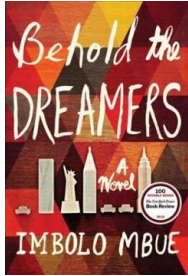




# Community Raving About Books (C.R.A.B.) Book Club Guide



## ***Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue**

Random House, 2016; 416 pages/audio 12 hours 13 minutes

“Realistic, tragic, and still remarkably kind to all its characters, this is a special book.”

—Kirkus Reviews, 5/1/2016

### **Summary**

At the intersection of *Americanah* and *The Help* comes a riveting debut novel about two marriages - one immigrant and working class, the other from the top 1% - both chasing their version of the American Dream. In the fall of 2007, Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. Their situation only improves when Jende's son Neni is hired as household help. But in the course of their work, Jende and Neni begin to witness infidelities, skirmishes, and family secrets. Then, with the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers, a tragedy changes all four lives forever, and the Jongas must decide whether to continue fighting to stay in a recession-ravaged America or give up and return home to Cameroon.

### **Author Information**

Imbolo Mbue is a native of the seaside town of Limbe, Cameroon. She holds a BS from Rutgers University and an MA from Columbia University. A resident of the United States for more than a decade, she lives in New York City. Her debut *Behold the Dreamers* won the 2017 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction and was named by The New York Times and The Washington Post as one of the notable books of 2016.

### **If you liked this book, try these!**

*Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

*Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

*Who Will Catch Us As We Fall* by Iman Verjee

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