

# Author Spotlight: Tumisho Candice Aphane

We are excited to introduce our first Author Spotlight featuring Tumisho Candice Aphane, a young author whose compelling work, *An Anthology of an African Queen*, sheds light on the struggles faced by African women and children. Through her powerful poetry, Tumisho shares her personal experiences, aiming to inspire and create meaningful dialogue about domestic violence and bullying.

Reflecting on her inspiration, Tumisho shares, "What inspired me to create *An Anthology of an African Queen* was the situation I grew up in, whereas I witnessed domestic violence between my parents and I was bullied a lot at school." She connects the dots between these two challenges, stating, "It was as if the domestic violence exposed me to bullying. These two challenges crushed me mentally, and I lost myself for some years." Through her writing, she hopes to make a difference in the world, declaring, "I wanted my story to make a difference in the world. It means a lot to me personally because this is my identity."

In her anthology, Tumisho aims to reveal the profound struggles that African women endure. "My story is like a voice to the voiceless," she emphasizes. "Some women are not able to talk about such things like I managed to, so my story, which is in the form of poetry, is their voice and mine too." By sharing her narrative, she not only sheds light on her own experiences but also provides a platform for others who have suffered in silence.



Among the pieces in the anthology, Tumisho feels a particular connection to the poem "Imbokodo," which celebrates the strength of women. "I feel a connection to this one because I am a woman, so I know our struggles as women," she explains. Through this poem, she expresses a shared resilience, hoping that readers will find "closure, comfort, and healing."

The anthology goes beyond personal storytelling; it addresses critical societal issues. Tumisho states, "I see anthologies like mine breaking the stigma of how we used to live in the past. Here, I'm talking about discrimination against women." In her view, *An Anthology of an African Queen* stands as a call for equality and justice, reminding readers of the cultural narratives surrounding marriage and women's roles in society. "My anthology and those of others preserve culture by reminding us of the lives of our great parents and the life back then," she reflects.

While she may not have been influenced by specific writers, Tumisho draws inspiration from the stories of gender-based violence (GBV) and bullying she encounters daily. "The rising deaths of women and so on influenced my story and shaped it," she notes, highlighting the urgency of addressing these issues in her work.

Looking ahead, Tumisho has ambitious plans for her future projects. She hopes to adapt her anthology into other African languages and even produce a film that educates the world about the impacts of GBV and bullying on children. "That's a project I think we can all look forward to, including myself," she affirms.

*An Anthology of an African Queen* is not just a collection of poetry; it is a powerful movement toward healing and understanding, a beacon of hope for those who have felt voiceless. As Tumisho Candice Aphane shares her journey, she invites us all to listen and reflect on the strength that resides within each of us.

We are proud to support authors like Tumisho who courageously share their stories, inspiring change and fostering a community of understanding.

