

PRESS INFORMATION KIT

Book Information

Book Title: Nothing Comes Close

Author: Tolulope Popoola

Genre: Contemporary Fiction/Romance

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Synopsis: Sassy, confident career girl, Lola meets cool, handsome, unpredictable hunk, Wole at a party in London. He pushes all the right buttons for her, and sparks fly. Wole is also irresistibly drawn to Lola, and before long, they get together in a wonderful romance. But Wole is not all that he seems, and he is holding back some dark secrets.

Things start to unravel when Wole's past begins to catch up with him and Lola has to decide if Wole is worth the trouble that threatens to overwhelm her. Find out in this captivating book if their love will overcome the trials of a murder investigation, a meddling relative and a trip halfway across the world, or whether they both give up and go their separate ways.



About the Author



Tolulope Popoola is a writer, blogger and voracious reader. She was born in Lagos, Nigeria. She moved to England for her university education where she studied BA Accounting and Business Economics and a Masters in Finance and Investment. But she never lost her love for reading, and as time went on, she began to wish for a different career path. She started writing a blog in 2006, which rekindled her love for writing and telling stories. She took a few writing classes, created an online fiction series called *In My Dreams It Was Simpler* and started writing both fiction and non-fiction for magazines. In 2008, she left Accounting to concentrate on writing full-time. She writes short stories, flash fiction, and articles for many print and online magazines. *Nothing Comes Close* is her first novel. Tolulope lives in London with her husband and daughter.

You can interact with Tolulope online via:

Blog: www.onwritingandlife.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TolulopePopoola

Twitter: www.twitter.com/TolulopePopoola

Goodreads: www.goodreads.com/TolulopePopoola

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/tolulopepopoola

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Mo Ajjola, Head of Marketing and Promotions
Email: mo.ajjola@accomplishpress.com

Love, Friendship, and Secrets in Debut Novel, “Nothing Comes Close”

Accomplish Press is pleased to announce the official publication of *Nothing Comes Close*, a debut novel by Tolulope Popoola. The story is a compelling tale of the struggle to preserve love in the midst of daunting challenges. *Nothing Comes Close* is set in London, Milton Keynes and Lagos, with a cast of intriguing characters that showcase a realistic portrayal of the lives of young, ambitious Nigerians in the diaspora.

Nigerian born author, Tolulope Popoola taps into her experience of living in the UK to write a book about familiar themes – real people with ambitions struggling to make the right choices in their romantic relationships. The story also shows the tensions of living within two cultures – trying to maintain a Nigerian identity whilst absorbing British values.

“I’ve always loved reading,” the author said. “Growing up, I read a lot of books by authors such as Enid Blyton, Louisa May Alcott and Jackie Collins. When I started writing, I wanted to write about characters and situations that people like me would recognise, without the burden of adding to the narrative of what’s expected from an African story.”

The plot for *Nothing Comes Close* grew out of an online series titled *In My Dreams It Was Simpler* that Tolulope created and co-wrote with eight other writers. She created the main cast, and picked two of them as protagonists for her novel. “The online series ended on a cliff-hanger.” She said. “I wanted to get my female protagonist to a point where she was satisfied with the choices she had made for her future. With the novel, I got to make that happen.”

The story captures the ups and downs in the lives of a girl, her group of friends and her love interest as they try to navigate careers, death, heartbreaks, loyalty and cultural expectations in an exciting and entertaining way.

For an enticing preview of *Nothing Comes Close*, visit the Accomplish Press website to download sample chapters and view its exciting trailer. *Nothing Comes Close* is available as an ebook and paperback from Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com, and other online retailers.

About the author – Tolulope Popoola was born in Lagos, Nigeria. She moved to England for her university education where she studied BA Accounting and Business Economics, and a Masters in Finance and Investment. She started blogging in 2006, which rekindled her love for writing and telling stories. In 2008, she left her Accounting job to concentrate on writing full-time. She writes short stories, flash fiction and articles for both print and online magazines. *Nothing Comes Close* is her first novel. Tolulope lives in London with her husband and daughter. She can be reached via her website: www.onwritingandlife.com

Book Reviews

Review by Yejide Kilanko, Author of Daughters Who Walk This Path

In her debut novel, *Nothing Comes Close*, Popoola, explores a theme familiar to most of us, which is that of finding love. The novel is the story of Lola, a young woman living in London, England. We also meet her friends, Funmi, Temmy and Maureen. These middle-class, professional women, are not only bound by a Nigerian origin highlighted by colourful cultural snippets, they share a long-term friendship that has survived boyfriends and the passionate disagreements that come with intimate relationships.

