Student

Instructor

Course

Date

*The Power* by Naomi Alderman

**PART 1**

1. **What examples do you see in this section of women abusing their power over men? Be sure to discuss individual actions from our characters as well as laws that are starting to pass.**

One example of women abusing their power over women is seen in the account that Jocelyn reads when stationed in Bessapara. “She reads accounts online on Tom Hobson’s website that “she can’t really believe”: in the north, there are gangs of women raping and murdering men at will” (Alderman 250). Tunde also experiences harassment from women. Alderman writes that “They called to him first in Romanian and then in English. He looked at the stones of the path. They shouted a few words after him, obscene and racist words, but let him go on” (Alderman 254). The law is also encouraging injustices against men as noted by Tunde. He finds it hard to believe that the country is trying to kill most of its men by increasing the number of crimes that are punishable by death (Alderman 267). All these show the extent to which women are wrongfully using their power to harm men.

1. **What is the significance of Roxy losing her skein? Describe how it was taken from her and what results from it.**

By losing her skein, Roxy illustrates how weak and vulnerable women are without special abilities. This is because, without the Skein, Roxy felt less confident and fearful. The incident also showed the extent to which men can go to take away power from women that threaten their authority. Roxy's skein was taken away by Darrell. He set up a meeting with Roxy in Bessapara and organized for her skein to be transplanted into him. After the skein was removed, she felt empty and even went into hiding.

1. **What was Allie’s ultimate plan?**

Allie plans to eventually prevent wealthy men from controlling the world. Besides, she would like to use her power to gain superiority over all the women in the world. Alderman writes that “The [voice](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-power/characters/the-voice) tells Allie that she is meant for greater things and that she can command respect from women everywhere” (Alderman 282). Therefore, the voice encourages Allie to pursue her ultimate plans.

1. **Why did someone claim that Tunde was dead?**

The allegations that Tunde was dead were probably spread by Nina. She did this to justify the fact that she had stolen Tunde’s journalism materials such as photographs and passed them down as her own. When reading an extract from a book that Nina was to publish later within the year, Tunde realized that it had his ideas, photographs and notes.

1. **Describe how Roxy and Tunde meet and the relationship that they form. Why do they become so close so quickly?**

Roxy and Tunde meet after Tunde was captured by some women when trying to locate the mountain cult. When he regained consciousness in the cage he saw Roxy standing next to him and recognized her. The two of them started as friends then later formed a romantic relationship. Roxy and Tunde became close quickly because they had a lot in common. For instance, they had both experienced betrayal. Roxy was betrayed by Darrell when he took away her skein while Tunde was betrayed by Nina who stole and published his notes, photographs and ideas (Alderman 276).

**PART 2**

**Ted Talk**

One of the common themes between Chimamanda Adichie’s Ted Talk and *The Power* is gender rivalry. Adichie says that “So in the literal way, men rule the world, and this made sense a thousand years ago because human beings lived then in a world in which physical strength was the most important attribute for survival. The physically stronger person was more likely to lead, and men, in general, are physically stronger" (Adichie 7:11). Therefore, Adichie noted that the more physically powerful gender was in a better position of ruling over the weaker gender. In the novel, men and women are seen to be fighting over authority and power. When women realized that they have the *Power* with which they could manipulate and harm men, they gained superiority hence challenging the assumption that men are generally stronger and superior to women. For instance, Tunde recorded several instances of women using their power to kill or rape men. Men are also portrayed to want to be as powerful as women in the novel. For example, Darrell tricks Roxy and transplants her skein into himself to gain power like women. All these illustrate the rivalry between men and women.

Works Cited

Adichie, Chimamanda. "We Should All Be Feminists". *Ted.Com*, 2012, <https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_we_should_all_be_feminists>.

Alderman, Naomi. *The Power*. Penguin Random House, 2016, pp. 83-144.