



Smouldering Charcoal

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza

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Chronicles the lives of two families in post-colonial Africa, the first - poor, working-class and ill-educated - is compared to the young politically aware college student and her journalist fiance. The middle-class pair become victims of the same brutal violence that the poor and powerless suffer.

Smouldering Charcoal Details

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Author : Paul Tiyambe Zeleza

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Odilia Phiri says

Nice book worthy reading

Jeffrey says

Zeleza was a professor of mine when I was in university, teaching African History. This novel shows brilliant insight for the events taking place within the African subcontinent and attaches you to vibrant characters.

Andrea says

I wavered between three and four stars for this book. The theme and characters were intriguing, but the narrative style was uneven. Especially at the end of the book, Zeleza seemed to be trying to sum everything up as quickly as possible and totally destroyed the structure and pace of the narrative. Some characters seemed to change radically within the story without enough narrative illustration of how the change happened. But the story of survival and disillusionment under a corrupt regime kept my interest, and I would recommend the book for those interested in exploring political corruption in Africa.

Jimmy Dyson says

reading smouldering chadol

Lucky Dickens says

I want to easily answer question during class lesson

Nana Fredua-Agyeman says

Smouldering Charcoal (Heinemann, 1992; 183) by Tiyambe Zeleza belongs to the immediate post-colonial African literature, which includes such texts as Ayi Kwei Armah's The Beautiful Ones are not Yet Born, and Ngugi wa Thiong'o's A Grain of Wheat. More specifically, it belongs to those collection of works which exposes the disillusionment of independence and questions the integrity and vision of the post-independence leaders, usually the first presidents, who became harsh, corrupt, and more cruel.

However, published in the early 1990s, when the equalisation of the genders had become the song and aim of government policies and therefore major themes of every work, the novel could equally be pushed into the social commentary sub-category of African literature aimed at instigating a social change. Consequently, Smouldering Charcoal is a socio-political novel. But its deficiency is the subliminal and sometimes conspicuous social commentaries it makes.

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Jeleni says

I read this book in secondary school and it was thrilling. I loved it then. I know if i read it now i would love it too.
