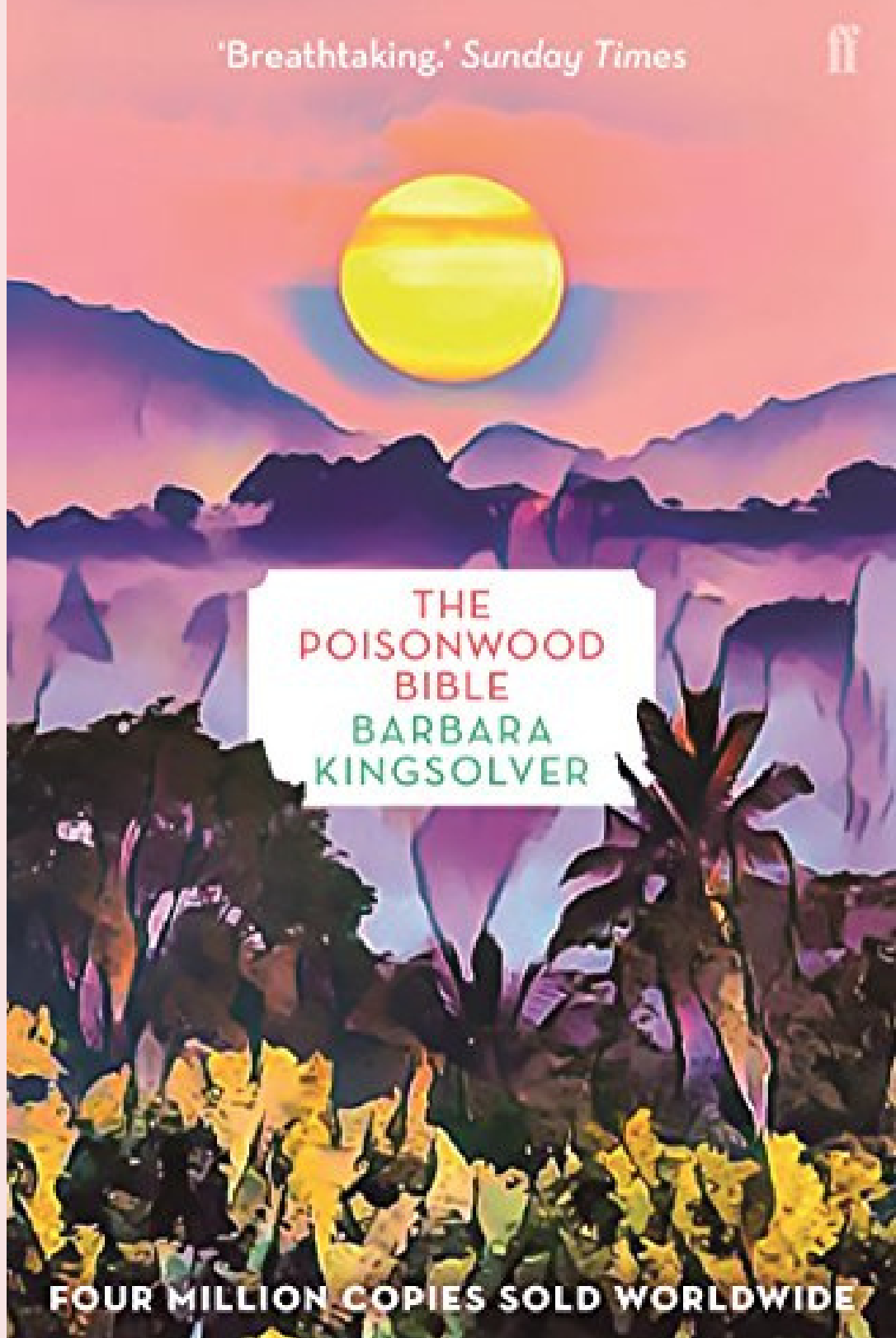




'Breathtaking.' *Sunday Times*

ff



THE  
POISONWOOD  
BIBLE  
BARBARA  
KINGSOLVER

FOUR MILLION COPIES SOLD WORLDWIDE

# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

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# Discussion Questions

## *The Poisonwood Bible*

by Barbara Kingsolver



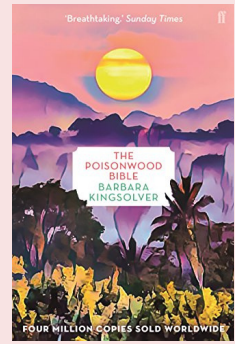
1. Many people have commented on the pace, structure, and narration of the novel. Discussing how the Audible version compares to the hardcopy, what impacted your reading the most and how could it have been improved?
2. How does Kingsolver differentiate among the Price sisters, particularly in terms of their voices? What is the effect of our learning about events and people through the sisters' eyes?
3. Discuss the parallels between the situation in the Congo and in the Price family. How do the events in each of these realms mirror each other?
4. How does Kingsolver present the double themes of captivity and freedom and of love and betrayal? What kinds of captivity and freedom does she explore? What kinds of love and betrayal? What are the causes and consequences of each kind of captivity, freedom, love, and betrayal?
5. Why does Kingsolver tell this story through only the women in the family? How does the absence of a male voice impact the story?
6. What do we learn about cultural, social, religious, and other differences between Africa and America? To what degree do Orleana and her daughters come to an understanding of those differences? Do you agree with what you take to be Kingsolver's message concerning such differences?
7. Discuss the representation of missionary work and 'white saviour complex'. To what extent does Kingsolver tie Western imperialism to Christianity?
8. What is the significance of the Kikongo word nommo and its attendant concepts of being and naming? Are there Christian parallels to the constellation of meanings and beliefs attached to nommo? How do the Price daughters' Christian names and their acquired Kikongo names reflect their personalities and behaviour?
9. Which members of the Price family grow and change? Which remain static? Is there a sister you identify with most?



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10. At the novel's end, the carved-animal woman in the African market is sure that "There has never been any village on the road past Bulungu," that "There is no such village" as Kilanga. What do you make of this?

