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Let's talk about sex...

NEW ANTHOLOGY PROMISES TO TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Extracts from Interview with Nicole Moore

By Andrea Enisuh

Let's talk about sex, or rather sexual attraction. This was the proposal that writer and arts consultant Nicole Moore put to potential contributors to the latest anthology to come out of her organisation Shangwe.

A collection of autobiographical and poetic writing from 19 black and mixed-race women, the writers certainly give passionate and intelligent views on what sexual attraction means to them – and what sort of people they are sexually attracted to. I spoke to her to find out more.



Why a book about sexual attraction?

It is a subject that has always fascinated me. What is it that attracts us to certain people? I have always found it interesting why we fancy one person and not another. I have met people and thought they are really nice but there is absolutely no chemistry between us.

Does any one else care as deeply about what sexual attraction means?

Judging by the response I got they do. It is a universal theme that we should discuss and debate. People were happy to contribute, especially poetically.

You funded this book yourself, why?

Because I just wanted to get on with it. Some people said afterwards you know you could have got funding for that, and I thought – now you tell me! But at least this way I got to do it my way.

You also produced *Brown Eyes* another anthology of writing by black and mixed-race women.

Yes and after that I vowed there would be a book two. Like *Brown Eyes* this book looks at important themes and analyses culture and race. Why is it that we are attracted to certain races? I know some people can love anyone from any race but others have very specific preferences.

And you felt you had a job to do redressing the balance of how we are portrayed in the media.

Well you don't often get black relationships championed in the media do you? You see inter-racial relationships but that is just one representation. I wanted to tell the other side of the story. Give voice to the relationships that you don't see celebrated and expressed much on television.

So what sort of man are you attracted to?

Anyone who reads the book will find that out very quickly. I wrote a poem about that and many people – especially men – have said how much they liked it.

With a theme like sexual attraction surely you got some really hot pieces of writing?

Well hot is one thing and that is fine. But I also got a few pieces that were erotica and just didn't fit. Actually some of them were bordering on porn. I didn't get too many of those though. Most people pitched it just right.

Have you had positive feedback about the book?

Yes, very positive. From the writing to the image on the cover people have been very positive. Some say it is nice to dip in and out of as it is not a heavy read. And, especially in the Caribbean where I have sold a few, people loved the cover.

Sexual Attraction Revealed: A selection of creative expressions by black and mixed-race women is on sale now. Info: www.shangwe.com