Harmattan Rain
Saturday Shadows
The Hundred Wells of Salaga
Zainab Takes New York (coming August 2021)
Discussion points

- Hassana might not believe in Vitória's religion but she does believe in their connection as twins. Discuss the strength of their bond and whether you believe it is spiritual, physical, fate, luck or something else.

- Hassana’s story is told in the first person and Husseina's in the third person. What do you think this reveals about each of their characters?

- Going forwards from the end of the book, do you think the twins separation will be a strength or a weakness for them? What did they learn about each other in their years apart?

- Discuss the idea of sadness being used as a motivating and powerful force. Do you believe emotions can be used as a stimulus?

- There are a lot of strong, female characters in the novel, some of whom act as mother-figures to Hassana and Husseina. How important is this message of female support in the book? Do the boys and men in the book differ? For instance, Richard, and Joaquim.

- The 'deep blue' of the title refers to the sea which separates the twins for much of the novel. What role does the ocean play in Hassana and Husseina's story?

Suggested further reading

* Paradise* by Toni Morrison

* Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi

* The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

* Riot Baby* by Tochi Onyebuchi

* On Wilder Seas* by Nikki Marmery

Useful Links

Visit Ayesha's website at [https://www.ayeshaattah.com](https://www.ayeshaattah.com)

Learn more about some of Ayesha's top books with [The Reading Lists](#)

Read this Q&A with Ayesha on the [African Words website](#)

In interview with Ayesha on the [For Colored Girls Book Club](#)

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