Lola's world, takes an unpredicted tumble when she meets the mysterious Wole at a house party. This chance meeting, is where this fast-paced, romantic novel, really begins. In their circle of friends, Lola has the designation of being the practical one. Yet, she is not equipped to deal with chaos that meeting enigmatic Wole brings into her life. Woven into the story, are glimpses into the lives of the other women as they confront or escape from the challenges life throws at them. Just like people we know, the choices they make are not always admirable. Still one gets a sense, they are trying to deal with life as best as they can.

Nothing Comes Close is not without its imperfections. There are moments when the motives of the characters appear unclear and one becomes impatient with the pace of the story. However, an unexpected death, imprisonment, betrayal and dark secrets, add twists that make this book much more than a boy meets girl story. A fine debut.

Review by Lara Daniels, Author of Love in Paradise and Love at Dawn

One word: Riveting. Sometimes unsettling. That's how I can best describe *Nothing Comes Close* – Tolulope Popoola's sequel to her award winning series, now published into a novel.

"*Nothing Comes Close*" is the love story of Lola – the most outspoken and independent friend in a group of five girlfriends. The book touches on topics such as romance, loyalty, grief, and tolerance/acceptance of each other among friends who don't necessarily see eye-to-eye on certain issues, for example, having relationships with a married man; or say, cheating on a boyfriend with an ex-boyfriend. The highlight for me, however, was the story of Wole's past. Wole is the male protagonist in the novel and is also Lola's love interest. To make Wole's story pull the reader's heartstrings, the Ms. Popoola did a very fine job of bringing into play a quite forgotten character in Nigeria's history – Dimka – the man who led the abortive military coup against the then head of State of Nigeria, General Murtala Mohammed. I see many readers researching this

important piece of Nigeria's history as they read this book and I really appreciate the author's effort in bringing that to the reader's attention.

Richard Ali, Editor-in-Chief, Sentinel Nigeria Magazine.

Nothing Comes Close explores the usual love story in a very fresh manner, employing lovely prose, suspense and the posing of serious questions to tell an immensely entertaining story. I enjoyed every moment spent reading it. Highly recommended."

Review by Shola Okubote, Editor of Femme Lounge

Tolulope Popoola's *Nothing Comes Close* is a book that I enjoyed reading, not only because of the story but because it was well written.

Tolulope Popoola is a good communicator. Her writing connects readers to the story in a way that makes it easy to relate to the characters. I particularly like her description of objects and events, and how they are tied into the story effortlessly. I think she is a writer who has taken a lot in from her environment and has articulately used it to tell a story in a beautiful way.

The book is about Lola, a young Nigerian woman living in the UK. She's got four girlfriends each with her own dynamic personality and relationship issues, but great friends nonetheless. Along came Wole, she loves him, he loves her too, but it will not be that simple. Riveting secrets, intruding sister, murder charge and a friend's death are few of the many things they will have to deal with.

The characters are quite familiar, almost all of the characters reminded me of someone I know, and that is one of the things I love about the book. The lead characters are also well developed for the plot. I would have loved to see more of Nigerian culture sprinkled here and there in the story though.

The story is also captivating, I was really eager to know how it will all end. My prediction turned out wrong though, I was actually hoping there will be a more dramatic 'no-happy-ending' turn of events. But the unpredictability added a tasty spice to the story. I find the end a bit mushy, but I guess it will be the delight of some readers especially the hopeless romantics.

I have this habit of picturing books I like as a movie in my mind. *Nothing Comes Close* is a book I will really love to see as a movie, I can actually picture the characters and scenes in my mind already! I hope that day will come.

Review by Pamela Stitch; Writer, Blogger and Radio Presenter

Tolulope's book definitely belongs to the genre of chick lit in that it shares the stories of Lola as the main character and three of her other educated, highly achieving Nigerian friends looking and in some cases finding love in London, United Kingdom. These young women are Lola, Funmi, Temmy and Maureen and each of these women come with different personalities that will seem quite familiar to those who keep and have a close knit collection of female friends. Almost like sisters, we get to feel the familiar angst as they circumvent different issues of love and life in London while keeping close ties with their cultures. For many of us, these stories will resonate – you know the story of a woman who dates a married man, another who crosses tribal lines because of love and also the issues that come with such crossings and of course another who deals with having a loved one on the other side of the law. We find ourselves crying, jumping with glee and generally, 'cheesing' at different junctures of the book. I also have to add that this is a clean romantic book, so you can give it to anyone.

Suggested Interview Questions

What challenges did you face when you decided to quit your day job and follow your passion?

Tell us about your book, *Nothing Comes Close*.

What inspired the title?

How long did it take you to finish the book?

How did you get the story idea?

What are the major themes explored in the book?

Could you give us a peek into the lives of the main characters?

What inspires you as a writer?

What book are you reading now?

You left Nigeria a couple of years ago to live in the UK; apparently you've had a multi-cultural experience. How has that influenced your writing?

What advice do you have for aspiring writers?