

## You're My Line



*Asma Jama (AJ) is a Somali American who one day was eating out. She was speaking Swahili and wearing her hijab. A woman yelled at her to speak English and “go back to her own country.” She replied, “This is my country”. The lady smashed a mug on her face and she was hospitalized. Here, she speaks to Dawn Sahr (DS), the sister of the woman who yelled at her.*

**DS:** I wanted to reach out to you so much. I just wanted to know that you were okay. That was my biggest \_\_\_\_\_.

**AJ:** That was my biggest concern too.

I used to be carefree. I used to go everywhere by myself. I would say hi to strangers. But after what happened to me, I felt like I had to \_\_\_\_\_ my shoulder every time I go outside.

**DS:** I was so sorry you had to go through that.

**AJ:** Did you stop \_\_\_\_\_ to her because of what she did to me?

**DS:** I did, yeah.

**AJ:** Why can't you forgive her?

**DS:** Because then it's telling Jodie that it's okay. And it's not okay.

Do you feel like you can't speak Swahili in \_\_\_\_\_ anymore?

**AJ:** Yes, because I realized I don't belong. I have to prove myself every single day and it makes me feel like I had to give up a lot of who I was.

**DS:** I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ that you can eventually become that person you used to be.

**AJ:** I will get there. It's going to take me a while. But for you to stand up for somebody you don't know, and to say that what she did was \_\_\_\_\_, that meant the world to me.

**DS:** I will support you in any possible way I can. You know, they say blood's thicker than water and you stand behind your family no matter what. Well, you gotta draw the \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere. And you're my line.

**AJ:** Thank you.

### **Discussion:**

1. If you had been in the restaurant, what would you have done?
2. Have you or anyone you know been treated like an "outsider"?
3. Do you think Dawn will ever speak to her sister again?
4. Do you believe people have the right to wear the hijab (head scarf) in public?
5. Why do you think some people get upset at immigrants?  
Do you understand their anger?
6. In your school, workplace or community is there a problem like this one?
7. What can governments and people do to build more trust, tolerance and understanding?

## You're My Line



*Asma Jama (AJ) is a Somali American who one day was eating out. She was speaking Swahili and wearing her hijab. A woman yelled at her to speak English and “go back to her own country.” She replied, “This is my country”. The lady smashed a mug on her face and she was hospitalized. Here, she speaks to Dawn Sahr (DS), the sister of the woman who yelled at her.*

**DS:** I wanted to reach out to you so much. I just wanted to know that you were okay. That was my biggest concern.

**AJ:** That was my biggest concern too.

I used to be carefree. I used to go everywhere by myself. I would say hi to strangers. But after what happened to me, I felt like I had to look over my shoulder every time I go outside.

**DS:** I was so sorry you had to go through that.

**AJ:** Did you stop talking to her because of what she did to me?

**DS:** I did, yeah.

**AJ:** Why can't you forgive her?

**DS:** Because then it's telling Jodie that it's okay. And it's not okay.

Do you feel like you can't speak Swahili in public anymore?

**AJ:** Yes, because I realized I don't belong. I have to prove myself every single day and it makes me feel like I had to give up a lot of who I was.

**DS:** I'm going to pray that you can eventually become that person you used to be.

**AJ:** I will get there. It's going to take me a while. But for you to stand up for somebody you don't know, and to say that what she did was unacceptable, that meant the world to me.

**DS:** I will support you in any possible way I can. You know, they say blood's thicker than water and you stand behind your family no matter what. Well, you gotta draw the line somewhere. And you're my line.

**AJ:** Thank you.

### **Discussion:**

1. If you had been in the restaurant, what would you have done?
2. Have you or anyone you know been treated like an "outsider"?
3. Do you think Dawn will ever speak to her sister again?
4. Do you believe people have the right to wear the hijab (head scarf) in public?
5. Why do you think some people get upset at immigrants?  
Do you understand their anger?
6. In your school, workplace or community is there a problem like this one?
7. What can governments and people do to build more trust, tolerance and understanding?

# #1. Full Listening 🎧

Listen and find out what Dawn is going to do for Asma.

---

# #2. Focused Listening 🎧

Listen again and complete these sentences.

- a. I \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere by myself.
- b. Why can't you \_\_\_\_\_?
- c. Well, you \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere.

# #3. Review & Retell.

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened? \_\_\_\_\_

---



What I learned and liked. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

## **Answer Key**

### **You're My Line**

1. Dawn is going to pray for Asma to become the person she used to be.
  
2.
  - a. used to go
  - b. forgive her
  - c. gotta draw the line