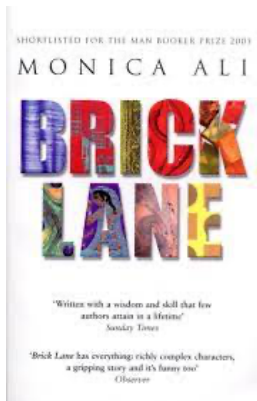




Prison Reading Groups

## Brick Lane

By Monica Ali



Still in her teenage years, Nazneen finds herself in an arranged marriage with a disappointed older man. Away from her Bangladeshi village, home is now a cramped flat in a high-rise block in London's East End. Nazneen knows not a word of English and is forced to depend on her husband.

Confined in her tiny flat, Nazneen sews furiously for a living, shut away with her buttons and linings - until the radical Karim steps unexpectedly into her life. On a background of racial conflict and tension, they embark on a love affair that forces Nazneen finally to take control of her fate.

### The Author

Monica Ali is the daughter of English and Bangladeshi parents.

She came to England aged three, her first home being Bolton in Greater Manchester, and later studied at Oxford University. Her first novel, *Brick Lane* (2003), is an epic saga about a Bangladeshi family living in the UK, and explores the British immigrant experience. It was shortlisted for the 2003 Man Booker Prize for Fiction, and made into a film, released in 2007.

### Discussion Questions

1. Considering Nazneen and Karim's faith, how do you account for their relationship?
2. What do you think of Nazneen's husband, Chanu? (This is a very broad question but worth considering in terms of his culture, identity and his need to belong)
3. Do you think Chanu knew about Nazneen's affair?

