



An African Affair

Nina Darnton

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An international thriller shot through with journalistic intrigue, political corruption, and romance that may not be what it seems.

After the assassination of a prominent Nigerian politician, New York journalist Lindsay Cameron moves to Lagos to follow a trail of corruption, drug smuggling and murder. What begins with a coveted and exclusive interview with President Michael Olumide quickly spirals into something darker and increasingly dangerous. When two high-profile figures on opposite sides of the political spectrum-Olumide's most trusted adviser and his archrival for the presidency-are killed in suspiciously quick succession, Olumide's promise to hold free elections is cast in doubt. As Lindsay races her colleagues to penetrate the intricate network of Western officials, foreign correspondents, and CIA agents who run the Nigerian show, her entanglement with a rare art dealer leads her into terrain that's unfamiliar in every respect-from matters of the heart to matters of politics and trade that have enshrouded an entire nation in greed and corruption of deadly proportions.

Set in the mid-1990s flux of worldwide insurrections and war, Nina Darnton's debut presents an ambiance that's as lushly exotic as it is unstable.

An African Affair Details

Date : Published July 7th 2011 by Viking

ISBN : 9780670022885

Author : Nina Darnton

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Cultural, Africa, Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Suspense, Adventure, Western Africa, Nigeria

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From Reader Review An African Affair for online ebook

David Lucero says

This is my first novel I've read by Nina Darnton, and I'm highly impressed with her clarity and experience. It's no wonder seeing how she's lived in Africa and the story of government intrigue, murder, mystery all come together with her main character. I read this book in little more than 2 weeks and can't wait for more. This is a thriller with suspense, romance and intrigue.

The murder of a Nigerian politician brings New York journalist Lindsay Cameron to Lagos where she finds corruption, drug-dealing, and murder behind this atrocious act. Lindsay receives an exclusive interview with President Olumide and learns of a twisted plan corrupt officials have. When political opponents are killed, the president's promise of free elections goes right out the window. Lindsay utilizes her network of correspondents, all the while juggling a romantic interlude set during a time of political strife in a beautiful land where corrupt officials will stop at nothing to obtain riches at the expense of the people they serve. Lindsay soon finds her resolve for the truth could cost her life, but her desire of being the best in her profession gets the better of her, and before long she finds herself at the end of her rope.

The book takes place in the 90's, and is still a common theme to date considering the troubles in many African states. The author's experience in Lagos lends credibility to a highly enjoyable read.

Karen Barker says

I received an unpublished edition of this book as a first read giveaway. I really enjoyed every page of this book! Nina allowed the reader to connect with each character with giving us a description of the character not by specific, convoluted details of each person, but by allowing the reader to be a part of the everyday life of each character while working on assignment in Africa during a turbulent, political timeframe.

I thought I knew who the culprit was, but I was shocked at the end that I was wrong!!

I had a hard time putting this book down. I can't wait to read Ms. Darnton's next book.

Paperback Dolls says

Originally posted at PaperbackDolls.com.

Africa has always been a bit of a literary mystery to me – Out of Africa is my guide, which is just wrong when you think about it. Nina Darnton's Suspense Thriller An African Affair was quite an eye opener. The author has herself lived in Africa in the 70s (two years of which she spent in the novel's setting – Lagos Nigeria) and it is evident in every detail that she has done her research.

An African Affair was a fascinating and yet, disturbing read. Lindsay Cameron, a journalist stationed in Lagos is looking for a story – one that will expose the corruption of Nigerian President Michael Olumide's regime, she realizes that any attempt to unmask the truth behind the lies fed to the media may lead to her

never being able to step foot in Nigeria again – that is, if she’s allowed to leave. Yet she doesn’t give up.

When one political assassination is followed by another mysterious death – Lindsay finally has the lead she was looking for. But with the CIA, mercenaries, rebels and the regime itself involved, she’s heading down an increasingly dangerous path.

Nina Darnton’s detailed description of the day-to-day life of a journalist in Africa, the often haunting descriptions of what life is like in Nigeria for local residents and the diplomatic staff were insightful and brought the story to life.

The novel remained suspenseful throughout and other than one minor scene which felt a bit unrealistic when you look at the bigger picture (won’t spoil but it involved Lindsay and a very tidy escape) the book managed to keep me on the edge of my seat.

Darnton’s protagonist is depicted in a very realistic way, she is not perfect, she has her flaws, and yet she still manages to be likable. In fact, each of the characters is very well portrayed and no one comes out looking one dimensional.

Reading this book I felt the suffocating heat, the close environment, the fear, the excitement and the adrenalin pumping as if I was Lindsay.

Darnton’s novel is a spectacular debut and I for one will be very happy to read whatever she comes up with next.

On a side note, as someone who works in a newsroom, I loved the backstage look at a journalist’s life abroad – filing stories, trying to dictate stories via a broken phone line – It brought a smile to this reviewers’ face.

