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**“Dear White People” by Justin Simien**

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### **“Dear White People” by Justin Simien**

The TV series I have chosen for review is titled "Dear White People," created and directed by Justin Simien. Additionally, the series has been produced by Ann Lee, Effie Brown, Julia Lebedev, Lena Waithe, Angel Lopez, and. The series is part drama and comedy that tracks the lives of a group of black scholars attending an Ivy League college. Even though the movie focuses on the main character, a student named Samantha White, it sporadically pivots to narrate the story from the perspective of her peers and displays how complex the black experience certainly is (Brown et al., 2017). The film's major focus is on current topics like police brutality, interracial relationships, racial discrimination, macroaggressions, and other emotions related to being a black student in a primarily white campus. The show's contents are inspired by Justin Simien's feelings while attending the biggest white Chapman University.

The race is an unequivocal theme in this show since the broadest aim of the series inclines at emphasizing how the grievances of black scholars on a majority of white elite campuses are often manipulated, discounted, or ignored by managements like in the case of Lionel and independent and the donor concern related with them. I would presume that a black face festivity similar to the one in the initial season of the film would not soar at any other setting. However, the series has highlighted numerous other challenging incidences that propagate racist college principles evident in the movie (Simien, 2014). Likewise, another scene that indicates race is an explicit theme of the show was when the key character, Samantha White, was sited in a lecture hall occupied by mostly white students. A white male student spoke over the top of her, and the other scholars" promptly paid attention to him and appeared to have forgotten that Samantha White had even spoken.

The series features four minority characters who are struggling with the intensifying racial pressures at Ivy League college. They represent a small minority group of the total cost because it is populated mainly by white students. Troy, the dean's son, tries to integrate whiteness by seeming cool and non-threatening. Coco, on the contrary, is dark-skinned and wears an economic major from south side Chicago. She tries her level best to discard blackness and embrace lightness by self-criticism. Lionel a black learner struggling to correspond with the white scholars because he is gay. Samantha White happens to be the main character and a student of heritage media arts major at the college, predominantly occupied by white students. She has been portrayed as an activist fighting for the rights of the black minority group within the campus. She gives rise to a commotion amongst the administration and student organization with her unsympathetic and humorous radio segment named "Dear White People" together with her book "Ebony and Ivy," which she publishes on her own, condemning white individuals and the racist contraventions at the college (Simien, 2014). Additionally, tensions rise after she triumphs over the election for leader of the house of Armstrong, which was a house occupied by black students.

Samantha White challenges various racial stereotypes like randomization house regulations created by Fletcher, a white president aiming at mixing black and white learners in a house. She is afraid and feels that the regulation of the randomization movement would disadvantage black students. In addition, Samantha bravely and loudly voiced racial discrimination in the college, expressing that it should be stopped. In her submission, she gets support from her fellow black scholars and is similarly rejected by white students. In chapter one, Samantha's friend discovers that she is dating a white scholar and the lecturing associate from her class called Gabe while filming a black people party hosted by a white student

magazine group. Her fellow black learners begin losing confidence in her consciousness, and she does not know what to do. In this instance, Samantha's fellow black students display aspects of situational ethnicity because they feel that she has betrayed her race through her actions (Brown et al., 2017).

Individuals of the minority group in this film have been marginalized and overlooked, explaining the intersection between race and other social identities. Because of this phenomenon, the black society in the college is viewed as lesser beings, thus lowering their class. They feel less confident in themselves and would rather form small cocoons and societies to address their concerns. Nonetheless, the series reflects the recent struggles that people of color currently face in the United States and other corners of the world. Ideally, ethnic subgroups face massive inequalities in life experiences and consequences matched to their white equivalents. The extent of this film goes beyond entertainment and drama and aims to eradicate the instances of racial injustices currently being experienced (Simien, 2014). For instance, the recent Black Lives Matter movement addresses similar issues that have been brought up in this film. Therefore, racial discrimination might not necessarily occur in the contemporary world as portrayed in the film. However, the truth of the matter is that it is an issue of great concern and should be addressed extensively.

The show might assist in maintain prejudice and discrimination in the sense that some audiences find solace in violence and negativity; thus, they might incline their thoughts toward upholding the negativity portrayed in the film and spread this negativity to other individuals around their circles. Likewise, portraying the negativity, racial discrimination, inequality, and suffering people of color go through may help create awareness and empower oppressed black people to speak up and seek justice. This approach would enable the voiceless to come out and

fight against racism; thus, the film might help counteract prejudice and discrimination.

Moreover, the film's impact on my personal view is that I feel much more obliged to uphold and respect human rights regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or social status. Lastly, the film can help shape the perception of other audience members by enlightening them about personal feelings, particularly concerning ethnicity and the emotional consequences associated with racial discrimination.

### References

Brown, E., Lee, A., Lebedev, J., Lopez, A., Waithe, L., & Simien, J. (Producers), & Simien, J.

(Director). (2017). *Dear White People*. [Video file]. Retrieved from

<https://www.netflix.com>

Simien, J. (2014). *Dear white people*. Simon and Schuster.

## Appendix

Movie portrays black identity and race relations at a fictional Ivy League school.

A minority group of black students are the major focus of the film.

The majority of students in the college are white.

The major character goes by the name Samantha White who plays the role of an activist.

She speaks out openly about the racial discrimination that black students experience at the university.

She wins an election to head a house occupied by black students.

This win generates issues with the university's administration.

She rejects the idea of randomization house regulation.

Samantha's race express dissatisfaction after finding out that she is dating a white student.

Samantha speaks a radio show in campus.

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