Special Issue 2022

The Minority Report

"My Voice. Your Voice. Our Vo[illegible]ified."



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Kevin Samuels

"The Godfather"

1969 - 2022

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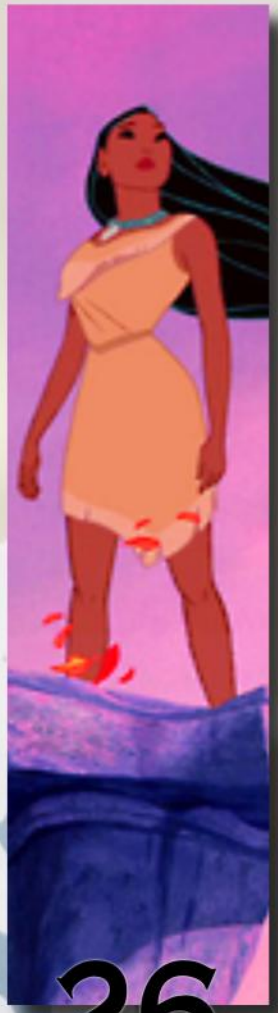
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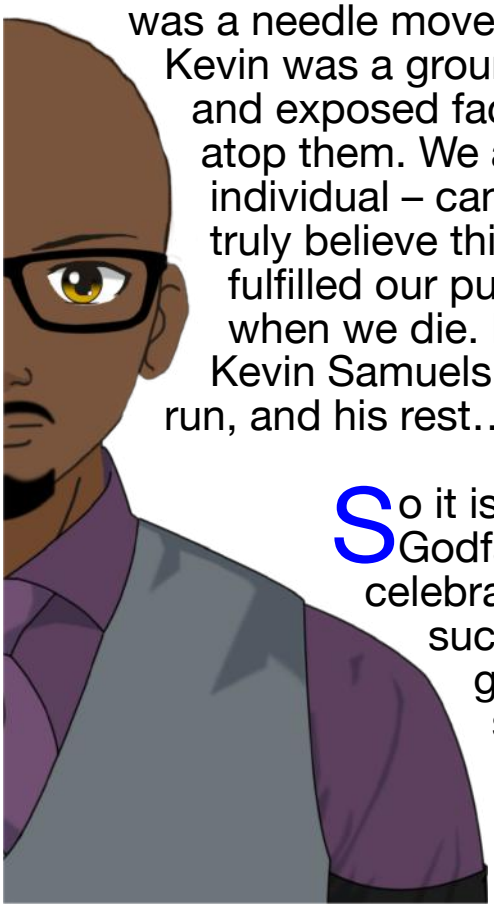
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Bidding Farewell to the Godfather

"There is a saying that was repeated to me during my time in the Marine Corps. "People spend their whole lives wondering if they've made a difference…Marines don't have that problem." I can firmly and confidently say that Kevin Samuels didn't have that problem either.

Kevin came along during a time when the truth is replaced with fiction and delusion; where the truth sounds foreign and deemed disrespectful. A time when the truth is stifled by a plethora of "my truths" when calling a spade a spade and keeping it real are nothing more than vapid expressions. I can't say that I've made the acquaintance of Kevin Samuels, but I and my friend are two of many he has inspired. Personally, he inspired me to be my best CIA self, to ensure that I appreciate and acknowledge an FBI woman, and to stand on my square and enunciate THE truth; regardless of the backlash and difference of opinion or hurt feelings…so long as my intentions are pure, the message will reach its intended audience. Because in the end, it's not about the messenger, it's about the message. While I know that I've not reached my final form, I am aware of the work that has yet to be done because of the lessons Kevin Samuels taught me.

To quote a fantastic line from a terrible movie, **"It seems the destiny of great men to see their goals unfulfilled."** To say that Kevin Samuels was a needle mover is to under sale his contribution to our community. Kevin was a ground shaker. He shook foundations built on delusion and exposed facades to the point of humbling those who stood atop them. We all have a purpose; something that only we - the individual – can do to further the advancement of the collective. I truly believe this and I think Kevin did too. It is only after we've fulfilled our purpose do we leave this plane altogether. That's when we die. I think – that's not the right word – I know that's why Kevin Samuels is no longer with us. His work is done, his race is run, and his rest…has been earned.

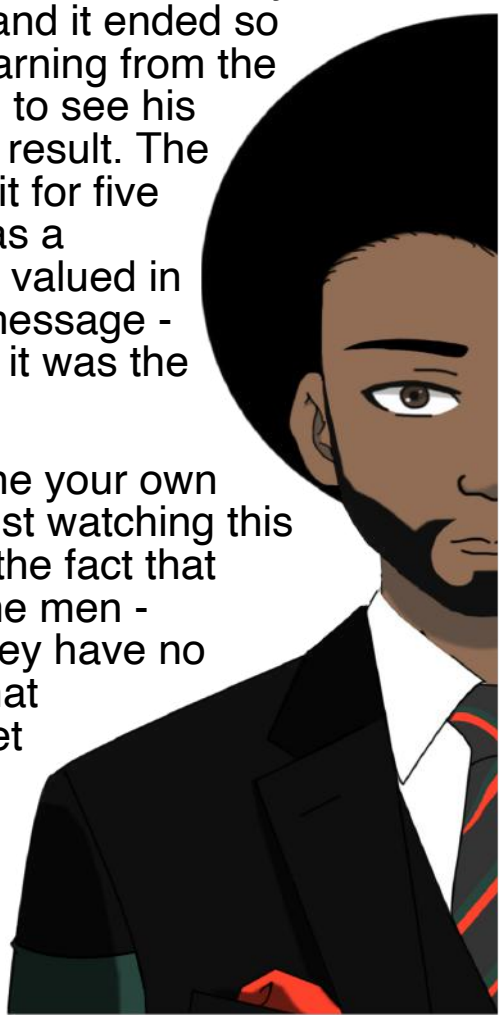


So it is with a heavy heart that I raise my glass to the Godfather. Not in mourning, but in bittersweet celebration of the life of a man who affected so many in such a short amount of time. I also do it as a symbolic gesture as my promise to continue what he started…where I know he wanted to go and honor the ancestor he's now elevated as. So rest in power, Godfather. You will be truly missed."

“I’ve had a few of my heroes - and I used that term very exclusively - pass in my life. In 2020, we lost Kobe Bryant. I'm not a humongous sports fan, not since the days of Jordan when I was a kid and we were cheering him on and watching the finals and doing what all Chicagoans do. I remember when Kobe passed, a good friend of mine called me and he was in tears...I didn't realize what he meant to so many people. I remember the outpouring of support and just the sheer camaraderie surrounding him.

There are very few figures that have died in my life; I remember Michael Jackson being one of them. I remember Prince. I just remember the outpouring of love and you still had that segment of people who were so hate-filled when it came to Kobe Bryant, when it came to Michael Jackson; when it came to other figures and it still didn't prepare me for Kevin Samuels. It did not prepare me for what was coming. I don't mean his death necessarily, because I'm almost 40. I've dealt with death before, personally, especially being a veteran, but the reaction to his death was what shocked me. I get internet trolls, and I get critics, but it wasn't just them we're talking about. We’re talking news outlets, we're talking people in media celebrating his passing in a way that was – hyperbole aside - demonic. It was weird to see because no matter how you felt about the man, he was still a man, and a black man at that.

Kevin never said anything that was extremely vitriolic: he never wished ill on people, he only ever tried to help and if you truly listen to his message - and shout out to all the content creators that are sharing clips of him - what he wanted to do with his platform, and in my opinion accomplished in a way, He wanted to start the conversation. He said that so many times, so many times, but it's funny: the conversation started and it ended so quickly and as an aspiring content creator, I'll say learning from the greats and others that came before me, it's sobering to see his catalog and body of work and him not get to see the result. The sheer amount of man hours and to see that man do it for five years non-stop even when he was sick. The man was a workhorse and I think that's a trait a lot of black men valued in him. It wasn't just that he was preaching a specific message - that message was needed, don't get me wrong - but it was the commitment very few males in America have.



This is a tough subject and it makes you examine your own mortality and I think the fact that we were all just watching this man live makes things worse. We are going to face the fact that everybody - and I don't just mean women, even some men - everybody's talking about generational wealth but they have no idea the sacrifice and the cost it takes to generate that wealth. It's just a talking point. Kevin was trying to get us out of the talking points. To look at the data. **Really look at the data; are we getting the outcomes that we say we want and if we're not, what are we doing to change the outcome exactly?**”

THE MASKS WE Have to A WEAR:



THE PRICE OF SPEAKING THE TRUTH

"A man is least himself when he speaks in his own person, but if you give that man a mask, he'll tell you the truth." **- Oscar Wilde**

I have always liked this quote particularly because it always reminded me of superheroes in a way. When you think of who Peter Parker is and how he's more himself when he puts on his mask and becomes Spider-Man, or how Bruce Wayne is more himself when he puts on the mask and becomes Batman or how Superman is more himself when he dons his glasses and becomes Clark Kent. Each of their respective masks allows them to be who they truly are without any inhibitions. Sure there's the hero trope of saying the mask is a way for them to protect their loved ones, which is an obvious boon, but the clearest advantage is not having to hold back for fear of scrutiny or backlash.

In hindsight, I suppose that this is more of a juvenile



perspective. I say that having survived to see 36 years old and looking back at the quote now, I realize that true freedom lies not within the mask so you can anonymously say or do whatever, true freedom is in telling the truth as yourself regardless of opposition and scrutiny as opposed to Oscar Wilde's view where the mask represents that exact freedom. I can't help but wonder in this scenario, that if you have to wear a mask in order to speak objective truth, then isn't the mask you wear oppressive, or is it the society that forces one to wear it? Internet culture has always thrived on anonymity,

people expose all of their demons and their hideous natures without fear of being found out and ousted. But what happens when it becomes a reservation for people who try to speak truth to power? How long before the world of alternative facts becomes our new reality?

