

found you even though you are deep inside the hole. And the captain of the boat will suddenly be standing next to you and he will ask you one single question "How old are you?" and then you will talk as if it's the first time you've talked and you will be surprised at how loud and crazy your voice sounds and you will say things like "I am seventeen. He took me when I was fifteen. He raped me every day three times a day. He gave me diseases and made me pregnant. He stole our country's minerals, and my life. If you turn this boat back; I will throw myself into the lake. I will drown myself. I'll be okay dead as long as I never have to see him again. I will take his baby with me."

And the captain will put one hand on your shoulder and you will see a light in his eyes that you will identify as pity and he will not turn back.

RULE 7. DO NOT FEEL GUILTY ABOUT HOW HAPPY YOU FEEL

WHEN YOU HEAR HE IS DEAD

After six months back at home in your beloved Bukavu you will run into two soldiers from the camp and they will be surprised at how well you look and they will tell you that Claude got killed and you will say "God did something good" and at that moment milk will pour into your breasts and you will love your baby.

I went on a vacation for two days.

I didn't come back for two years.

RULE 8. NO ONE CAN TAKE ANYTHING FROM YOU IF YOU DO NOT GIVE IT TO THEM

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A TEENAGE GIRL'S GUIDE TO SURVIVING SEX SLAVERY

- How do you think the rules the character shares apply "to any girl anywhere in the world"?
- Where does the character find hope within her desperate situation? Does she ever lose hope?
- What does the character mean when she says, "No one can take anything from you if you do not give it to them"?
- How is the character a survivor? How are you a survivor?

FIVE COWS AND A CALF

- Why do you think gender violence is so common throughout the world and throughout history?
- What does your culture expect from you as a girl?
- How can you challenge these expectations?
- Where would you like to have reconciliation for yourself, in your family, in your friendships, or in other aspects of your life?
- What is FGM? What do you think about the practice? Do you think it is possible for cultural attitudes about FGM to change? How?
- Do you know of any places where long-practiced traditions have changed?