



FRAUEN

*VOM MUT, DIE WELT
ZU VERÄNDERN*





An Ouled Nail girl, wearing a dowry of gold coins, stares into the camera. *Lehnherth & Landrock, Algeria, 1922*

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION BY SUSAN GOLDBERG 14

CHAPTER ONE JOY 22

CHAPTER TWO BEAUTY 88

PORTRAITS OF POWER 164

OPRAH WINFREY | SYLVIA EARLE | CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR
CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE | EMMA GONZALEZ
KRIS TOMPKINS | ZHANG XIN | NANCY PELOSI

CHAPTER THREE LOVE 198

CHAPTER FOUR WISDOM 258

PORTRAITS OF POWER 318

JANE GOODALL | TARANA BURKE | ELLEN PAO
JENNIFER DOUBNA | JACINDA ARDERN | ROXANNE GAY
TARA HOUSKA | CHRISTINE LAGARDE

CHAPTER FIVE STRENGTH 352

CHAPTER SIX HOPE 413

PORTRAITS OF POWER 472

ALEX MORGAN | ALICIA GARZA | MELINDA GATES
AMANI BALLOUR | GLORIA ALLRED | ASHA DE VOS
LAURA BUSH | DONNA STRICKLAND

CONTRIBUTORS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 502

IMAGE COLLECTION 508

ILLUSTRATIONS CREDITS 510



A woman draped head to toe in a red *chadri*—a traditional Islamic covering—carries goldfinches on her head in Kabul.
Thomas J. Abercrombie, Afghanistan, 1968



Almaz, 24, a fashionable project manager in Lagos, Nigeria, poses with her cigarette outside the African Artists's Foundation.
Robin Hammond, Nigeria, 2014

IN CONVERSATION WITH

CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, photographed by Erika Larsen, January 28, 2019.

“Unflinching, unswerving, fierce intellectual determination . . . to define the real truth of our lives”: That’s the high bar that playwright Harold Pinter set for writers in his 2005 Nobel acceptance speech. It’s also the criteria for awarding the annual PEN Pinter Prize, which in 2018 went to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The Nigerian novelist and essayist—whose books include *Purple Hibiscus*, *Half of a Yellow Sun*, *Americanah*, and *Dear Ijeawele*—has received honors such as the National Book Critics Circle award and a MacArthur Foundation “genius grant.” She’s a star to TED audiences; her 2012 TED Talk “We Should All Be Feminists” was made into a book. In accepting the Pinter prize, Adichie noted that she’s been criticized for her stances: championing women’s rights, decrying Nigeria’s criminalization of homosexuality. A journalist advised Adichie that her fans might prefer that she “shut up and write.” To date, she shows no sign of doing the former, and every intention of continuing the latter.

SUSAN GOLDBERG: What do you think is the most important challenge facing women today?

CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE: It’s really difficult to narrow it down to just one. I would say women’s autonomy over their bodies—and by this I mean a broad range of things. Not just reproductive rights, but including the scourge of domestic violence, and also the lack of proper legal protection for women globally.

SG: And what do you think is the most important thing that needs to change for women in the next few years?

CA: We need to have more women in positions of decision-making—politically, economically, in every way. More women’s representation will result in more diverse decisions, decisions that incorporate women’s experiences. I don’t think having women in

positions of power means that the world is going to be perfect or that conflict will be eradicated. It just means that the concerns of half of the world’s population will finally be center stage.

SG: What do you think is your own greatest strength?

CA: I think it’s maybe my ability to deal with complexity. That I am comfortable with gray, I don’t need for things to be white or black. I believe in nuance. I look at the world and know that it’s complex, and that things don’t have to be simple to be understood. And that I am not uncomfortable with things being complex and difficult. I think part of that is because of my socialization as a woman.

SG: Could you say more about that?