In today's society, you have to wear a mask in order to say that men and women are biologically different. You have to wear a mask in order to say that a man or woman that undergoes gender affirmation surgery is still a man or woman despite their outward appearance. You have to wear a mask in order to say that despite the social climate, gender fluidity is ironically the real social construct and not the binary nature to which we have evolved to have known for thousands of years. Yes, wearing a mask to say these and other objective truths is absolutely vital for survival in today's social climate. But my question is how did we get here? How did people speaking irrefutable, objective truths become as reprehensible as people who are racist, pedophiles, terrorists, and other disreputable people? People like this have to lurk in the shadows and crevices in back alleys and the dark web in order to say their peace, thrive, and make their living. So why have truth-sayers





become associated with the more deplorable members of society?

Certainly, there are some factors that are more responsible than others, however, the key factor - I believe - lies mostly in the matter that we are now leaning more toward a gynocentric society. An incendiary statement I'm sure, however, consider the social nature today where everything is accepted, everyone belongs, and nothing is out of bounds because there are no boundaries. In this "live your truth" era, everything is all about positive reinforcement no matter what it is: promiscuity, children out of wedlock, obesity, and simple overall ignorance…all of which is met with high praise and validation and any criticism to the contrary is met with harsh backlash. Battlecries to vilify and "cancel" the source of the criticism run rampant and more often than not, cost people their livelihoods. A feeble attempt to make reality the pipe dream that is a utopia. People have become fragile. Blow on them the wrong way and they crumble into madness. Few people have braved this social fragility and come out unscathed without having to wear a mask to protect them; Dave Chappelle is the primary one that comes to mind.

In one of his recent comedy specials he says:

> "*It's too hard to entertain a country whose ears are so brittle.* ***Motherfucker's are so sensitive, the whole country's turned into bitch ass niggas.***"
>
> **- Dave Chappelle, Equa*nimity**



Dave would go on to say that he was rich enough to do what most black men in this country can't afford to…and that's thinking about how he actually felt about any particular issue. Incendiary Radio personality, Charlemagne Tha God adds to this by saying "No one wants the truth when the lie is more entertaining." I would like to submit an addendum: No one wants the truth when the lie is more uplifting and elevates you from reality. No one wants to hear that being obese is not sexy and that it will lead to health complications and inevitably an early death. No one wants to hear that a man is a man and a woman is a woman despite how you may *feel*. And no one wants to hear that more likely than not, you are an AVERAGE human being who may only achieve an AVERAGE life…and that's okay. We'd much prefer the lies that reinforce our delusions of grandeur because far be it to face the facts that force us to change, adapt, and grow. Not to keep invoking James Baldwin, but it is to our ancestors we must turn to for guidance in these times, and none best fits my overall point than this quote from him: "***Not everything we face can be changed, but nothing can be changed if it isn't faced***." You cannot walk around with your head in the clouds avoiding things that challenge you to grow and improve. Not only is that an impractical way to go through life, but it is also mentally unhealthy and socially dangerous.

I had a singular thought when I left for college in California. It was my primary concern going into the world of film and entertainment. If there is one thing I would like for you to take from this article it is that very same thought:

"In a world where everyone's profession or objective is to be fake, who then can you truly trust to be real?"

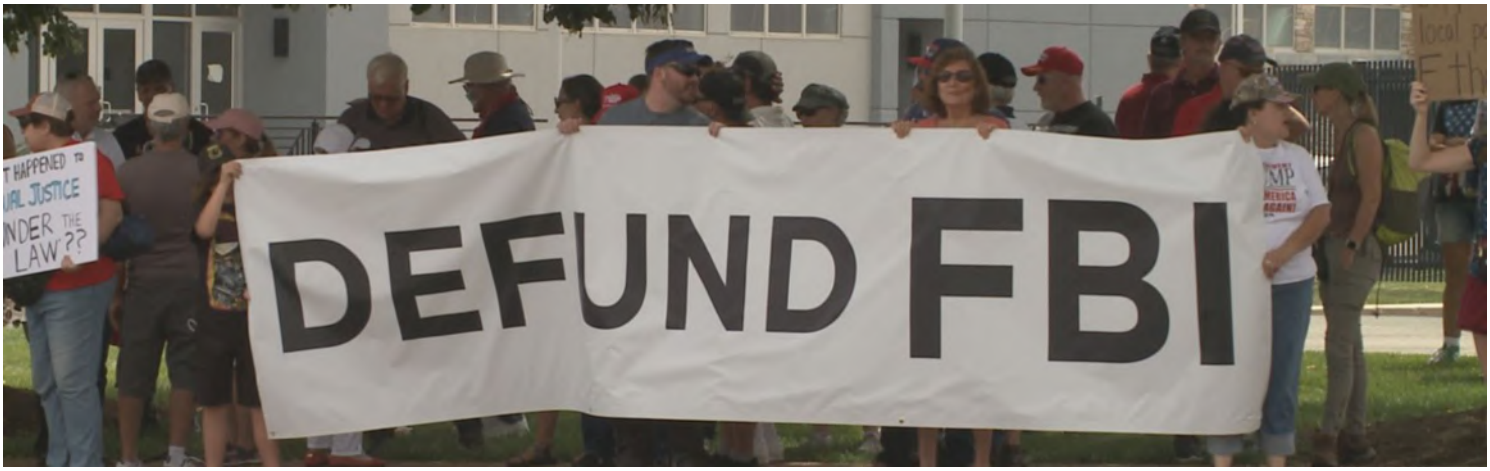
POLITICAL KARAOKE

I saw an interview on YouTube recently from a news broadcast. I'm not sure which one; it was either CNN or MSNBC, but there was this interviewee that was touting this rhetoric of the MAGA movement adopting the mantra of "Defund the Police" in retaliation for the FBI - raiding Trump's Mar-A-Lago compound in August 2022. What I found particularly hilarious, is that the MAGA crowd has adopted the "Defund the Police" mantra and coopted and changed it to "Defund the FBI" in favor of their cult leader. This is the same group of people that coopted "Black Lives Matter", turned it into "Blue Lives Matter" and completely turned it into a hollow slogan; dropped the moment the object of their support does something they don't agree with or stand in the way of their overall agenda. We've seen this countless times when white supremacists and gun-toting extremists have shootouts with police officers.

The interesting thing about this is that whenever black people protest or riot, it's from a defensive position. Essentially as a form of retaliation or self-defense. MLK Jr. is credited to have said that "A riot is the language of the unheard." For generations, black folk have been screaming into the societal aether that we are disproportionately targeted by police officers who, more often than not, harshly patrol neighborhoods they don't remotely live in. Often abusing their power to prey on the residents who are already cast aside by the larger portion of society. During the 2020 protests, the fundamental cry

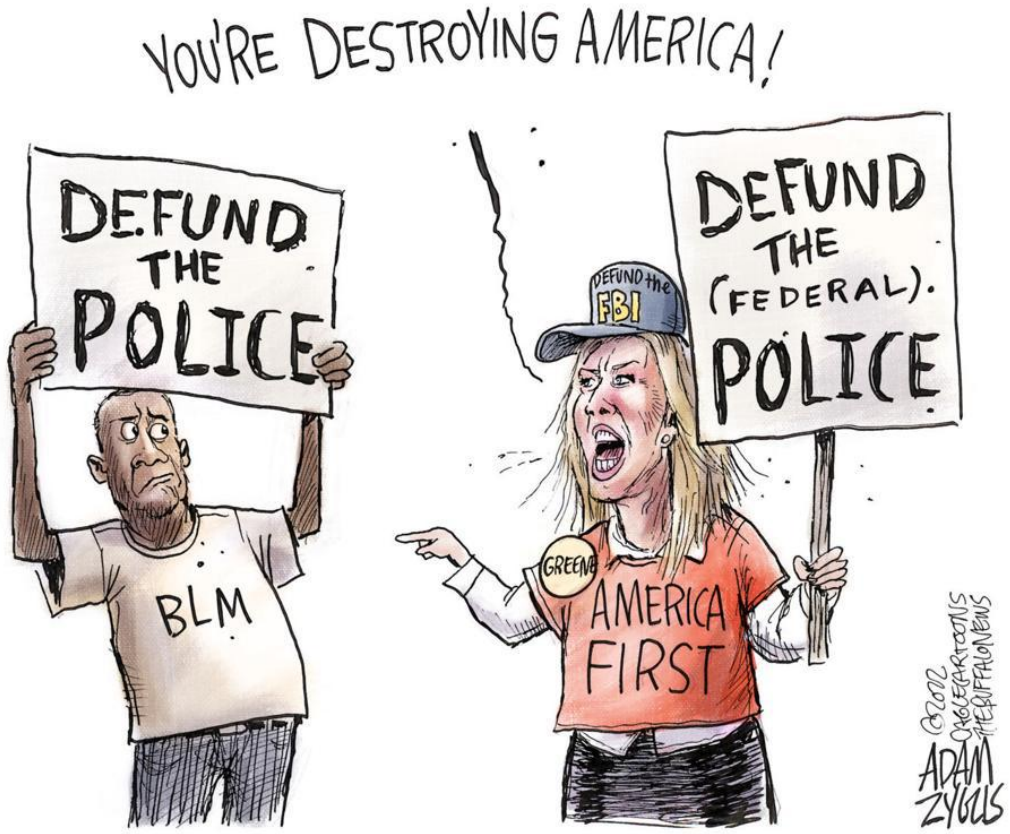






of defunding the police was used as a means to say that money to fund military-grade equipment for street-level cops would be better served elsewhere to help the community like mental health care, etc. However, when white people protest or riot to prevent change, the motive behind it prove hollow and it collapses in on itself especially when it matters most. For example, the mantra "All Lives Matter" also sprang up as a counter-protest or in jest to the BLM movement. Yet whenever a mass shooting of any kind happens anywhere in this country, the ALM crowd are always noticeably silent; as if their messaging was as vapid as the attempt to discredit the BLM message in the first place.

Part of the issue I have with this battle cry is not so much the message itself - I'll get to that in a moment - but who the message is coming from and the motive behind it. Motive is key when trying to inspire a revolution: it has to be strong and on a solid ideological foundation to be effective enough to rally people to the cause. It's the reason why the Civil Rights Movement garnered so much support, why the Black Panther Party grew to be the political threat they were, and why BLM is still going strong despite recent controversies.



