Victor Ortega

Aisha Sidibe

Taiye Selasi the sex lives of African girls

Taiye Selasi was born on November, 2 1979 in London, England, and raised in Brookline, Massachusetts. She the elder of twin in a family of physicians and is a writer and photographer. Her mother is a pediatrician from Nigeria and her father is a surgeon and poet from Ghana. Selasi did a BA in American Studies from Yale and an MPhil in International Relations from Nuffield College, Oxford. Being of both Nigerian and Ghanaian origin, she describes herself as a “Local” of Accra, Berlin, New York and Rome.

In this second person story, you are an eleven-year-old girl who is living with her extended family. Edem longs for her mother, but is surrounded by a colorful cast of relatives and servants. The story is split into nine sections, through the reading of which we learn a great deal about the role that women of all ages play in Ghanian society. Edem is a fascinating age; young enough to be surprised when she walks in on her uncle…receiving…pleasure, but old enough to feel a stirring for Iago, a good-looking houseboy who changed his name out of love for Shakespeare. (I wonder why he chose Iago.) The story begins and ends as the citizens of Accra celebrate. By contrast, “you” are the subject of attempted abuse, unpleasantness that is thankfully interrupted by Auntie. The experience inspires a sad epiphany that will likely color the rest of “your” life.

The narrative begins somewhat slowly as Selasi builds her world. Once that has been accomplished, she speeds up the events a little. There’s an honest-to-goodness action sequence in section VII that is a lot of fun to read. Edem runs through the homestead, making brief mention of everything that is happening along the way. “Sex Lives” isn’t a story about characters in isolation, but ones who populate a much larger world. The sequence allows you to see servants preparing for a party, “your” crush kissing your cousin and a muscular naked man before “you” change into new clothes. (The sequence even relates to the theme!) The first half of the story is a little bit slower before it speeds to a conclusion. Selasi creates suspense and tension by varying the pace.

Questions:

Do you think that the uncle abuses unpurposed?

Why aunties mother didn’t say anything when she was abuse when she was younger?

* This story was difficult to read it took me two days to get into the story.
* I try to put my summary as short as I could.
* I feel I did good because I put effort on this presentation to do the best I could.
* Also I try to manage to interact with my pears so it can be more fun.