Darlene says

I won this ARC in a giveaway hosted by Goodreads First Reads.

Let me be frank: Politics bore me. My eyes tend to glaze over at the mere topic. Typically, I steer clear of any book with the word “politics” in the description. Despite the fact that this book is a political thriller, there was something in the synopsis that intrigued me.

I am glad that I trusted my gut because this book did not disappoint! This is Darnton’s debut novel. She is a gifted writer, and her career as a journalist segues into fiction writing.

Our protagonist is Lindsay Cameron, a foreign correspondent for the *New York Globe* who is currently in Lagos, Nigeria to cover the political unrest that she hopes will garner the coveted Pulitzer. Her character is likeable and gutsy. She knows what she wants and goes after it, putting herself in constant danger to uncover the treachery and fraud of a corrupt country. I love that Lindsay is a strong female character. She certainly is no damsel-in-distress!

I was fascinated by Darnton’s description of African culture and society. It is hard to imagine the corruption that exists in countries like Nigeria, but I realize that it does. The blatant bribery is shocking. Although this is a work of fiction, I have the impression that Darnton relied on her experiences as a journalist to bring

attention to the type of depravity that is prevalent in such a country. This gives her work an authentic feel.

I love the style of Darnton's writing, and I was caught up in her whirlwind of danger and suspense. She has a way of grabbing the reader's attention and holding onto it.

I look forward to reading Darnton's next novel, and I hope that Lindsay's adventures will continue. She is a great character. This book was a pleasure to read, and I recommend it.

MY RATING: 4 stars!

Meghan Hendrickson says

I thought this book had very thin characters, with really poor development. I think she tried to make a strong female character, but she came off as stupid and reckless. Predictable.

Kim says

I brought this book on vacation and was a little bit concerned that it might be a too difficult to get into, hard to read, confusing etc. after all it is about politics. I couldn't have been more wrong. I found this book very easy to follow/easy to read (great for a vacation book) and I couldn't put it down!

Firstly, two of the main characters are strong, confident, highly intelligent WOMEN. Thank-you Nina Darnton. I also appreciated that this novel was not overrun with meaningless side plots that's only purpose is to take up space. Every word was relevant to the plot which thickened with each chapter. I felt connected to each of the characters and was able to visualize all of their surroundings as if I were in Africa right along with them. Most of all, the story line was believable (okay, maybe the very end was a bit of a stretch but what do I know about the CIA?) and kept me guessing as to what was going to happen next.

Pick this thriller up and I bet you won't be able to put it back down.

Tami says

I haven't received the book yet, just received notice I had won it. 6/29/11

Just received. I hope to start soon. I have 3 in line first. 7/11/11

Just started at lunch, only about 30 pages in though. 7/15/11

Finished Saturday, 7/16/11

Political unrest has hit Nigeria in the mid 1990's. A CIA agent is killed along with his wife. He was undercover with the military leader of Nigeria. The CIA send in another agent who says she has the perfect idea on how to handle. Then the story goes to center on a journalist stationed in Nigeria. She has been granted an interview with Olumide. She ends up reporting everything, from the resistance, to the lies told her by Olumide to features on some locals. This endangers her life.

I have to admit I was (and am) blissfully ignorant of much of the world's problems. I had no idea that Nigeria was struggling so much. I had some friends that came to the US for school from Nigeria. I couldn't ever understand why, and now I know. Some of the items in the story that the author mentions brought clarity to some strange conversations I had with those friends. Same time period and all, so WOW! Didn't see that coming.

Zohar - ManOfLaBook.com says

An African Affair by Nina Darnton is a fictional book taking place in Nigeria. Ms Darnton is a seasoned reporter who found herself in a Nigerian jail after her husband, a New York Times reporter, filed some uncomplimentary stories about the ruling régime.

Lindsay Cameron is an American journalist for the New York Globe posted in Lagos, the capitol of Nigeria. Lindsay covers the corrupt government of Michael Olumide which puts her in the radar of the régime.

Going to a party at the US embassy Lindsay starts investigating a murder which neither the régime or the embassy's CIA operatives want her to stick her nose in. At the same party she also meets with, and falls in love with, James who is an art dealer specializing in African art.

An African Affair by Nina Darnton might make a stirring memoir and is a descent political thriller. I truly enjoyed how Ms. Darnton captured Nigerian culture and corruption which is accompanied with vast internal tribal interests as well as vast outside ones such as oil and drugs.

I have been in several places where blatant bribery is not only accepted, but expected (I'm looking at you South American border guards) and as shocked as I was the first time, I realize that not many places are that different. But please consider that I spent most of my life in New Jersey where bribery is legal.

The writing style is clear, fast and easy to read. Ms. Darnton does an excellent job grabbing the reader's attention and not letting go. The characters are interesting and well written but I find them too black and white for my taste. After all, the people who work in clandestine operations and behind the scenes are known for their "grayness" and ability to blend in – not to stand out. There are many female characters, none of which I found very interesting besides the narrator/protagonist.