Defunding the FBI is not a message I totally disagree with per se, but the message has come far too late in the game for me.

Where was "Defund the FBI" when it was found out that they were spying on black leaders via wiretaps and tails? Where was defund the FBI when they and the CIA coordinated the assassination of Dr. King Jr.? Or when they coordinated with local police to shoot and kill Chairman Fred Hampton of the Black Panther Party? All of which was purposed to "Prevent the coalition of militant black nationalist groups" by eliminating a potential "Black Messiah". Where then were those cries for defunding this government agency that targeted specific black leaders out of fear of a true black revolution in retaliation for American Chattel Slavery and the Jim Crow era of persecution of the American Negro. These were unlawful abuses in the jurisdiction of a governmental body that disrupted and destabilized the black community, exacerbating the oppression already felt. The equivalency just isn't there when you compare those actions to the **lawful** Mar-A-Largo raid to retrieve classified documents that were illegal for Trump to have in any capacity but especially outside of the White House post office. Considering the generous courtesy the FBI extended to give him time to turn the



documents in of his own volition. No one died. No one was assaulted. No one was even arrested. Yet MAGA Cultists like Marjorie Taylor-Greene swear up and down they are being oppressed by law enforcement. They wouldn't know oppression if it knelt on their neck while they were face down and handcuffed for all of nine minutes, sleeping in their bed soundly and getting shot, or playing video games with their nephew after a long day's work and getting shot. This adds to the growing trend of white people actively trying to be oppressed victims. As one of my favorite YouTubers would say: "It is a SICKNESS!" because there is nothing glamorous about being a victim of oppression. But I guess that's just another thing black folks make look cool. Damn this magical black swag!

The country's flag upside down is a symbolic gesture that something is terribly wrong with the country and the direction it's going. Those cow-towing to this madness flaunt the flag in this fashion as part of their "protest". Apropos considering that the idea of a lawful seizure of classified documents is considered by some to be an encroachment of one's rights but the unlawful killing of Black American citizens without due process isn't.

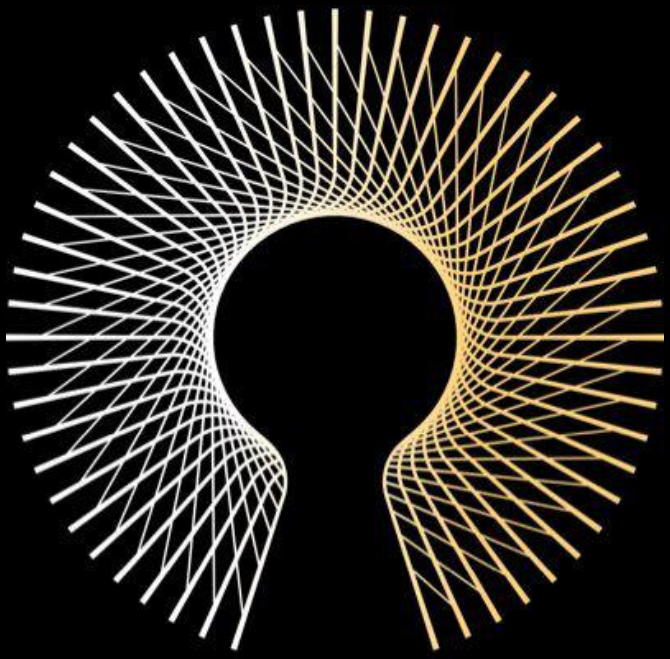
It is sickening to see that once again black people create the songs, make up the lyrics, and set the tone for revolutionary change…and these entitled white folks sing it off-key at the slightest discomfort of being exposed for being corrupt frauds. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Ain't that a bitch…



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KEVIN SAMUELS IS



THE HITCH WE DESERVED



"I heard every word. You're a scam artist. You trick women into getting..."

"...into getting out their own way so that great guys like Albert Brenneman have a fighting chance. I want everyone to take a good look at this right now. Because this, this right here this is exactly the reason why falling in love is so goddamn hard!"

- Hitch, 2005

The year is 2005 and the romantic comedy, Hitch, starring Will Smith, was released to a relatively modest commercial success making $177.6M domestically. It was about a marketing and brand consultant who moonlighted as a relationship guru that helped men get the girl they wanted by coaching them on how to win the affection of the women they desire by doing the things that often elude socially awkward men. Known as the 'Date Doctor', Alex 'Hitch' Hitchens embarks on the journey to help a sheepish man named Albert Brenneman (Kevin James) earn the affection of his celebrity crush, Allegra Cole (Amber Valletta), with his three date guarantee while balancing his personal life when he meets a gossip columnist Sara Melas (Eva Mendez). The movie opens with a montage of Hitch coaching men to do simple things like listening, paying attention, and responding - being in the moment with the woman they are pursuing, using the tools that they have at their disposal, and not faking who they are. The feel-good film was lighthearted, fun, and funny…but wasn't grounded in any reality because reality isn't all that entertaining and it doesn't always end with a cheesy happy ending. But such is the escapist nature of movies.

However, we don't live in the movies…try as we might, those rules do not apply to our actual lives. Our lives are rooted in the real world with real-world rules and real-world consequences. And real world dating requires real-world dating advice. Enter Kevin Samuels: the image consultant turned relationship guru that took YouTube by storm in 2020 by giving relationship advice focusing primarily on women. His career on YouTube didn't begin with challenging women's dating expectations, but with coaching men on how to better themselves. From style advice to recommending fragrances to all-around improvement professionally and personally. Much like Hitch in the movie, Kevin told men and women where they were going wrong and how unrealistic they were being regarding their dating expectations. His commentary, direct and to the point, was used to dispel any myths any particular person was telling themselves and was always backed by facts, data, and statistics. Kevin's main goal has always been to start a conversation between men and women because quite frankly we weren't talking to each other about our expectations, values, our wants, and our needs. We were simply going along dating without any real intent. We are in our own way



so much so that we cannot see each other.

The Oklahoma City, Oklahoma native started out pursuing a Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Oklahoma. Kevin has always been keenly aware of his surroundings. He made a practical choice considering engineering students were the only ones getting internships during the Stock Market crash in 1987. A degree, sadly, he wasn't able to obtain due to his surprising diagnosis of Hodgkin's lymphoma at 21 forcing him to drop out. Cancer paused his life as a young man. So where his peers were ready to go out and tackle the world, his life was on hold dealing with this illness. As cancer tends to do, it changed Kevin's outlook on life and forced him to reevaluate what he was doing. He got into corporate sales after he got a second job as a waiter, and soon after started his own image consulting firm. Despite the slanderous reputation bestowed on him, Kevin was married twice. His first marriage was to his high school sweetheart with whom he had a child that lasted a year and remarried 7 years after that one ended amicably. His 2nd marriage ended after three years…and well let's chalk it up to irreconcilable differences. Kevin bared no ill will against either of his ex-wives. Many people judge him on his failed marriages, but Kevin credits his failed marriages to the fact that he didn't see a lot of married people growing up so he didn't know what it was to be a husband and what he should have expected from a wife. He



would later use that lesson as advice in his future show; "children copy what they see and echo what they hear".

Kevin started his YouTube channel in 2015 talking to men. He spoke to them about their dress, their drive, and their overall purpose in conjunction with the unrealistic expectations they tended to have towards women and life in general. He spoke to men for 3 years giving them tough love and a reality check. Advice like:

"You can't be short, fat, and broke. Pick a struggle…"

and

"I don't care about your pride. You can't have pride and be broke at the same time."

forced young men to really look at themselves beyond their self-perception. Kevin even went so far as to instruct them on how to properly wash their asses. Kevin has never been about mincing words. He always made a point to attack the problem, never the person. Even when young men would call in to complain about women but had nothing going for them, he had some tough love for them too:

"Get off Facebook. Get off Tik Tok. Get off YouTube. Get off your ass and go the fuck to WORK."

Kevin spoke to men in this fashion for roughly three years, and no one batted an eye. According to Kevin, it's because men are used to being told to work and constantly improve themselves and I'm inclined to agree. Never once was his message to the men who called in and/or watched considered malicious. It wasn't until his message was aimed at the women of our community that his status as a "controversial figure" was earned and launched him to

unimaginable heights.

“Ma’am, you are average at best…” You could see this woman’s soul leave her body and the collective gasp that was heard at the sound of the truth being told to a woman. It was the statement that - even though taken out of context - launched Kevin into the public eye. After 3 years, he shifted his attention to women and decided to help them however he could. After a while, Kevin Samuels’ name would seemingly come out of nowhere on the internet. Kevin went viral for the first time when a woman called into his show wanting advice. So he gave her what she asked for and used it as a teachable moment. The 23-minute conversation was shortened to about 7 minutes and went viral after several media outlets turned it into clickbait headlines. Part of Kevin's mission has been to challenge the fact that women can say disparaging things about men and dismiss them for minuscule, unimportant things, but the moment he (or any man) criticizes them for being too big, or being outside of their natural state as in terms of their attitude and aggressive nature, somehow he's become offensive. Women can tell men that if we can't buy them a Birkin bag then he's useless, but the moment he says that a 250lbs woman is bigger than a running back somehow that's wrong…even though it's factual. It says a great deal about the power disparity between men and women and that's what Kevin has always challenged, not the women themselves. Despite how they feel, he's always attacked the disparity in which a man can’t tell the woman the truth and a woman can dismiss a man based on superficiality. One of the issues that Kevin has always had about the work that he did was the fact that all the salacious stuff gets blown way out of

proportion, as opposed to all the good that he's done, the many times that women have called him and thanked him for saving their marriage by showing them that they had it wrong the entire time. Obviously, these are the women who listen to what he had to say and applied it but those women go unsung because as fellow incendiary personality Charlemagne Tha God says “nobody wants the truth when the LIE is more entertaining”. This is why there's a constant comparison between Kevin Samuels and Derrick Jaxn.

