



**CHIMAMANDA
NGOZI
ADICHIE**

DEAR IJEWELE

**A FEMINIST
MANIFESTO
IN FIFTEEN
SUGGESTIONS**



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

**Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist
Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions**

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Adichie C.

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A few years ago, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie received a letter from a dear friend from childhood, asking her how to raise her baby girl as a feminist. Dear Ijeawele is Adichie's letter of response. Here are fifteen invaluable suggestions—compelling, direct, wryly funny, and perceptive—for how to empower a daughter to become a strong, independent woman. From encouraging her to choose a helicopter, and not only a doll, as a toy if she so desires; having open conversations with her about clothes, makeup, and sexuality; debunking the myth that women are somehow biologically arranged to be in the kitchen making dinner, and that men can "allow" women to have full careers, Dear Ijeawele goes right to the heart of sexual politics in the twenty-first century. It will start a new and urgently needed conversation about what it really means to be a woman today.

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Dear Ijeawele

A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

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This is a slightly expanded version of a letter written by the author as a Facebook post on 12 October 2016

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Dedication

For Uju Egonu.
And for my baby sis, Ogechukwu Ikemelu.
With so much love.

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Introduction

When a couple of years ago a friend of mine from childhood, who'd grown into a brilliant, strong, kind woman, asked me to tell her how to raise her baby girl a feminist, my first thought was that I did not know.

It felt like too huge a task.

But I had spoken publicly about feminism and perhaps that made her feel I was an expert on the subject. I had over the years also helped care for many babies of loved ones; I had worked as a babysitter and helped raise my nephews and nieces. I had done a lot of watching and listening, and I had done even more thinking.

In response to my friend's request, I decided to write her a letter, which I hoped would be honest and practical, while also serving as a map of sorts for my own feminist thinking. This book is a version of that letter, with some details changed.

Now that I, too, am the mother of a delightful baby girl, I realize how easy it is to dispense advice about raising a child when you are not facing the enormously complex reality of it yourself.

Still, I think it is morally urgent to have honest conversations about raising children differently, about trying to create a fairer world for women and men.

My friend sent me a reply saying she would 'try' to follow my suggestions.

And in rereading these as a mother, I too am determined to try.

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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