

Lutcher Public Library's Urban Fiction Book Club
Book Reviews for July 2014

Silenced by Kia Dupree

Rating: ★★★★★

During the month of July, Lutcher Public Library's Urban Fiction Book Club met to discuss Kia Dupree's *Silenced* (2011). Moved by the story's realistic portrayal of inner-city life and conflict between mother and daughter, members gave it a unanimous five-star rating.

Told from the alternating perspectives of mother and daughter, *Silenced* (Dupree, 2011) focuses on Nicola Hampton's struggles to survive with her three children in harsh Sursum Corda, a housing project in Washington, D.C. Nicola, her daughter (Tinka) and her sons (Marquan and Taevon) are forced to move to the projects after she loses her job and the family is evicted from their apartment. Unable to find steady work, Nicola fears her temporary situation is becoming permanent and that her sons are spending far too much time in the streets. Desiring a sense of relief, she becomes reacquainted with Teddy, a cheating ex-boyfriend and Taevon's father. The relationship, however, leads to tension between Nicola and her daughter and pushes Tinka, an aspiring student, into the arms of Nine, a dangerous thief.

We, members of Lutcher Public Library's Urban Fiction Book Club, highly recommend *Silenced* (Dupree, 2011) to urban fiction readers and others who enjoy stories about inner-city families filled with conflict, danger and suspense. While members vary on whether the novel's ending is hopeful, all agree that Nicola's and Tinka's different viewpoints keep the story moving and interesting. This story is definitely a good read!

Join us Saturday, August 23, 12:30 pm, at Lutcher Public Library to discuss Kia Dupree's *Shattered* (2012) and Sister Souljah's *The Coldest Winter Ever* (1999). For more information about the book club, please contact Yvette Hyde ([225-747-0493](tel:225-747-0493)).