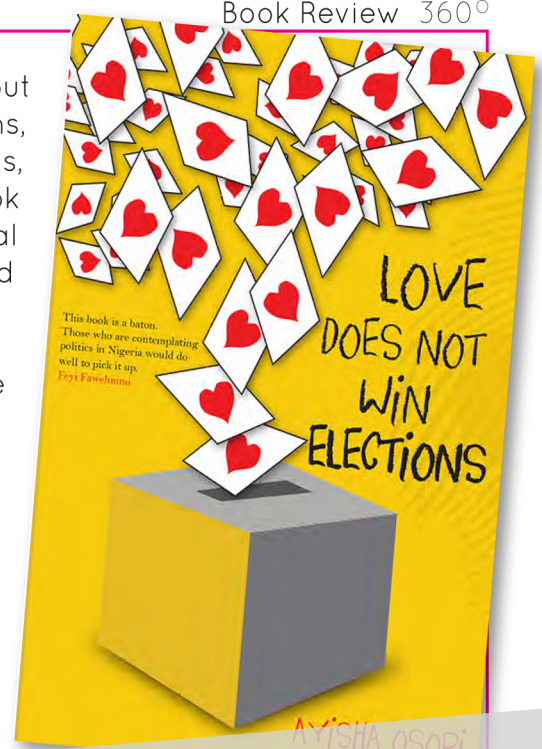


Politics in Nigeria has from time been subject to much speculation, but few real facts. Everyone has an opinion on what goes on during elections, how parties choose contestants and other details of political movements, most of which amounts to propaganda more often than not. In her book however, Ayisha Osori, dove deep into the belly of the Nigerian political industry and on return brought with her, a memoir of her experiences, and a firm lesson: Love does not win Elections.

The book is an account of Ayisha's experience as one of the few female political aspirants for a seat in the House of Representatives during the 2015 elections and covers nearly every detail from inception to campaign and finally election. The writing was of good quality, but the story, courtesy of its setting, seemed quite repetitive following the same pattern: hear of potential political ally, meet with ally, settle ally with gifts or money, repeat.

All in all, after reading the book, your main reaction will probably be a deep distaste for how our political scene runs, and the awareness that if there's going to be any real political change, it has to start at the individual level, because the powers that be won't be budging anytime soon.

Love Does Not Win Elections is a 256-page book that can be finished in a day or two, depending on your reading speed. While the story appears repetitive, it is definitely worth the read, especially if you are Nigerian and want a window into the rules and ethics that govern the people who are 'elected' to rule our country.



Love Does Not Win Elections

Author:
Publisher:
Reviewer:

Ayisha Osori
Narrative Landscape Press
Ayooluwa Uthman



Feminism

“ He Said

Say No To Groupies!

Thanks to the connective powers of the Internet the feminist movement has spread its reach far beyond the borders of western society and is now becoming a worldwide concern.

The movement has seen an astronomical rise in popularity among the female population, and influential women in Nigerian society such as Chimamanda Adichie have established their place as proponents of what has been called a revolution. The resulting reactions from this development have been as varied and conflicting as is the case when a non-conformist ideal meets a conservative community.

There are those, men and women, rooted deeply in Nigerian tradition that asserts the man as superior. There are others, also comprising of men and women who connect with the underlying message of feminism and so fight for equal opportunity and mutual respect for genders.

And then we have the “groupies” who are a bigger problem than the dissenters that resist feminism.

Here too we have man and women, and they are mostly bandwagoners. The defining characteristic of groupie members is their ability to twist the basic message of feminism – equality – into hate-fueled attacks on men and everything masculine. While feminists want to get rid of oppression entirely, groupies want to see the tables turned, with men as the oppressed and women as the oppressors. Unfortunately, this category has the loudest voices and the highest followings on social media.

As a guy, I have nothing against feminism, I believe in equal opportunity for everyone. I understand that women and young girls in particular have suffered unjust treatment across various cultures, and I respect that there are people working to change this for the better.

However, with the groupies as the popular proponents of feminism in Nigeria, I fear that the true message of female empowerment will be lost in translation, and the rift between the genders will grow wider and

Ayooluwa

She Said “

Away With Old Traditions

Feminism in Nigeria is a sticky subject because our culture and religion is tightly intertwined with our way of life. Nigeria is and has always been a patriarchal country. Women are taught at a young age to be dependent on a man, to look for husbands that would take care of their needs, and to be less ambitious so as not to discourage men. I once heard of a young woman who had acquired an Undergraduate and Masters degree and was going for a PHD until her mum discouraged it, for fear it would intimidate potential suitors. I was horrified, more so when my own mother weighed in saying, “But it’s true sha, she’s still a young girl. Men would see her and say, this one is too big for me!” Any man that is turned off by nothing other than the success of a woman is insecure – it is not the woman’s fault whatsoever!

Then again, I don’t blame mothers. These are the ideologies they were brought up with and expect to pass on to their kids. However, the Modern Day Nigerian woman is more exposed and more enlightened. She believes that all women’s voices should be heard.

Feminism is a simple concept that advocates equal rights for the sexes.

In Nigeria, the issue of a woman being submissive to her husband is something that is brought up ever so often when Feminism is mentioned. Feminism is much more than the relations between a man and his wife. The fact that this is still the go to scenario when Feminism is brought up shows that we as Nigerians still have a long way to go.

Today’s woman does not see marriage as the key to a successful life as female. She wants so much more. Its time the world listens to what she has to say.

Kimberly