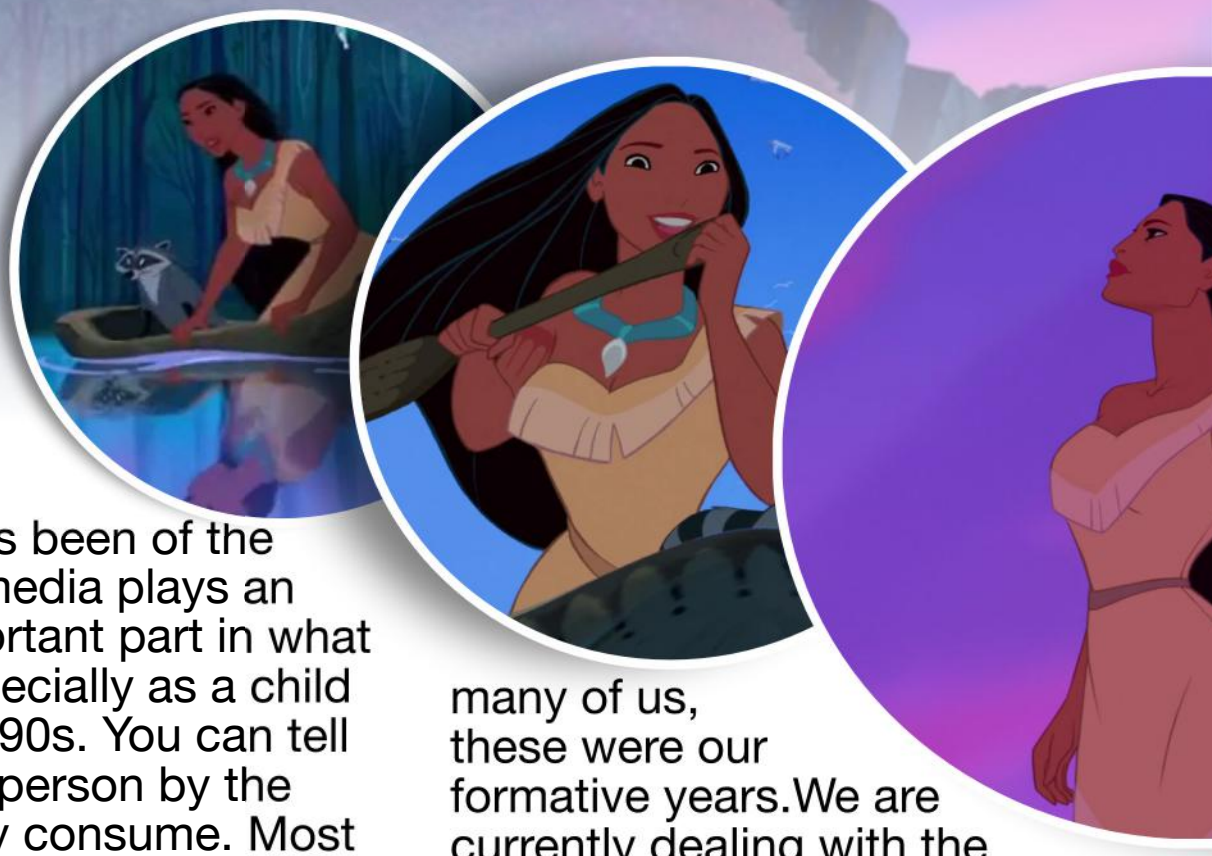
Kevin worked tirelessly to dispel the myths and the coddling and infantilization of women as opposed to Derrick Jaxn who has since continued lying and coddling women; giving them everything that they want to hear, only to be found out to be a fraud. Kevin's death was celebrated by thousands of women the world over because he dared to tell them the truth about themselves, whereas Derrick Jaxn has cheated on his wife - at the time of this writing - twice, filed for divorce, and even dumped the second girl he cheated on his wife and the mother of his children with for another girl around the holidays. Tell me, scoreboard: who had women's best interest more at heart Derrick or Kevin?

Bringing men and women together to have a discussion about relationships was something Kevin believed in. He said that he found it refreshing to know that men want women. They want relationships. He found it refreshing that women want men, that they want a relationship. The problem, he realized, is that we just don't know how to get together and make it work. His point of attack has been to dispel the myth that we've been fed for the last 30 or 40 years that really enhance and hyped up the individual as opposed to the family unit. Kevin

has always been a conservative voice in a secular space. His point of view has been that being average is not a bad thing. An average man can be valuable; an average woman can be valuable. With the right lover and the right pairing, and accepting that most people are average and will only ever have average lives, this idea of obtaining the impossible to make you happy can finally be disproven. He wanted to even the playing field between men and women and dispelled the lies that women have been told their entire lives. He never wanted to devalue women, but point out how we've overvalued them and their contributions to society. He wanted to address the imbalance. Men have been devalued so much in the last 30 years, that is to say that a man deserves anything has become an offensive statement to women…that's the imbalance. To his female detractors, Kevin poses a challenge: if you think that his message hasn't helped anybody and people are not getting anything out of what he's been saying, then go out and do it better. Do it better and let the market decide whose message helps them more. Even Kendra G is finding that to be difficult. Judge things based on the outcome.

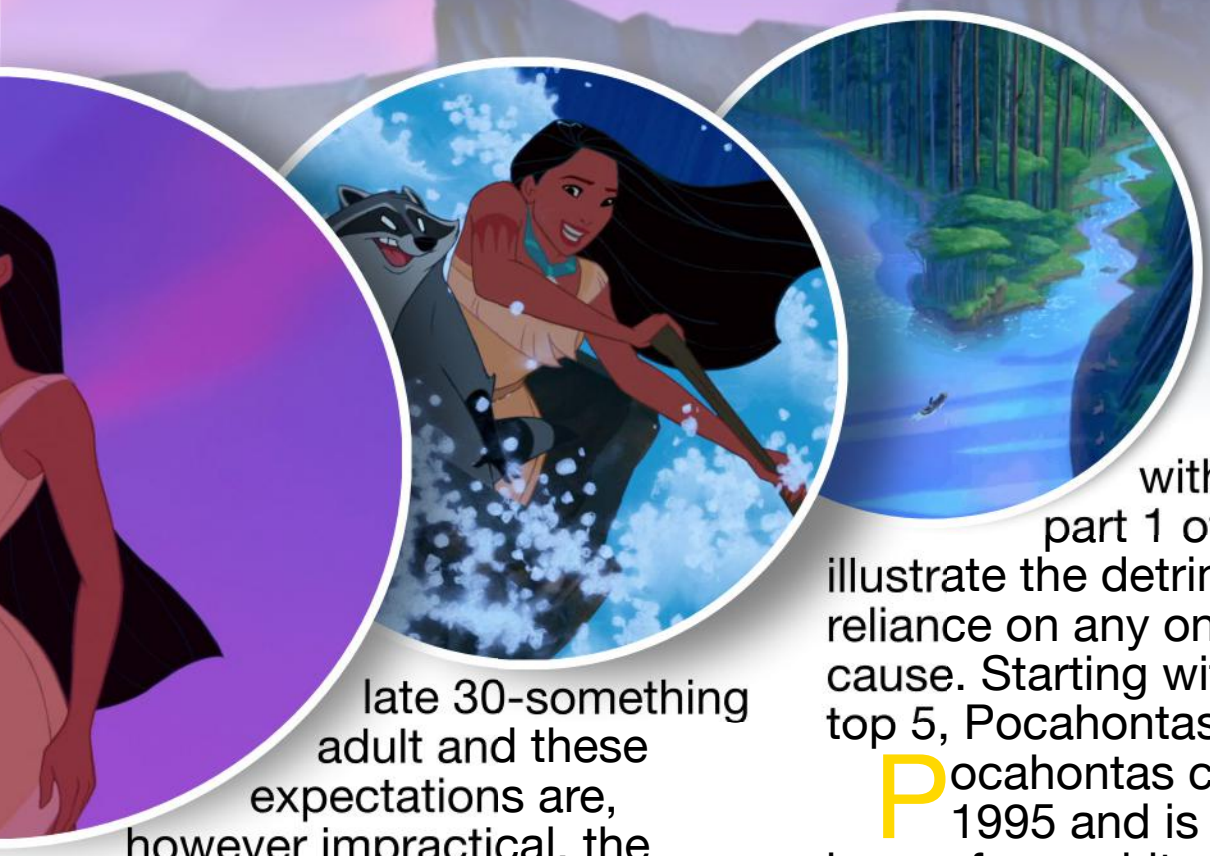
Kevin Samuels passed away on **May 5th, 2022**. He is survived by his mother and his daughter and the many men and women he has helped during his time here. He was 53 years old. You live your whole life for a single moment. That moment can last a breath or it could last a lifetime. What matters is what you do when that moment comes. It is safe to say that Kevin Samuels seized his moment and dominated it. He did what he was put here to do and has become another ancestor to refer to for guidance when needed. Rest easy now Godfather, we got it from here.

Dispelling The Disney Delusion:



I have always been of the mind that media plays an extremely important part in what shapes us, especially as a child of the 80s and 90s. You can tell a LOT about a person by the media that they consume. Most of us come from single-parent homes and are products of the electronic babysitter that we've become accustomed to cherishing. Most of what shaped us as children in terms of morals and values didn't necessarily come from our parents but from TV shows and movies. And there was no bigger babysitter than a good Disney movie that captured the imagination. From *The Little Mermaid* in 1989 to *Tarzan* in 1999, Disney movies and the shows they inspired influenced our outlook on life for the better part of a decade. For many of us, these were our formative years.We are currently dealing with the fallout of Disney psychological conditioning. The concept of a fairy tale romance is as simple as a handsome rogue with a good heart being just around the corner and will be the answer to every little girl's problems. It is the same idea that has convinced all millennial girls that they are princesses and reinforces the idea that they should be put on pedestals, worshipped, and rescued by all millennial boys. This ideology has seeped into the subconscious of every mid to

The Pocahontas Problem



late 30-something adult and these expectations are, however impractical, the baseline for any new romantic venture in 2022.

