



'Dere: An African Tale

Synopsis

Otunba Femi Kosoko, his wife Kemi Kosoko and their only child, Dere, are a close-knit family. When Dere's mother dies tragically, her father's remarriage turns Dere's life – and their family – upside down. Her eventual meeting with Prince Charming and the exposure of her evil stepmother and stepsisters conclude a tale that is both romantic and heart-warming.

Characters

1. **Cinderella Atinuke Kosoko:** Called Dere for short is the precocious, beautiful, naive, indulged and only child of the Kosoko's. We meet her when she's still a 21-year-old third-year student at St. Andrews University in Scotland, studying Law and International relations. After her mother's death, she returns to Nigeria to take care of her father in fulfilment of the promise she made to her mother. Being an only child, Dere's desire for family makes her vulnerable to her stepsisters who hate and take advantage of her. She's inexplicably attracted to Mofe Clark, a man she's never met, and develops a keen friendship with Joke, a workmate, who is more of a sister than her own step-sisters. Strong, sensitive and naïve, Dere not only has the skill and sensitivity to tell write good stories, she also has the strength and acumen to take over her father's business despite the forces ranging against it.
2. **Indira Adami:** Dere's older stepsister. She is Mrs Adami's eldest daughter, and studied English at OAU. She worked as a PA to a lascivious banker on the Island until her mother manipulated Otunba, her husband, to give them jobs at FKF. Adopted by Alhaji, she is extremely resentful of Dere's seeming ease in life, and is determined to make life miserable for her, preying on her to discover her dreams and thwart them. She has a lover, but has no commitment to him as she is on the hunt for a rich man. A voracious devourer of gossip magazines, she is in her early to mid 30s.
3. **Joke Oyekanmi:** Joke is an Administrative Assistant at FKF. She's in her mid 20s and went to Unilag to study Business Administration. She comes from a poor family, and has had to work hard to get to where she is, and is



also responsible for paying the school fees for her siblings. She quickly becomes Cinderella's (Dere) close friend and confidant, and provides a defence against the Adami sister's who she's never liked nor trusted.

4. **Chief Oseni:** Is one of Mrs Adami's former lovers, now close friend and confidant. She has no female friends, as she doesn't trust them. Fifty something years old, he was very active in politics, particularly on the local government level, and was a counselor in one of the wards on Lagos Island, where he was allowed to serve his term, under the suspicion of looting the treasury, and leaving essential services in the local government area to fail. He is a rich man who only dresses in native, with a cap cocked to one side. He loves his food, and his women, but he has a grudging respect for Mrs. Adami and will watch her back – when it suits him.
5. **Mr. Bala:** Twenty-five year veteran of FKF, in his early 60s. Came up through the ranks and became an accountant. Grew resentful when the more qualified Gabriel Okoli was employed as Chief Accountant over him. An obsequious sycophant, he becomes seduced by the promise of advancement and assists Mrs. Adami and her daughters to almost defraud FKF of almost 950 Million naira.
6. **Mr. Okoli:** Is the Chief Accountant of FKF, a loyal employee who identifies the massive fraud Mr. Bala and his co-conspirators were perpetrating on FKF. He is a trusted member of FKF, and one of the executives Otunba Kosoko chose to steer and assist Dere when she assumes control of the company.
7. **Mrs. Atta:** Is the Company Secretary of FKF, a young woman in her 40s, and the other executive that Otunba Kosoko chose to steer Dere in the right direction when she assumes control of the company.
8. **PK:** Scarred and a little scary-looking, PK is a young social activist in his mid 30s. He was a schoolmate of Chichi's in school, and has a passion for improving the lot of desperately deprived youth, especially around the shorelines of the area. A chance encounter with Chichi after many years, eventually gets Mofe involved and committed to the cause of social enterprise and responsibility. He has had it rough growing up, and is very well-liked amongst the young people he has inspired and encouraged.
9. **Fabrice:** Loyal cook who has been with the family for over 25 years. Mid-to-late 50s.



10. **Tawa:** Has been in the family since she was a teenager. Now in her early 20s. Fiercely loyal.
11. **Taxi Driver:** Aged between 40 and 60. Introspective but has a lot to say when given an opportunity. Talkative.
12. **Doctor:** Family physician to the Kosokos for decades. Older male/female in their 50s.
13. **Handsome Man:** Late 20s to mid 30s. Suave, smooth operator. Thinks every girl will swoon at his feet.
14. **Young Man:** Mid 20s. One of the young people down at the center being mentored by PK.
15. **Man:** Mid 30s. Company representative type. Would fit into any corporate organisation.
16. **Interviewer:** Late 20s to early 30s. Female. Kadaria Ahmed, Christiane Amanpour type but for entertainment. She's a newshound.
17. **Young Girl:** Early to mid 20s. One of Usman's hanger-ons. Looks – and acts – like a Barbie doll.
18. **BGI Aide:** Mid 20s to late 20s. Male. He's Mofe's right-hand man who also drives him around sometimes (must be able to drive and have valid driver's license).
19. **Detective 1:** Mid 30s to late 40s. Male. EFCC operative type. Baites the accused with sarcasm. Plays off Detective 2.
20. **Detective 2:** (See Detective 1 description)
21. **Eccentric Designer:** 40s. Female. Must have unique appearance that lends a sense of eccentricism.
22. **Woman:** 20s. Crazy, with stalker tendencies.