

Dom
IN THE
Valley



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DON IN THE VALLEY

by

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Summarised and Analyzed

by

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SUMMARY

The novel 'Don in the valley' is a fictional narrative which talks about the societal ills and happenings in the society (specifically, the Nigerian university)

The writer uses 'Flashback' to bring to light the tragic event which has fallen on our Protagonist and major character by the name of Dr John.

The social crusaders chairman has been woken into what he condemns and fights against.

He was a victim of a Sexual harassment which in turn turned out to be a set up by a group in the university (City University).

Dr John, being a pastor and social fighter as well as an Academic learned man, was not willing to face the public humiliation and shame to accompany the news of

such a highly placed man and minister of God could have fallen victim to sexual activities in the school he taught and by one of his students (Ladies)

In his bid to find quick solutions to his problem, he unknowingly becomes embroiled in that same as that it became too hard for him to the point he backslides from his Church fellowship by forsaking and sometimes intentionally neglecting invitations by his pastor.

John is married to a wife (Bumper) and an only female child (Tolu)

His wife is an hardworking lady and this attribute of her made her boss just gave her a Promotion. It is during this promotion party organised by his wife that we the readers got to know about his entangled affair with Ladi, and how he got transfixed with her. To the point that he had to hang his wife's call to attend to the lady(ladi) the first ever since they got married .

The events that followed was his hotel adventure with the lady in a room which was bugged by a group which has assigned Ladi the job of seducing and reducing the preacher and lecturer to the ground.

Series of events occurred through the novel.

We got to understand the affairs that was between Ladi and one of the gang(knockout) Chief Leaders as well as the reasons why they need to bring Dr John down. This was because Dr John had Humiliated one of the gangs Lecturr/staff members or sponsor when he was caught for harassing a student. The staff had vowed to bring The crusaders down I. E to bring Dr John down since he was the chairman of that group. Hence why they sent Ladi, a lady any man would refuse .

As events progressed, we got to know that Ladi had to deviate from her main mission because she fell in love with the Academic Don and wasn't willing to dance to the tune of the knockouts, Hence the reason behind the bugs being planted in their room.

Dr John tried to explain he was a family man this argument eventually landed Ladi getting a slap from the Dr.

The knockout being suspicious of the ongoing between Ladi and the Doctor

since she no longer picks or reports to them anymore. And this made them begin trying them and to a point when Ladi got to remove the bugs planted in order to tape herself and the doctor having anything, she eventually gave the doctor those materials and this scenario mad the knockout come to Doctors place to retrieve them, which made Peter(Dr John's house help) to receive series of beatings, and almost got killed if not out of pity by the gang.

The story is a moral novel, which brings to open how a sane and just man could change when pushed to. Dr John was the least person anyone could think would fall into a sexual scandal. But he didn't only fall into a scandal, he totally changed completely. This could be seen when his wife even commented to their pastor that

"I don't know my husband anymore ".

Johns moral etiquette changed he did not only commit adultery, he also changed to a liar, a cheat, a deceiver and also an idolatrer.

Instance of him being a liar, cheat and deceiver was the various means he lied to his wife, friends and even his pastor about his messed up state.

He lied often to cover his tract, and most times in order to meet Ladi at their regular joint, had to sneak out with different excuses and deceit.

He even deceived his wife by lieing to he was attending a Conference in the far North(A conference that never existed)

This brought him to an idol worshiper. Because it was this point he came across a Prophet who deceived him with a false prophecy about his Only daughter being a Witch, and was backed up by his wife and his mother in-law. (This was because of mama Tolus inability to conceive anymore and for giving him a female child since their marriage)

Before now, as a pastor and preacher, John never believed in black magic and so preached against it and those that practised it. But behold, here he was bowing to what he was against. (This shows the theme that, man's situation changes him and his beliefs so far as his objective is to get solution to him problems)

Dr John narrated to the prophet all his problems, and had to pay for some kind of ritual. He however told him(prophet) that he needed no death.

Immediately the prophet came back to the University from his 'unexixting conference' he was shocked with the news of Ladi's death.

The events surrounding her death were not clear, so this warranted the schools student government ask for further investigation. But we got to know that, at the end, before Ladi died, she continuously kept mentioning Dr John's name.