Make no mistake: I love Disney movies. I watch them still to this day…many of which I can recite by memory from start to finish. I'm particularly fond of recent films like Coco, Encanto, Zootopia, and Soul - just to name a few. They are capturing the Disney magic I am so nostalgic over that a whole new generation now gets to enjoy. However, I am also aware that too much of a thing can be bad for you. My aim with this piece, part 1 of 4, is to illustrate the detriment of over-reliance on any one medium can cause. Starting with one in my top 5, Pocahontas.

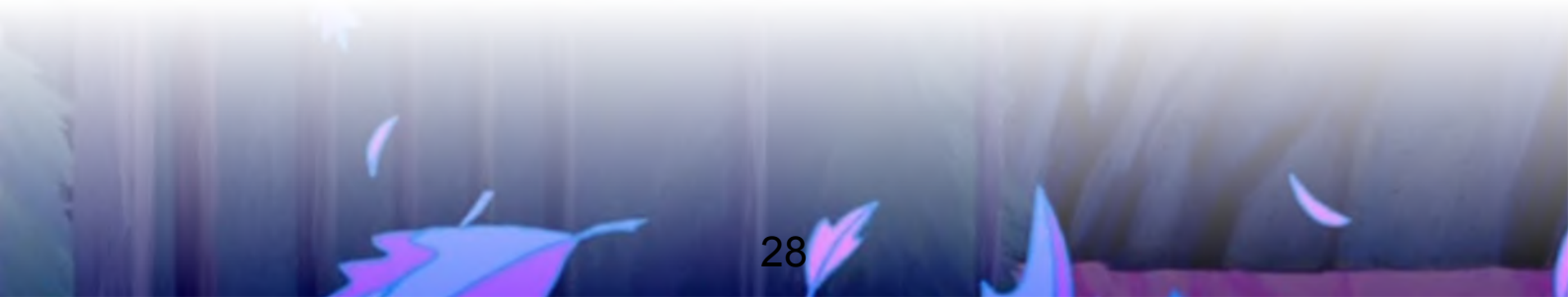
Pocahontas came out in 1995 and is the story of how a free-spirited young woman became a heroine by uniting her people with white settlers to achieve peace. Directed by Mike Gabriel and Eric Goldberg, the movie grossed $346 million and won two Academy awards for best original Musical and Best original song which is a credit to the talented composer, Alan Menkin. Historical inaccuracies aside, the film was the first time we saw a person of color represented in an animated film. To my young self, she was the closest thing to a "black" woman I'd ever seen

represented in a Disney film, and the regal nature of her first encounter with John Smith instantly enamored me to her. Upon rewatching the movie recently, I couldn't help but notice a reflection of Pocahontas' actions in the film to how women move in dating nowadays…or maybe the movie was a reflection of female nature: a case of "art imitating life" as they say.

To start, Pocahontas is depicted as a woman of unconventional means. The first line about her is the Shaman informing her father that she "goes wherever the wind takes her". When we see her, instead of coming down off the cliff via a path, she dives off it into the water to her friend below. We are then introduced to Kocoum: the stoic man and fierce warrior her father had approved for her to marry. A man who is too serious for Pocahontas' liking. Though her father approves of Kocoum, she can't fathom a life with a man like him - a stoic figure who has proven himself to a man of honor and dedication. This is evident in her '*I want*' song, *Just Around the River Bend*:

> "What I love most about rivers is
> You can't step into the same river twice.
> The water's ALWAYS CHANGING, ALWAYS FLOWING.
>
> But people I guess can't live like that
> We all must pay a price.
> To be safe we lose our chance of ever knowing
> What's around the River Bend..."

Pocahontas runs away from anything concrete and predictable in favor of the mystery of what's new because it's more exciting. This song's whimsical nature solidifies her personality as she goes headfirst towards a waterfall, flirts with rapids with a smile, and faces danger with glee while still wondering what could be next for her. Lastly, it also shows that Pocahontas prefers the chaotic nature of the unknown to the predictability of stability:



"...I feel there beyond
those trees
or right behind these
waterfalls.
Can I ignore that sound
of distant drumming?
For a handsome, STURDY
husband
Who builds handsome,
STURDY walls

And never dreams that
something might be
coming
Just around the River
bend?
Waiting just around the
River Bend..."

Pocahontas' biggest issue is **FOMO**: fear of missing out. Missing out on anything that may be coming that might be better than what *is*:

"Should I choose the
smoothest course?
Steady as the beating
drum.
Should I marry Kocoum?
Is all my dreaming at an
end?
Or do you still wait for
me dream giver?
Just around the
river...bend?"

Pocahontas comes to a fork in the river and chooses the more winding, turbulent path forward, thereby setting the rest of the movie in motion. Again, I adore this movie and am a big fan of its musical score. Yet the parallel of this song to how women act today is uncanny.

Follow my reasoning: to begin, In chapter 2 of his book, *12 Rules of Life: The Antidote to Chaos*, Jordan Peterson mentions that chaos is all the things and situations that we neither know nor understand. It is formless, boundless potential from which life can be created. We see here that Pocahontas revels in chaos…it can be argued that she thrives in it. Much like the hook-up culture of the dating app era and the chaotic nature of "there may be something better" if I swipe.

Dating in 2022 has become about the sprint and not a marathon with the aim of marriage because the concept of being "tied down" is an idea that has become feared for many

reasons by women. Among them is the prospect of boredom. Not only have I experienced this myself, but women have admitted as much on Tik Tok with thousands of likes in support. There was a popular street interview on the *It's Complicated* Youtube channel where a woman actually says that good men won't give you great sex. As if that the only thing that's important in a relationship. The overwhelming evidence supports the notion that women in their younger years are not wives, and Mr. Right Now is the dominant preference because he is exciting and unpredictable and therefore not boring. Women today aren't looking for husbands.

According to Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development, there are four stages: Sensorimotor (**birth - 2yrs**), Pre-operational (**2yrs - 7 yrs**), Concrete Operational (**7yrs - 11yrs**), and Formal Operational (**12yrs+**). For most of us, we are introduced to Disney films during our pre-operational, and concrete operational stages. During the pre-operational stage, we think symbolically and associate word and pictures with objects; we can't empathize with the perspective of others and we get better with language overall. We also learn how to pretend, but logic still escapes us. At the Concrete Operational stage, we become more logical and we understand conservation. However, our reasoning is rigid and black and white. Plus there is a struggle with abstract and hypothetical concepts. So between the two developmental stages, we associate what we see in Disney films with real life. We believe toys can come to life we we leave a room, we think there is a man in a bell towers making them ring and we believe that there is a genie that can grant us wishes.

Sigmund Freud theorized that the mind has three levels of awareness: the conscious, preconscious, and subconscious. To properly understand it he used the iceberg analogy. The conscious mind is the part of the iceberg you can see, the preconscious is anything just below the surface that may be brought to the conscious mind - think recent memories, and finally the subconscious. This is the part of the iceberg that is mostly vast and mysterious, here lies the feelings, urges, memories and thoughts outside of the conscious; but also the things we bury and suppress. It is



understood that the subconscious controls our attitudes towards other people some decision making and automatic judgements. Bearing all that in mind, is it possible then that what we learn from the media we digest - not only as children, this effect has an affect on us as adults too - subconsciously steers our outlook and attitudes in our day to day? I mean, there is a reason the moniker of ‘queen’ or permeates the social lexicon of black women and the desire to be treated like a princess is paramount to *all* women. This problem is rooted...

> understand that the movie may simply be an example of

art imitating life: the characterization of Pocahontas reflecting the nature of women. That is a valid counter argument to my claim. However I submit to you, dear reader, my theory is that the current mental state of women in 2022 of not wanting to settle down because of the possibility of something better is a learned behavior that has a catalyst. Which in this case, is Disney’s Pocahontas. And if it can be learned, it can also be unlearned and replaced by some another set of principles and expectations…maybe women would be more apt to marrying more Kocoums than dating John Smiths…who just end up getting shot and leaving one way or another anyway. Just maybe we can start course correct our current trajectory.



FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER:

Herschel Walker - A Racist Myth Personified

I try my hardest not to speak ill of my brothers and sisters. This, as many of you know, is a difficult task to commit to. The way I see it: we have enough in this country trying to kill us off **externally** that any division internally will only hasten our destruction and therefore serves as meager distractions from much larger issues. However, just as my predecessor famously said: I can love a thing and still critique it, especially if the critique aims to make it *better*. May I aim your attention to the myriad of things wrong with Black America? Critiquing us is a delicate and damn near impossible balance to achieve, especially within today's societal rules. One misinterpreted criticism could mean the

> ***"What white people have to do is try and find out in their own hearts why it was necessary to have a 'nigger' in the first place, because I'm not a nigger. I am a man. But if you think I'm a nigger, it means you need it."***
>
> **- James Baldwin**

difference between "cancellation" or death as civil discourse is a matter of the past. As the character, Prince Paris once uttered: "All. Are. Punished." Those who need the critique won't have heard it, the ones issuing the critique won't have been heard; the community then becomes all the worse for it and our children repeat the dominant idealisms and the cycle begins again..."*All are punished."*

One of the biggest issues plaguing the black community is the issue of political leaning. There is a blind loyalty to the left of center with many adopting the mantra, "*vote blue no matter who*" making sure that the black vote goes to the Democratic party. Many others - myself included - have been disenchanted by the lip service of faux support from Democratic Politicians only for our major issues to continue to be ignored, or at the very least placated with vapid displays of support by the very party who choose to ignore us until they need our numbers to tip the votes in their favor in the next election cycle. This is mere political theatre, and for decades black people have played the role of fools at the behest of the Democratic Party. It is this fact that gave rise to the popularity of the Black Conservative. Voices like **Candice Owens** and **Kanye West** have taken up the message that it is time to leave the "Democratic Plantation" and start to vote Republican. Primarily, this was in support of the 45th President, controversial though it may have been. It also comes in tandem with denying the very issues black Americans face every day like racism, police brutality, and the effects of American Chattel Slavery that are felt in every asset of America's society, including





within the very party they want the black vote to migrate to. While I don't fundamentally disagree with the black conservative existence, to negate our experiences in this country and how we've been unwitting political pawns of both parties despite their indifference to our problems is in itself problematic. As rapper/political activist Killer Mike has said: "…it's like arguing who has the better master."



