

Peele Delivers Again on Scary

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ination of Americans is focused on keeping our “stuff,” hanging onto what is ours, against grasping “others” like the poor who are too lazy to work and achieve what we believe anyone can, or immigrants who want to come and take our jobs, asserting bogus claims for asylum. We feel entitled to our “best life.” Like the Wilsons in the film, we are to some degree swept up in the competition for it—and, as with Gabe (Winston Duke’s character), our life inside of privi-

lege may infuse us with an empty idea of power and rob us of much ability to decode and respond appropriately to danger. But the “others” are Americans too.

We very typically locate our “shadow” in the other. We comfort ourselves that the bad people are locked in cages for their crimes, which helps us avoid looking at the ways that those of us on the outside—above ground—are connected to what put them there or ways in which certain populations receive more or less punishment for the same crimes.

Locating danger and wrong in others like those who are incarcerated or have felony records (or who live in “shithole countries” or come from some other disfavored group) helps us to avoid looking at the ways the rest of us are dangerous or perpetrating wrongs. We locate the dangerous and bad ones underground, as it were, like the red-clad doppelgangers in the film—our “shadow” is out of sight and out of mind. And yet, in ways we resist seeing, THEY are US.

Every once in a while, someone who started life in a position

of deprivation, as a marginalized person, breaks out, as Addie did in childhood. And quite often—perhaps most of the time—they simply set about to get what is rightfully theirs, sparing little to no effective concern for others left behind who are not so privileged. In some sense, people with that experience, have more information about the connections between the privileged and the marginalized—but often the attainment of privilege eliminates any will to wrestle with the meaning of those connections. Like Addie, who escaped at the expense of Red (the “real” Addie), those whose discomfort is connected to our comfort are out of

sight and out of mind.

Like racism, these are things we very much do NOT want to think about. And Peele is exceedingly smart to leave the connections more opaque this time around. As Jesus often said, Peele seeks to be heard only by those with “ears to hear.” And he has crafted a film that is constructed to maximize the number who will actually hear.


Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column *Opinionated Judge* appears regularly in *The Portland Observer*. Find her movie blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.

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90th Birthday Party

Family and friends celebrated the 90th birthday of Portland resident Lois Graze Jackson (right) with an elegant birthday party on March 16 at the Colwood Event Center. In attendance was Lois’ only living sibling, 101-year-old Dorothy “Dear” Williams (left) of Beaumont, Texas. Lois’ daughters Brenda Polk of Portland and Janet Jackson and Renee Brown, both of Chicago, hosted the party. As part of the entertainment, both ladies recited poetry from memory, wowing the crowd.

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A: Your case sounds familiar. It reminds me of one case in particular. A man once came to my office for consultation. He wanted to show me his knee but his slacks were so tight from swelling in his knee that

he could not pull his pant leg up to show me. I talked to him about his knee and showed him graphs of the nervous system and how it affects the knee. He decided to become a Chiropractic patient and has had no problem with his knee since. Within days the swelling was out of his knee. Like so many patients, he

had an added bonus. His back was stronger and healthier than it had been in years. His headaches disappeared. In short, he got that healthy happy feeling of Chiropractic. If you have knee pain or if you have any question concerning your health at all, call us today, Isn’t it time you stepped up to Chiropractic?

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