CA: Women are socialized to be carekeepers, to find ways to solve conflicts. Women are



THROUGH THE LENS

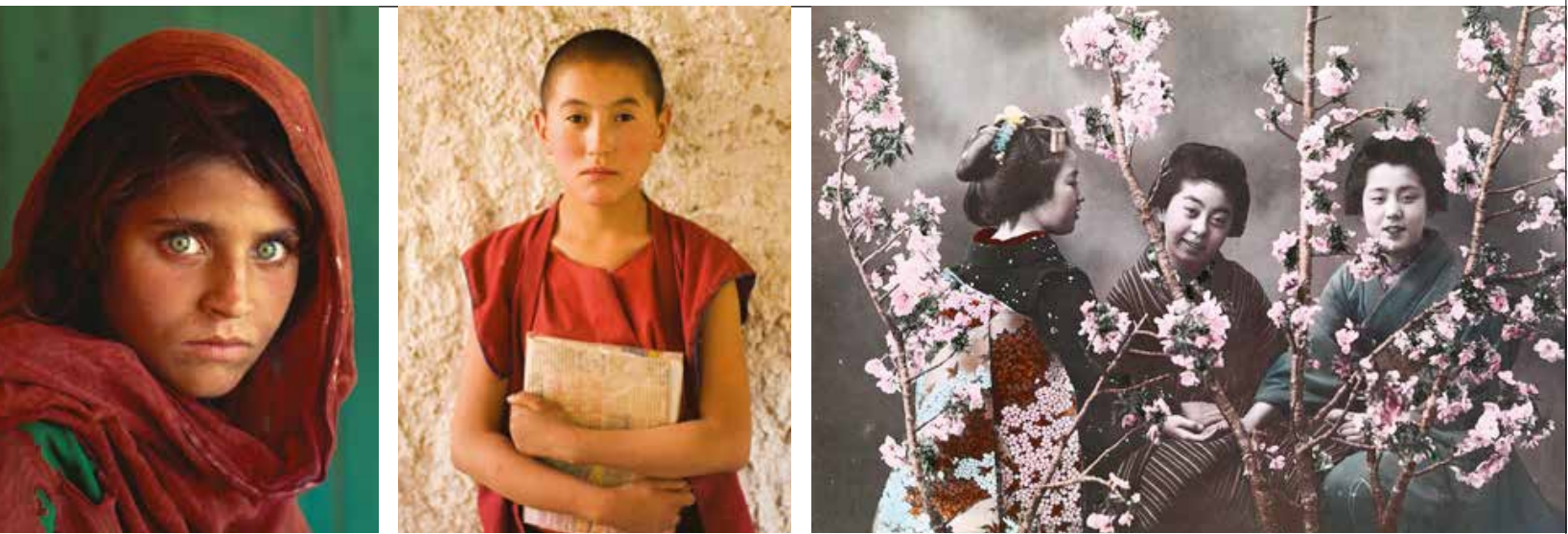
I've been on a mission to tell stories that remind us all of how much we share, rather than ones that emphasize our differences. Here, Mary Lengees, one of the first female elephant keepers at Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, caresses Suyian, the first sanctuary resident. Reteti lies in a thorny scrubland in northern Kenya and is saving elephant lives and women's lives. Run by the indigenous Samburu people, the sanctuary is breaking stereotypes and pushing the boundaries of women's traditional roles in Kenya; it has become a catalyst for changing the way communities view one another. (For instance, two young men recently traveled 12 hours by foot to the sanctuary because they had to see a woman with such an important job with their own eyes.) Photography is a powerful medium. It transcends language, creates understanding across cultures, and can make sense of our commonalities in this world we share. ■

AMI VITALE



Proving age is just a number, 79-year-old Foofie Harlan performs a headstand with her retirement community dance team.

Joanna B. Pinneo, Phoenix, Arizona



Die besten Frauenporträts aus der National-Geographic-Collection erstmals in einem opulenten Bildband

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Einflussreiche Persönlichkeiten wie Oprah Winfrey, Jane Goodall und Nancy Pelosi kommen in Interviews zu Wort und vermitteln ein Bild davon, mit wie viel Mut und Kraft Frauen weltweit dieses Jahrhundert prägen und mit gestalten. Die Zukunft ist weiblich!

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Susan Goldberg
FRAUEN
Vom Mut, die Welt zu verändern

400 Seiten, ca. 300 Abb., Format 24,3 x 30,6 cm
Hardcover mit Schutzumschlag
€ [D] 49,99 / € [A] 51,40 / sFr. 69,00
ISBN: 978-3-86690-701-0
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Verlag
Erscheinungstermin: Oktober 2019



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