As I mentioned, I liked the description of the culture, but something was missing for me. I read many books and novels about Africa; from some reason the continent fascinates me. However, this time I didn't learn anything new, nor did I get the feeling of the city/country/continent as being a character in the book. Yes the descriptions are there, but there are hot, sticky, smelly places even in these United States and I wager to say in every country in the world (including Monte Carlo). The novel could have taken place in any medium sized border town during this extremely humid and dry summer. It could be just me, but I didn't feel as if I was in Lagos.

The twists and turns in the novel, while interesting, did not come as a surprise. In purpose or not they are projected well ahead and the observant reader would figure out what's going to happen well in advance.

The sense of time was lost on me in this novel as well. I have no idea about the timeline of the book (unless I'm going to read it again and pay closer attention), but I do know that weeks, if not months go by with barely a mention.

Overall though, the book was certainly and entertaining and worthwhile read. Even though there are politics involved, it is not difficult to follow or understand and one doesn't need any prior knowledge of Nigerian history or culture to enjoy the novel.

The book ended with a question mark, it seems that the author was planning on a series starring the protagonist and her CIA contact.

We shall see.

For more review and bookish posts please visit: <http://www.ManOfLaBook.com>

Matt says

An excellent debut novel by Darnton explores politics in an area I've never visited in fiction or on my numerous trips abroad. Examining Nigeria through its political and social lenses is the perfect setting for the book, as it allows Darnton to explore and present views most North American readers may find refreshingly new. Nigeria is one of West Africa's largest and most powerful states and Darnton injects both political and mystery-based life into this story, while also offering at least a partial social commentary on African corruption.

The story is not one that stands on its own as truly unique; a journalist uncovers something and tries to get the outside world to pay attention, while also harbouring a love interest in country; but it is thoroughly more exciting when placed in such a locale. From all I know, it depicts the corruption, bribery, caste way of life, and truly politically fragile status as is truly a part of life in Nigeria. Of course, I base what I know on what I have seen in media reports and so I cannot truthfully KNOW. That said, Darnton's narration and development kept me interested from Page 1. A number of murders push the story forward, as well as the numerous issues faced by the main character, as they relate to corruption, brutality, and coup d'état behaviour.

Well done on your debut, Ms. Darnton. I cannot wait to see what else you have to offer.

Nina Darnton says

He, I wrote it so naturally I think it's pretty good. I hope you do too.

Natalie says

While it wasn't as "heart-stopping" as the reviews make it out to be, I did find it interesting and enjoyable. Lindsey is a reporter working in Nigeria. I thought her "over-zealous" reporter routine was a little forced, but she wasn't a completely unlikable character. She is reporting on the political upheaval happening in the country and getting swept into a love affair with James.

James is supposed to be dreamy, but he's really not. He's kind of patronizing and annoying. Also, I don't think the author wrote the whole relationship out very well. It wasn't well played. There were parts of the plot that didn't really make sense and left you wondering "why?" I guess what I'm trying to say is the author

wasn't very good at conveying emotion. All of the characters seemed a little stale.

Where the author did excel was describing Nigeria. The author was actually a reporter there during the mid 1990s, and she does a good job setting the scene and climate. Now I feel the need to run out and buy a book on the political history of Nigeria.

This was just a random book that caught my eye when I was volunteering at the library. My recent reading of The Poisonwood Bible has made me more fascinated in Africa. I'm woefully ignorant about such a large, diverse country and I think it's time to remedy that.

Elia says

The plot might have been interesting but the writing was terrible. Freshman English and I mean high school!! I could not finish the book.

Dawn says

I was on vacation and ran out of books to read. Bill loaned me this. I was angry the whole time I was reading it, because it was really bad.

Helen says

Lindsey is a reporter and willing to take risks to get a story. She has the need to seek the truth, write it, and then get the word out. Nigeria is a hotbed (Literally) of corruption and intrigue. This all simmers to make a wonderful, good read.

Jodi says

Though set in the 1990s in Africa, this book has interesting parallels to the situations happening now in the Middle East and it's still all about oil. Lindsay Cameron is an American journalist posted to Nigeria to cover the corrupt regime of Michael Olumide. What she finds is much bigger and more confusing. This is layered by her relationship with James, a rare art dealer, who moves her in unexpected ways. Both figuratively and literally. The problem was that there was no chemistry between James and Lindsay at all so I couldn't see why she fell so deeply in love with him. The audiobook made it clear that he was suspicious from the first and it wasn't clear why she was blind to it. The other problem with the book was there was no sense of time passing. But it does. Months go by. That's important for development of Lindsay's comfort with the country, her build-up of network contacts etc. But there isn't a clear sense of that in the book so things seem to happen without out of thin air. While it's nice to see so many key characters be women, the story was never as compelling as it could have been. The narrator, however, was fantastic.