It's no secret that as a people, black folks have been looked down upon as lower lifeforms to our white counterparts. This outlook was fueled by eugenics - the pseudoscience that was founded on the belief that humans can be improved by selective breeding. This is the same pseudoscience that Hitler believed in to create the idea of the Aryan race. The idea is also the foundation from which the medical experimentation of African slaves in the US was justified. The thought process that says African Americans had a high pain tolerance and justified the brutal practice of surgery on slaves without any anesthetics. As with any idea, over time it evolved - or in this case devolved - with the emancipation of the slaves. Where once we were thought of as unfeeling animals before being emancipated, to being caricatures of ourselves represented as coons, brutes, uncle toms, and mammies. A myriad of traits were assigned to these caricatures to represent black people, among which are lazy, ignorant, self-absorbed (**the Coon**), or animalistic and prone to violence (**the Brute**), or childlike intelligence, unattractive and irresponsible to their families whom white people happen to be comfortable enough to be around to call them "friend" (**The Uncle Tom/Mammy**). However no matter the sub-sect epithet - Coon, Brute, Tom, or Mammy, they all fall under the same umbrella: *nigger*. To white people, the nigger was to be feared, loathed, avoided, and to

be put down like an animal whenever he (or she) even remotely conveys a threat. To black folk, the nigger was a myth: some made-up image of black people and white people conjured up out of fear of retaliation for slavery. Eloquently put, by the master orator himself: "*This concept of the nigger doesn't sound like me. It doesn't even sound like anyone that I know.*"

This image of black people; this manufactured fear garnered strength from the 1915 film, *Birth of a Nation* - a film considered to this day as one of the greatest films of all time…even though it was credited for inspiring the resurrection of the Ku Klux Klan and the hateful and brutal murders committed during the Jim Crow era of American History. This is the image white and black people alike have associated with black people for hundreds of years, damaging a reputation we never had a chance to build despite the many contributions to American culture and its advancement.



The image is an embarrassment and an insult to black people everywhere, but especially to those of us born in this country. Enter Herschel Walker.

Herschel Walker was an American football player with an extensive NFL career as a running back from 1983 to 1997. The Augusta, Georgia native boasts a record of 21 touchdowns, over 8K rushing yards, 512 receptions; Heisman winner in '82, 2x All-Pro, winner of the Maxwell award, UPI Player of the Year, 3x SEC Player of the Year, and the accolades continue to mount until his #34 jersey from the Georgia Bulldogs was retired. As a 60-year-old man, his football career is a legacy he can be very proud of…if he only ended there.

One thing people fail to realize when they decide to run for public office is the amount of scrutiny one's life undergoes for the public to see. In 2022, Herschel decided it was a good idea to put a bid in for the Senate against incumbent Junior Senator Raphael Warnock - a 53-year-old college-educated man. Since his announcement, every rally, and every speech has been riddled with nonsensical babble that is difficult to quote within any context. By definition, Walker's speech pattern, subject matter and demeanor, and intelligence level are on par with that of the Uncle Tom. Add to that the amount of support from

Republican heavy hitters like Lindsey Graham, and you have the one black friend every "non-racist" white person likes to claim that they have. With such repartee as

> ***"I don't know if you know, but vampires are some cool people, are they not? But let me tell you something that I found out: a werewolf can kill a vampire. Did you know that? I never knew that.So, I don't want to be a vampire any more. I want to be a werewolf…"***

when speaking about faith - I think. Or even his more self aware moment:

> ***"I'm this country boy. I'm not that smart." Walker said this to prepare his base about how he already knows that he's going to get embarrassed by Warnock in a debate because his opponent is "a preacher. He's a smart man that wears these nice suits."***

it's a wonder the Republican Party threw their full weight behind his candidacy…that is until you realize what was at stake: majority in the Senate. If history is the best teacher, then recent history is a sadist. And if recent history has taught us anything is that the Republican Party will sacrifice anything and everything if it means gaining and maintaining power. Walker isn't the first moronic embarrassment they got behind for a path to power. Luckily, this time they bet on the wrong horse and more sensible people weren't having it. The run-off election held in December 2022 wrapped up with Raphael Warnock winning by a 2.8% margin, entirely too close for comfort when the options were the difference between upstanding intelligence and bumbling incompetence.

The answer to James Baldwin's question - why white people need the nigger - is a simpler matter than the question itself. The answer? A means to power. Because without the nigger, white men cannot wield fear, they cannot say the quiet part aloud, and they cannot hold themselves superior without the image of something worse to prop them up. Republicans needed Herschel for all of these reasons and the upsetting thing is…it almost worked. I fear for the day it actually does.

Oh that's right, isn't Kanye West planning to run for office again in 2024 as a Republican? If the Georgia midterm election is any sort of litmus test, God help us all if he does. He may actually win.

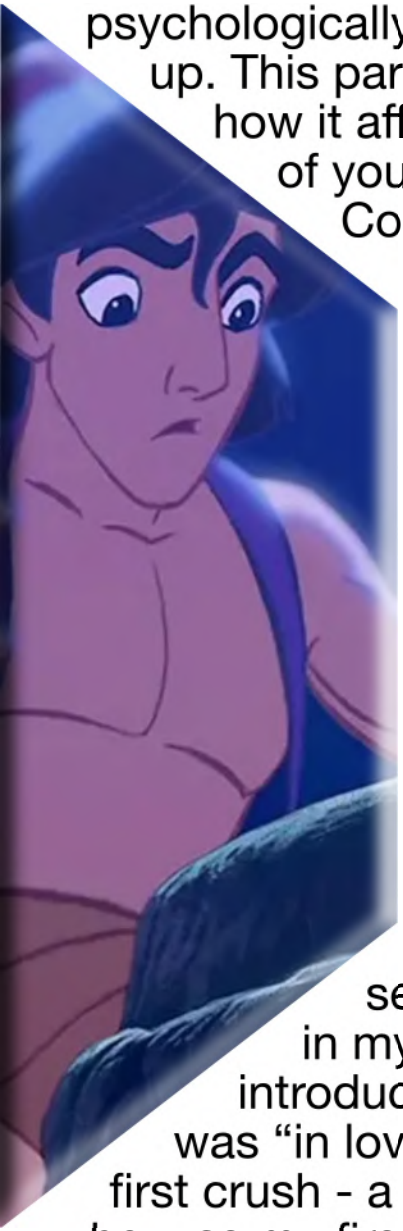
GA SENATE RUNOFF RESULTS





Dispelling The Disney Delusion:

Oh, you didn't think we were only going to pick on the girls, now did you? No, dear reader; Disney films have psychologically messed us ALL up. This particular theory is how it affected the minds of young boys.



Continuing with part 2 of the "Dispelling Disney Delusion" series, the patron saint of the Chads & Tyrones, the one, and only Aladdin.

Disney's Aladdin used to hold a very sentimental place in my heart. I got introduced to it when I was "in love" with my very first crush - a childhood friend who was my first kiss and first heartbreak. She was, back then, the Jasmine to my Aladdin and I held it as one of the best Disney movies for multiple reasons.

Robin Williams' performance as the Genie is my number 1. It wasn't until I was a little older that I realized how much bullshit Aladdin was as a movie. Here's the thing about Aladdin if you haven't seen it in a while: this story starts - as these stories often do - with a boy meeting a girl. Obviously attracted to her, he gets her out of trouble. After some excitement, Jasmine was clearly into Aladdin even though he was broke - this is key. He then finds out that she's the princess and is falsely imprisoned for kidnapping. He's tricked into getting a treasure he knows nothing about and is almost killed over it. Turns out this treasure had the ability to change the course of his life in the form of a powerful and charismatic genie. After tricking Genie into rescuing him, he realizes that this is the way he can get the girl who he assumes only dates princes.

"Hey, can you make me a PRINCE?" are the 7 words that started it all. This is the first official wish that Aladdin makes and there's some contention

The Aladdin Illusion

among fans about the wish that I should explain. The wish was for him to be “made a Prince” not “made to look like a Prince”, effectively making Aladdin royalty for real, with real subjects, but the movie treated the wish like it was just a facade and not actual royalty. So I’m going to go with the way the movie portrayed it. The wish turns Aladdin into Ali: the alter ego used to get close to the Princess. One lie after another, Ali builds this house of cards that is under constant threat of imploding should someone find out about the Genie. And someone does the man who tried to kill him…twice. After Genie is stolen, Aladdin is exposed as a fraud and is almost killed a 3rd time…Jafar really did suck as a villain…he then returns to defeat Jafar, and save the girl and the kingdom. Yada, yadda, happily ever after. Cool.

As discussed in part one, children during the early stages of their psychological development tend to associate fiction with non-fiction. Subconsciously we carry these notions into adulthood. In this case, it is the imagery that taught young boys to change their identity to get the girl, and even if you lie, it’ll all work out as long as you have a good heart. Nah. If anything, Aladdin is a cautionary tale of taking shortcuts.



