

Big View Small Window

Monday, August 19, 2019

Part I: My Interest in Politics started with a popular TV Show

Full disclosure: my journey is just getting started. I wasted my youth and squandered my right to vote for too long. As the title of this blog suggests, my interest and curiosity about what's happening in America, and in other parts of the world, started with the latest episode of the hit TV political drama: Madam Secretary.

As the seasons progressed, it felt like more of a *message* when any character spoke about controversial, hot-button, public/private matters. I sensed small doses of an indoctrinating serum seeping into my mind. To kick things off this last go-round, Clinton and Powell made guest appearances. It was pretty eerie listening to them deliver their lines and watching Leoni's character follow suit. Episode after episode, the drama spiraled down a path of thoughts, opinions, and images I personally do not have about America. By the end of the 5th season, I realized something was "off."

First: The character of Conrad (POTUS) on the show is painted as a benevolent leader and diplomat who always seems to be having an internal crisis that mirrors a crisis somewhere in America or abroad. He genuinely has trouble deciding whether to kill one to save a million and often defers to the Secretary and his Chief of Staff to make wise decisions. The show desperately wants audiences to believe he loves his "fellow Americans" much in the same way King Solomon loved his many wives (1 Kings 11). But this is impossible for any man. The President of the United States is wholly incapable of caring about each individual and their needs; in the same vein Solomon would never understand the deepest desires in the hearts of a thousand women.

Second: The female power play is a bit overdone. Americans love the notion of a strong female leader in the 21st century. Sure, it's possible, as we have daily proof. However, the show doesn't really inspire reasons to believe she can hold together all the pieces of her private and public life the way Leoni's character can. In 5 seasons, I don't think she's raised her voice to her husband or children more than once or twice. This. is. no. one's. life.- especially a mother of 3 wayward, independent-minded teen/young adults. Even when her kids refused to fly right, her sole concern was cleaning up their mess and keeping the family on track. Not one time did the Secretary enforce any rules she and her husband previously laid out...if they had any.

Near the end of the season, there was a cheap shot of media-worthy scandal regarding the Secretary's previous relationship with POTUS - which turned out to be an innocent "teacher and favorite pupil" relationship where exchanges were always appropriate. In real life, however, social media communities would endeavor to tear her apart limb by limb. Even if the incident was during her premarital stage of life, her integrity would forever be in question since infidelity (whether perceived or actual) always weighs more heavily on the female in the situation. Even after 20 years, Lewinsky's name cannot be mentioned without its tie to indiscretions with a former president. No matter how much good she does, she won't ever be properly accredited. Politics, particularly world leadership, has always been the province of men. Is America really ready for a female president?

Part II...

Posted by Tiffany_B at 9:46 PM



No comments:

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