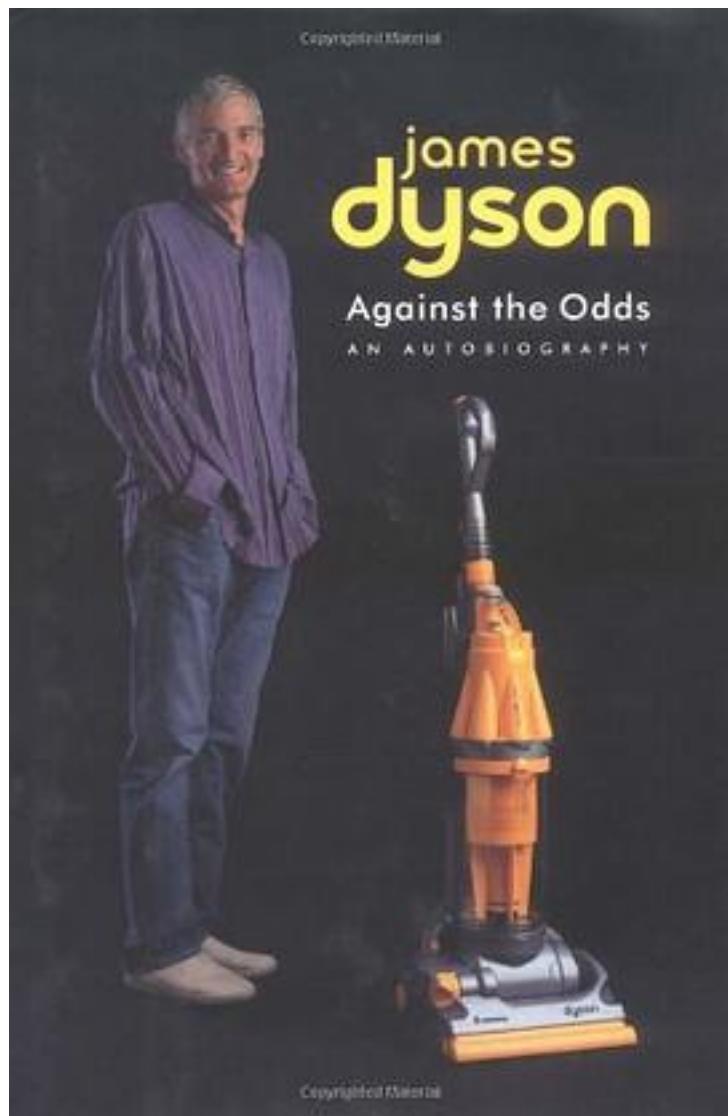


Against the Odds



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Undaunted by hardship, a determined widow, Uridiya, arranges a wife of her choice for her western-educated only son. Little does she know that her son, Jamike, had fallen in love and married a foreigner against her wishes and the expectations of his village. In a show of love, loyalty and commitment he rejects the arranged wife to the disappointment of his mother and the community. Can his defiance succeed against all odds? Set in an Igbo village in Eastern Nigeria from the late 1950's to early 1970's and in the United States in the early 1970's, the author sympathetically handles the powerlessness of the widow in rural African societies and addresses with candor and sensitivity the problems of race, human sexuality, cultural disengagement and the role of love in blurring the "color line." Born in Imo State Nigeria, Ben Igwe was educated in Nigerian and American Universities. He holds a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the University of Maryland at College Park. He has taught in Universities in Nigeria and the United States. He is currently Chief of the division of Philosophy, Psychology and Religion in the District of Columbia Public Library in Washington, D.C. He lives with his family in Adelphi, Maryland.

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