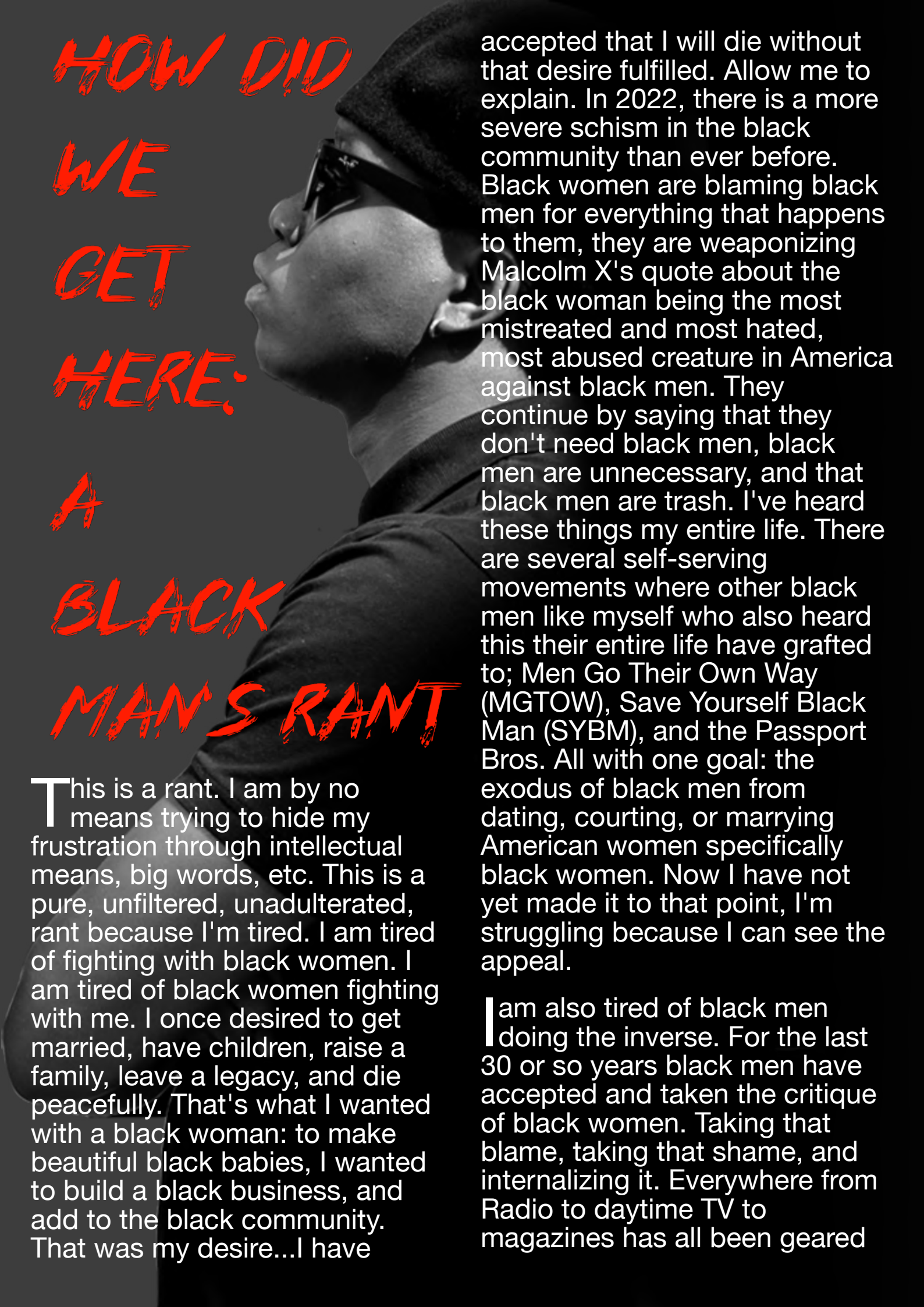
As a man, you learn very early that you are on your own. No one is coming to save you, and if you don’t build it, you don’t have it. Far too often today, the moniker “King” is thrown around (queen too, but we’re talking to the boys about this one). There’s a saying that goes “The difference between you and your ideal self is discipline.” The thing people don’t understand about the royal line of any monarchy is that princes aren’t just spoiled,

pampered brats. Their every waking moment is spent learning how to be an eventual king. Aladdin's entire facade fell apart because of the potential pressure of being named future Sultan of Agraba…a responsibility he isn't been properly prepared for.

The problem is that people nowadays want power without preparation. Kevin Samuels has warned young men time and again: **YOU CAN'T CHEAT THE GAME.** Despite what these fast-rising, popcorn success stories would have you believe, you *have* to do the work. You have to grow from being an "Aladdin" into an "Ali". It's going to take time, failure, effort, failure, drive, failure, commitment, failure, perseverance, failure, and a LOT of patience. No one is going to come and just *give* it to you. That is the reality of life. The reality most men never learn to accept. Nobody wants a man with smooth hands. Smooth hands mean you haven't been through anything. It means that you haven't fought, and you haven't had to scrape or scrap for anything. A man with smooth hands does not emanate "fighter", instead he emanates "pampered", "coddled", or "spoiled". A man with smooth hands says "naïve", and in this world, men cannot afford to be naïve; you will get eaten alive. I know this from experience.

Taking shortcuts will give you smooth hands. Without war wounds, you won't be respected by your peers and women will eventually see through your facade. Build your world so you have something to offer the woman you would name 'queen' and stop expecting some genie to rescue you. Gentlemen, don't be a fast talking, deceptive **Aladdin** who takes shortcuts for what he wants; earn the right to look people in the eye and call yourself **Ali**.





HOW DID WE GET HERE: A BLACK MAN'S RANT

This is a rant. I am by no means trying to hide my frustration through intellectual means, big words, etc. This is a pure, unfiltered, unadulterated, rant because I'm tired. I am tired of fighting with black women. I am tired of black women fighting with me. I once desired to get married, have children, raise a family, leave a legacy, and die peacefully. That's what I wanted with a black woman: to make beautiful black babies, I wanted to build a black business, and add to the black community. That was my desire...I have accepted that I will die without that desire fulfilled. Allow me to explain. In 2022, there is a more severe schism in the black community than ever before. Black women are blaming black men for everything that happens to them, they are weaponizing Malcolm X's quote about the black woman being the most mistreated and most hated, most abused creature in America against black men. They continue by saying that they don't need black men, black men are unnecessary, and that black men are trash. I've heard these things my entire life. There are several self-serving movements where other black men like myself who also heard this their entire life have grafted to; Men Go Their Own Way (MGTOW), Save Yourself Black Man (SYBM), and the Passport Bros. All with one goal: the exodus of black men from dating, courting, or marrying American women specifically black women. Now I have not yet made it to that point, I'm struggling because I can see the appeal.

I am also tired of black men doing the inverse. For the last 30 or so years black men have accepted and taken the critique of black women. Taking that blame, taking that shame, and internalizing it. Everywhere from Radio to daytime TV to magazines has all been geared

against black men and the gripes of black women towards them. Now, I'm not exactly sure when it started but let's just say it started around 2019/2020, but black men have actually started to speak back against the critiques that we have been issued on behalf of the black woman; trying to get them to come down off this pedestal they've built for themselves for over 30 years. I can't say that it hasn't always been valid, we have made some very poignant points regarding the flaws of black women, but where I draw the line is when these black men start to hate black women and venture off into black pill territory. Black pill, of course, is the literal definition of misogyny and hatred of women. I'm not down with that. Critique is not hatred especially if it's towards something you love.

But how did we get here? Why is there so much strife between us? Why is there a war between the sexes in our community when the community is already weakened and getting weaker by the day? We are warring when we should be building. If you look at the black community, somehow - despite how conservative we are naturally - we are the face of the LGBT community...and we didn't start it. How did that happen? How did effeminate black men become the cover of change on what a "man" should be and how it should be okay for him to wear dresses and put on makeup etc. How did masculine black women become the "backbone" of the black community? How the FUCK did we get here? To borrow one of Kenya Barris's titles here: "Yeah, it's because of slavery". It is no secret that trauma is passed down from generation to generation to generation and for over 400 years we have - without a doubt - inherited our ancestor's trauma that has never been faced, that has never been treated, and has never been addressed. It has just been compounded from father and mother to son and daughter over and over again. Round and round goes the carousel of suffering and we just can't get this shit together. Meanwhile, those who look down upon us continue to thrive around us. But again, how did we get here?

I'll tell you a story: African tribes were warring against each other. it's no secret. So long as there are different people, there will be war. It is what it is. And in war, there're also casualties and spoils. These African tribes would take on the defeated men as slaves and took their women and used them to breed as spoils of war. Then white men showed up. The transatlantic slave trade was a thing and some of those black tribes

would sell off the defeated men from war to these white slavers. These white slavers in turn would take them, pack them into these ships, and bring them over to a new country, with a new language where they faced horrific trials and tribulations, beatings, and degradation that words simply just cannot describe. Now, there is a difference between slavery in West Africa and slavery in America. Slavery over there with the exception of maybe Egypt and some other places, typically meant that you were paying off debt. Once your debt has been paid - I'm glossing over a bit - but once your debt has been paid, you were free to go. Slavery in America had nothing to do with debt. You were owned and you worked until you died and because they always thought themselves Superior, you are often beaten to death. That wasn't just the men, it was the women too. Again spoils of war: conquered tribes who were sold off into slavery because the conquerors didn't have any need for them. Survival of the fittest and all that. So now these men have so far failed twice to protect the women of their tribes. They failed them when they were warring and then they failed them when foreign Invaders took them from their homeland. Follow me. Now, they get to this new land where they don't speak the language, they don't know the topography, and at the hands of these white invaders now turned kidnappers, they are separated from their loved ones: their husbands, their protectors, their children and taken elsewhere. What happened to the women? First, these women were used as whores. They were used as nurses taking care of "Massa's" babies, often providing them with nursing milk from their breasts to make sure that these white babies survive. I know what you may be thinking: "how could that possibly be when they thought that black people were animals?" Well, don't you drink milk with your cereal? The milk doesn't come from your species, it comes from a cow. It was no different in their eyes: you can drink milk from a cow which is an animal and it's nourishing. You can also drink milk from a black woman which can also be nurturing. There was no differentiation in the slaver's eyes. Their lives held no value and their men were not there to protect them. Now some of these women - and this is sad to say - were lucky women because at least they didn't have to witness their men being emasculated in front of them.

