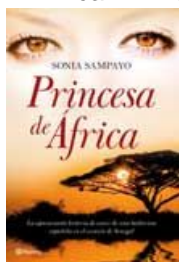


Princesa de África

African Princess



UK panel's choice AUTUMN 2009

Author: [Sonia Sampayo](#) [1]

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Princesa de África relates a love story that breaks all rules. Sonia is a beautiful Spanish dancer, specialising in African dance; Pap is a Senegalese percussionist. Both live in Madrid, and it is only a matter of time before their work brings them together. Little by little, dance unites them inexorably.

Sonia's story starts in Carabanchel; a fatherless child who suffers from a strange kind of rheumatism, she takes up dancing as therapy for her illness. Pap comes from Senegal; poverty has forced him to travel across the Gibraltar Strait to make a living and send money home. Music is in his blood and he devotes himself to it body and soul. Sonia and Pap fall in love; they get married without the consent of Sonia's family, who think this is the craziest thing she's ever done.

It is in fact crazier than it looks: back home, Pap is not only awaited by her parents, but also by three children and two other wives. He is a Muslim, and his religion and the Senegalese law allow him to have more than one wife. Pap divided his time between Spain and Senegal, between his white wife and the African ones. When she decides to marry him, Sonia accepts that part of his life, convinced that her love for him will overcome all difficulties. But although she can deceive herself when Pap is with her in Madrid, she is tormented by uncertainty, jealousy and anxiety once he goes back to Senegal to spend some time with his other family. Sonia comes to understand that she must get to know her husband's secret life if their marriage is to work, and so she decides to travel to Senegal. There she finds that Africa can be both beautiful and cruel, and that her love story might become a story of rivalry and jealousy.

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