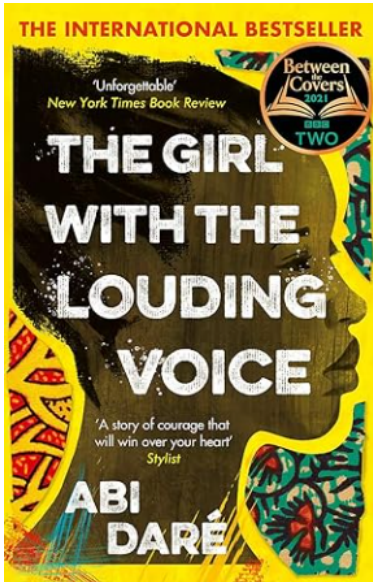


Prison Reading Groups

## The Girl with The Louding Voice

By Abi Dare



**All you have are your words.** Meet Adunni, a teenage girl born into a rural Nigerian village. Aged fourteen, she is a commodity, a wife, a servant.

As the only daughter of a broke father, she is a valuable commodity. Removed from school and sold as a third wife to an old man, Adunni's life amounts to this: four goats, two bags of rice, some chickens, and a new TV. When unspeakable tragedy swiftly strikes in her new home, she is secretly sold to a household in the wealthy enclaves of Lagos where she becomes a house-servant to the cruel Big Madam and pray to Big Madam's husband 'Big Daddy'. No one will talk about the strange disappearance of her predecessor, Rebecca. No one but Adunni...

As a yielding daughter, a subservient wife, and a powerless servant, Adunni is repeatedly told that she is nothing. But Adunni won't be silenced. She is determined to find her voice - in a whisper, in song, in broken English - until she can speak for herself, for the girls like Rebecca who came before, and for all the girls who will follow.

**And one day, someone hears her...**

### Discussion Questions:

1. *"The bride-price is for you, Adunni. You will be marrying Morufu next week."* (p. 6). In what ways is Adunni objectified throughout the course of the novel?
2. *"All Kayus ever worry about is what food to eat and where he can kick his football. He don't ever worry about no marriage or bride-price money"* (p. 34). In what ways do the males in Adunni's life experience a privileged existence?

3. *“Talking to this Ms. Tia is making the pain in my head to be stopping small. Her honey voice is like medicine, her laugh like cool water on my hot head”* (p. 201). How do you think Adunni’s life would have played out if she had never met Tia?
  
4. How would you describe Big Madam and Big Daddy’s relationship? Given the dynamics of their relationship, do you feel any sympathy for Big Madam?
  
5. Where does Adunni’s faith in the power of education come from? What role does this belief in education play for her during her journey?
  
6. How would you define a ‘Louding Voice’?

*Thank you to our volunteer Kimberley for choosing the title and creating this resource.*