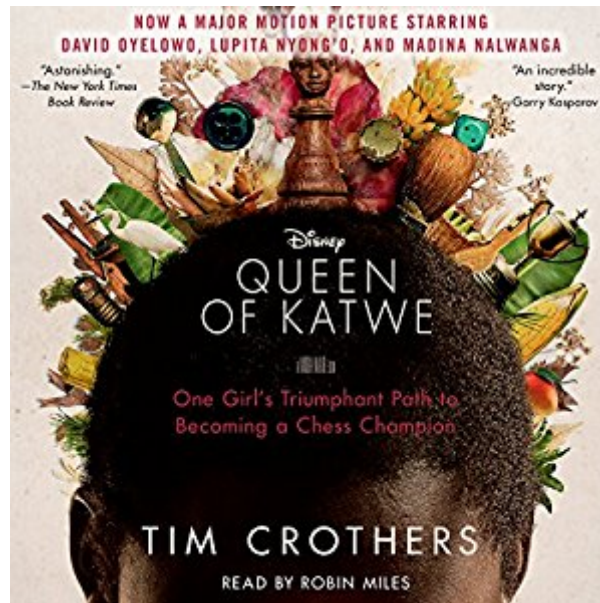


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# The Queen Of Katwe: A Story Of Life, Chess, And One Extraordinary Girl



## Synopsis

Based on a popular ESPN Magazine article - optioned by Disney films, a finalist for a National Magazine Award and chosen by Dave Eggers for inclusion in Best American Nonrequired Reading 2011 - the astonishing true story of Phiona Mutesi, a teenager from the slums of Kampala, Uganda, who - inspired by an unlikely mentor, a war refugee turned missionary - becomes an international chess champion. Phiona Mutesi sleeps in a decrepit shack with her mother and four siblings and struggles to find a single meal each day. Phiona has been in and out of school her whole life because her mother cannot afford it, so she is only now learning to read and write. Phiona Mutesi is also one of the best chess players in the world. One day in 2005, while searching for food, nine-year-old Phiona followed her brother to a dusty veranda where she met Robert Katende, another child of the Ugandan slums, who works for an American organization that offers relief and religion through sports. Robert introduced Phiona to the game of chess and soon recognized her immense talent. By the age of 11 Phiona was her country's junior chess champion and at 15, her country's national champion. In September of 2010 she traveled to Siberia, just her second time ever on an airplane, to compete in the Chess Olympiad, the world's most prestigious team chess event. Phiona's dream is to one day become a grandmaster, the most elite title in chess, and to blaze a trail out of Katwe that other children in Robert's chess community can follow. But to reach that goal, she must grapple with everyday life in one of the world's most unstable countries, a place where girls are taught to be mothers, not dreamers, and the threats of AIDS, kidnapping, and starvation loom over the people of Katwe. Acclaimed sports journalist Tim Crothers has written a riveting and inspiring account of one girl's improbable journey to becoming a chess champion. The Queen of Katwe will thrill every listener who loves a great underdog story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A great story however, the text did not flow easily from one subject to another. At times the story was difficult to follow. On the other side of that the book raises awareness as to the issues and hardships the people of Uganda face daily. The story also created within me a desire to seek out ways in which I as an individual might be able to assist the organization mentioned in the book to make life easier for the children of Katwe.

Amazing story of a slum girl's progress from knowing nothing about chess to the point of being a champion, on her way to becoming a grand master. Very uplifting and inspiring!

Katwe is a part of Kampala that has mud mixed with sick and worse as a landscape. That a girl can rise above the squalor is a testament to many--her teacher, the writer who the article, the game of chess, and Phiona Mutesi, the girl herself. You know, there is no word for chess in Buganda, the basic language of Uganda. Phiona speaks English but she "is the ultimate underdog." She has the good fortune to meet Robert Katenda a missionary who believes in God and the discipline of chess. She also has the good fortune to have her tale told by a gifted reporter, Tim Crothers. After living in Uganda for three years I wanted to stop strangers on the street in California and question them, "do you know what's going on in the world?" This book will shake you. A fortunate experience.

This is an inspiring story of an Ugandan slum child who learned chess and went on to win a chess tournaments and become an African "grand master" chess player. It is a bit hard to read about the difficult conditions she had to endure in the slum of "Katwe" outside Kampala, Uganda.

This was a heart wrenching story. It helped me be thankful for what I have and see a glimpse at another part of the world.

Amazing story! At beginning it was a tough read due to the hard life described of several generations in Ugandan slum. But this is a story that needs to be told! We are so isolated in the West. The story of chess and the personalities involved, as well as the rise of Phiona and her

amazing talent is a phenomenal story! The approach of the missionaries was interesting and practical - they came to help and participate in the community for the long haul. Should be required reading!

A terrific book; better than the movie as you get a better sense of Phiona's struggles, her dreams, and her faith. This quote speaks volumes ... "Phiona Mutesi is the ultimate underdog. To be African is to be an underdog in the world. To be Ugandan is to be an underdog in Africa. To be from Katwe is to be an underdog in Uganda. To be a girl is to be an underdog in Katwe."

Inspiring story, puts a light on how poor and unfortunate these countries are. Not so much a chess book, but a book about how chess was used to help struggling kids.

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