It was on this light we get to know about Folio, the rogue member of the Knockout who sided and supported Ladi before and after her death in a course to Protect the doctor. He had vowed to protect John no matter what.

He was John's closest companion after Ladi. After John, he was the only person who knew everything that was going on. He also knows about Franks diary(Ladis main boyfriend) which has details of all his activities and also records of how one of their Staff members order the killing of the deputy VC's daughter. (this was the cause of Ladi's death because she refused to handover the diary)

Now after Ladi's death, John was left with no other option, so Folio became his eyes and ears on the happenings in campus and about the case. He also became his advisor.

They both concluded that John need to meet 'The Ambassador Doherty ' in other to pull some strings to make Dr Ansa(the main originator of John's nightmare) to stop by using his political ambitions against him. This eventually cost John to confess about the whole thing to him. But unfortunately, the Ambassador Doherty was of no use since he was not involved much in politics anymore. But because he felt pity for the man before him, he vowed to assist in one way or the other, hence he made a visit to Chief Layiwola who was the only person that could get to Dr Ansa.. The wheel thing was fruitful, only that it was late(records and documents about John's affair had already been submitted to the community investigating John's case) it was on this light a call was made to John that if he handed over the Chips and diary, the whole thing would stop. Luckily for him, Folio and his house help(Peter) where there as bodyguard . Folio was a bodyguard because he swore to protect John before Ladi died. Peter became John's bodyguard since after

the incidence of the robbery at home. He felt John needed protection more since he was his sustainer.

John agreed to meet the gang to handover the evidence he had against them. Although he didn't trust them to keep their word, hence he made copies of the documents which he handed over to Folio in case things went wrong.

The documents were handed over successful, only that it was late since when John faced the panel, although he tried hard to deny all allegations of knowing or having anything to do with the deceased student (Ladi),

There were video evidence against that. Hence when the truth was out, John had to run out of the room and asked his driver(Peter) to take him straight to Church (where we believe he went to confess everything to his pastor who he had for long avoided because of his wife complaints to him)

The story ended with Folio being seen at Prof Agunbiade(DVC of the University) to report his evidences against his child's disappearance (The diary Ladi died for) . By the reaction of the DVC, we got to understand that justice will eventually be served to all the perpetrators.

ANALYSIS

THEMES

- 1) Theme on social decadence
- 2) Theme on cultism and its effect on students.
- 3) Theme on parental negligence and absence on the life style of students on campus
- 4) Theme on the political state of Nigeria (using the reason behind the DVC's daughters disappearance as case study)
- 5) Theme on man's changing norms and belief when faced with trouble
- 6) Theme on truth and repentance as man's only escape from his problems
- 7) Theme on the effect of religion and religious prophecy and prophets on family troubles and problems
- 8) theme on the various causes of divorce in Nigeria.
- 9) Theme on man's entanglement when searching for escape.
- 10) Theme on good versus evil.
- 11) Theme on students harassment by lecturers

Literary Appreciation

___The novel is a book condemning the social ills of immortality in the

contemporary world of University.

The writer made use of:

Narrative techniques

He made use of The first person narrative technique, The omniscient narrative technique as well as the Objective narrative techniques (because he didn't end the wheel story, he allowed the readers have a picture of what will eventually happen at the end of the story after Folio reported to the DVC)

Settings

___ The setting of this story is in Nigeria, basically a Nigerian University setting.

Devices employed

The author made use of Flashback to picture events that had happened.

He also made use of Metaphors and Similies.

Irony was also employed.

There were pictures of Imagery as used in the book.

Personification was used

Onomatopoeia was also employed.

Symbolism was also used

There were scenes of Exaggerated narration thus the use of Hyperbole.

About the title of the book

The title of the book could be seen as a Metaphor.

The title '**Don in the valley**' was coined out of John(the University Don) narrating his ordeal and troubled to the Zodiac prophet. He saw his case and himself as a Don entangled and lost in the valley of what he fought as a social crusader. Hence the name and title " **Don In The Valley**".

Don in the Valley by S. Oluwayomi Oladunjoye.

As summarised and Analyzed by Alilonu Collins (@Chorlinz)