

"Half of a Yellow Sun" + "Adesuwa"

How can forgiveness happen after betrayal?

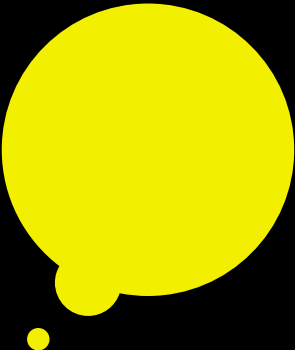


By: Azaria Burton

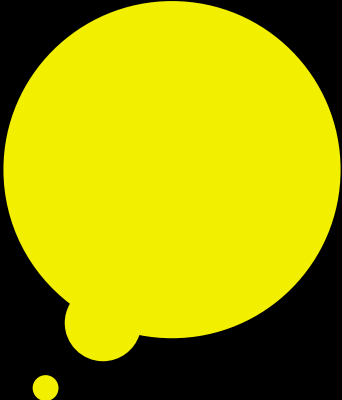
While reading "Half of a Yellow Sun" I found myself intertwined with a world full of love, betrayal, and forgiveness. In particular, there is a rift between twin sisters, Olanna and Kainene in this book because Olanna has slept with her sisters boyfriend Richard. Kainene comes to forgive Olanna and this caused me to wonder how are people able to forgive one another after feeling betrayed, what stages through the people go through and what is important to remember when someone harms you whether on purpose or not. My overall question became; "How can forgiveness happen after betrayal? "



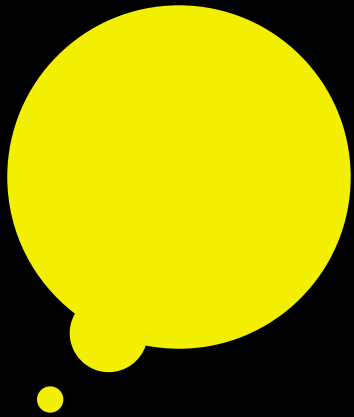
If you are interested in learning about the characters in "Half of a Yellow Sun" or the overall story line, click the following link: <http://www.litcharts.com/lit/half-of-a-yellow-sun/plot-overview>



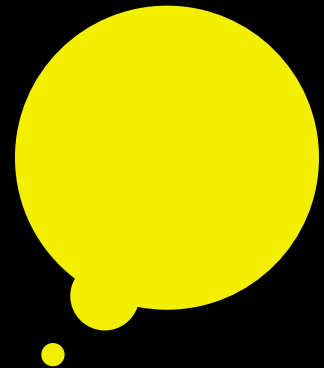
" "Why did you do it?" Kainene sounded frighteningly calm. "You're the good one and the favorite and the beauty and the Africanist revolutionary who doesn't like white men, and you simply did not need to fuck him. So why did you?" Olanna was breathing slowly. "I don't know, Kainene, it wasn't something I planned. I am so sorry. It was unforgivable." "It was unforgivable," Kainene said and hung up. "



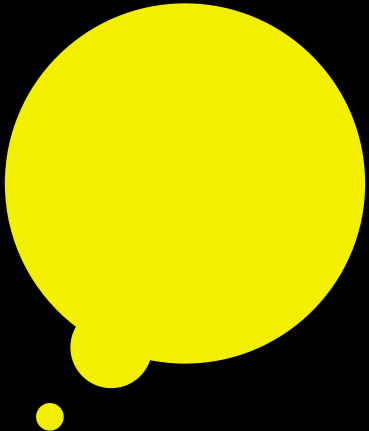
After being betrayed it's necessary and O.K to express YOUR pain to the people whom you believed hurt you. It's important to acknowledge that their actions are hurtful and unnecessary. You may also feel that their actions unforgivable. You don't have to ignore your feelings and forgive someone before you are ready to in ORDER to make them feel better. I find that part of being able to forgive people after they have betrayed you is acknowledging how badly they have hurt you. It's O.K to be angry and even feel that what they have done is unforgivable. Give yourself time and distance yourself from the situation if that's what needs to be done in order for you to feel better.



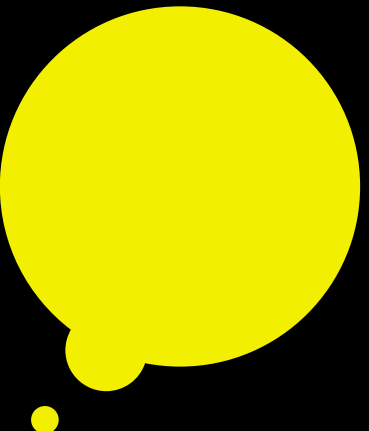
"She would not let him make her feel that there was something wrong with her. It was her right to be upset, her right to choose not to brush her humiliation aside in the name of overexalted intellectualism, and she would claim that right."

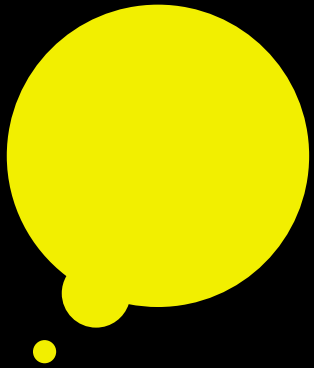


When someone hurts you and makes you feel betrayed do not allow them to make you feel as if you are the problem. If you and the person who has harmed you do not acknowledge that what they've done is wrong, you will never be able to fix the problem. Remember, "the first step to fixing a problem is acknowledging they exist," and in order to move on, you must put your foot down and not allow anybody to tell you that your pain is unjust.

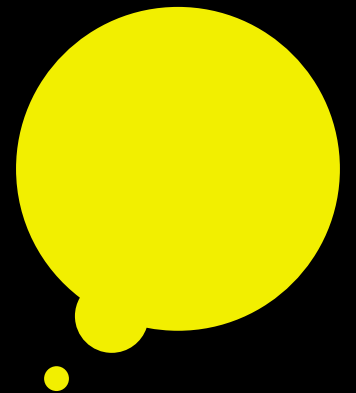


" "Yes, good. There's something very lazy about the way you have loved him so blindly for so long without ever criticizing him."





" Richard showed them Kainene's picture. Sometimes, in his rush, he pulled out the picture of the roped pot instead. Nobody had seen her... On the drive back, Richard began to cry. "



Lastly, when forgiving someone, you must understand that sometimes people do truly hurt others accidentally and that their actions do not always mean that they do not love you. Of course, this does not mean that you have to accept their actions as justifiable.

Can forgiveness happen after betrayal?

Yes, forgiveness can happen after betrayal, but this is only possible when the person who feels harmed is allowed space to express their feelings without others making them feel badly about being upset or trying to rush them into forgiveness. Forgiveness can only happen when the harmed person is ready to forgive this may take years and that is O.K.