So what happened to the men? They were also put through backbreaking work, beaten to death, a lot of black boys didn't even make it to see

adulthood because, for sport, they were used to lure out alligators, and as entertainment, these white people would watch these alligators tear these black babies up and they would call it gator bait. This happened mostly in Florida and Louisiana and places like that. Look up 'gator bait' and tell me I'm lying. But for those who did make it to adulthood, you also had to deal with Mandingo fights and if you've ever seen the movie Django, you saw a bit of what that was black men who were forced to fight each other for a marginalized improvement over their circumstances. To make matters worse, the emasculation of a black man has a long history. White men would also rape these black men to strip them of their pride and strip them of their self-worth. They called it 'Buck Breaking'. Anyone who ever thinks that rape is a matter of sexual gratification is wrong. Rape always has and always will be about a display of power over another. Nothing more, nothing less. it is to demonstrate that they have the ability to take from you what you hold dear; what you hold precious. The one thing that you can control. These white men will rape these black men sometimes in front of their loved ones and - again it's sad to say - those men were also the lucky ones because at least they were able to keep their penises. Some of them were not so lucky and were turned into eunuchs.

So let's recap for a second: these men lost the tribal war, and they were imprisoned, sold off, enslaved, beaten, raped, and emasculated. BROKEN...in every way imaginable. Now if we're talking about the family structure in terms of how it's laid out in the Bible, if the man is the head and I guess you can say the woman is the neck. That structure propels the body which is the family unit forward. The problem is that even way back in West Africa, these men have been severed from the body. They have not been in place to protect or provide for their family. They have been removed from their rightful place, from their natural place. They have not been able to protect their families, they have not been able to protect their women, they have not been able to protect themselves. The history of the black man in this country is a tragedy. Those who were born here after the initial slavery, the very first African American after he was born here all he's known was bondage. This is where the ADOS lineage begins technically. And since we've been here, our name - our image - our voices have never been ours to define. Ever. We have always been told who we were: slaves, animals, niggers, coon, brutes, negroes, worthless...expendable.

Generation to generation to generation, those terms, those labels have been on us and we have not been able to shake it to the point where the women of our tribes have rejected us completely. Even after trying to establish ourselves as the head of the black family, our position has always been challenged by our women because we were never able to protect them properly. We were never able to be fully seen as men in their eyes. Malcolm X said it best back when he was alive that we will never be seen as men if we do not take the same daring and drastic measures to protect our women as the white man does for his. I don't think that he meant that from the perspective of those who already look down on us, I think he meant that from the perspective of the ones who look exactly like us. The ones who are supposed to be behind us. We rank lower - despite what feminist dogma would have you believe - we rank lower than our women. I don't care that we got the right to vote before the women, we rank lower than our women. Always have. our women at the very least have intrinsic value. There may not be a slew of men from other races lining up to marry our women, but they sure as hell will fuck and procreate with those with black women.

We have always been expendable...by everybody. And that word is the most painful - being expendable - coming from women who look like us. So where at one point we were in this thing together in the late sixties. We were building and repairing what was taken from us, healing as much as we could with the trauma that was inherited. Then white women somehow convinced black women that they have a problem with the men that they called husbands. Projecting their issues into the black households and gathering their numbers to join their fight and we were forced out of our homes.

No matter what point in American history you look at, black men have never been able to claim their name. We have never been able to speak our peace and we will never be able to say just how much this shit hurts. We just suck it up and suffered in silence and kept moving until we either commit suicide or work ourselves to death where maybe we find peace. So in 2022, black men have finally had enough of being talked down to by everyone else. As a black man, I am tired. I don't want to war with black women. I wanted to love them. I wanted to marry them. I wanted to make black babies so those

black babies can make more black babies and so on and so forth but because I've heard my entire life that I am worthless and I am scum and I am trash I'm sure that that desire will go unfulfilled. Nobody wants to stay where they're not wanted; no one wants to stay where they're not welcome. It is a man's instinct to provide for his woman and if our women wish for us to disappear, consider MGTOW, Passport Bros, and SYBM movements providing our women with what they say they want until they prove to us otherwise through their actions. Although, I am afraid that the state of the black community is too far gone, and is doomed to fail and crumble in on itself…even though I still hold on to a minuscule measure of hope that I am wrong about that. And don't get me wrong: I'm not trying to contribute to the "suffer olympics" argument, I'm really not. I'm only trying to articulate the burden black men carry that we never discuss, the burden that is never considered. The wounds that we are constantly reminded of every time we are called "trash" and "worthless"; reminders of our place in this country…try as we might to change it.



In Memoriam



TWAR UPDATE



Fort Worth, TX Dec. 16, 2022.

After 13 hours of deliberation, the jury found former officer Aaron Dean guilty for the death of 28 year old Atatiana Jefferson back in 2019. You could be forgiven for forgetting her story as there were so many black lives pointlessly lost at the hands of police that culminated in the George Floyd protests and eventual riots of 2020.

TL;DR: Police arrived a Atatiana's home in October of 2019 at 2am for a welfare check at the request of her neighbor. Jefferson's door was uncharacteristically open for that time of night. Former Officer Dean claimed he saw Jefferson at the back window with a gun pointed at him, he issued orders to for her to put up her hands and fired shots into the home, killing her. He "feared for his life" as the tired excuse goes. As it turns out, Jefferson had heard suspicious noises in the back yard and grabbed her gun to investigate according to her nephew, The presence of the police officers wasn't announced nor did they identify themselves as officers. The door was open as ventilation for the food she was cooking, and she was just playing video games with her nephew that morning.

The jury found Dean guilty of manslaughter and he faces up to 20 years in prison...but was sentenced to 12 years in prison. So yeah. Black folk need to get the hell out of Texas.



SMILE.

As black people, we wear our history on our faces. All the pain, rage, exhaustion, hopelessness and frustration of our ancestors and even our day-to-day is written into our very expression. As the years go on, it seems we have less and less to be happy about. So, I just wanted to remind us that despite everything…














MOREHOUSE
LLEGE
NTA, GEORGIA











…we look so much better when we smile.

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Black Panther Party 10-Point Program

Est. 1966

1. We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.

2. We want full employment for our people.

3. We want an end to the robbery by the white man of our Black Community.

4. We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings.

5. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of the decadent American society. We want education that teachers us our true history and our role in the present-day society.

6. We want all black men to be exempt from military service.

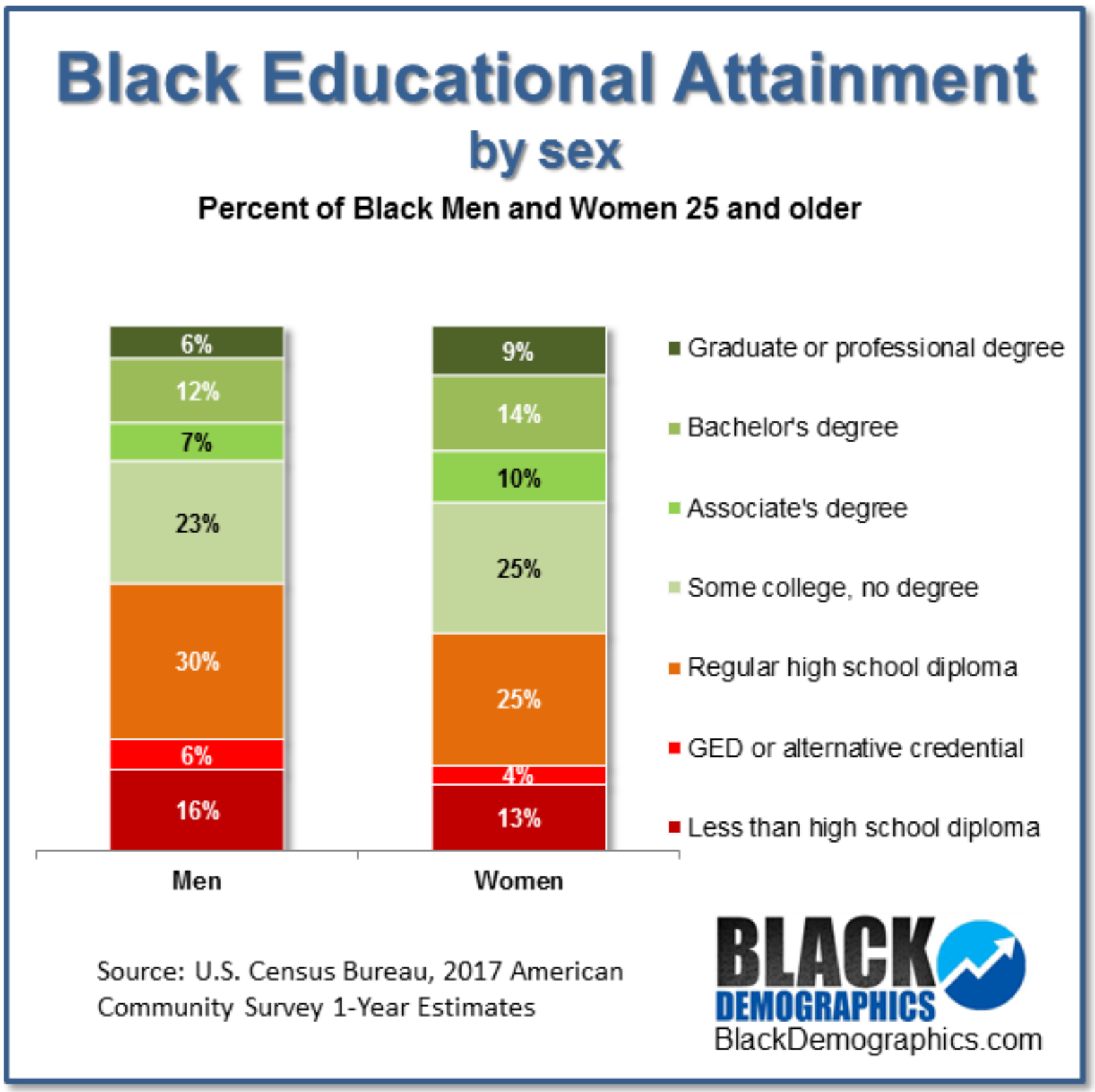
7. We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of black people.

8. We want freedom for all black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails.

9. We want all black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their black communities, as defined by the Constitution of the United States.

10. We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice, and peace. And as our major political objective, a United Nations-supervised plebiscite to be held throughout the black colony in which only black colonial subjects will be allowed to participate, for the purpose of determining the will of black people as to their national destiny.

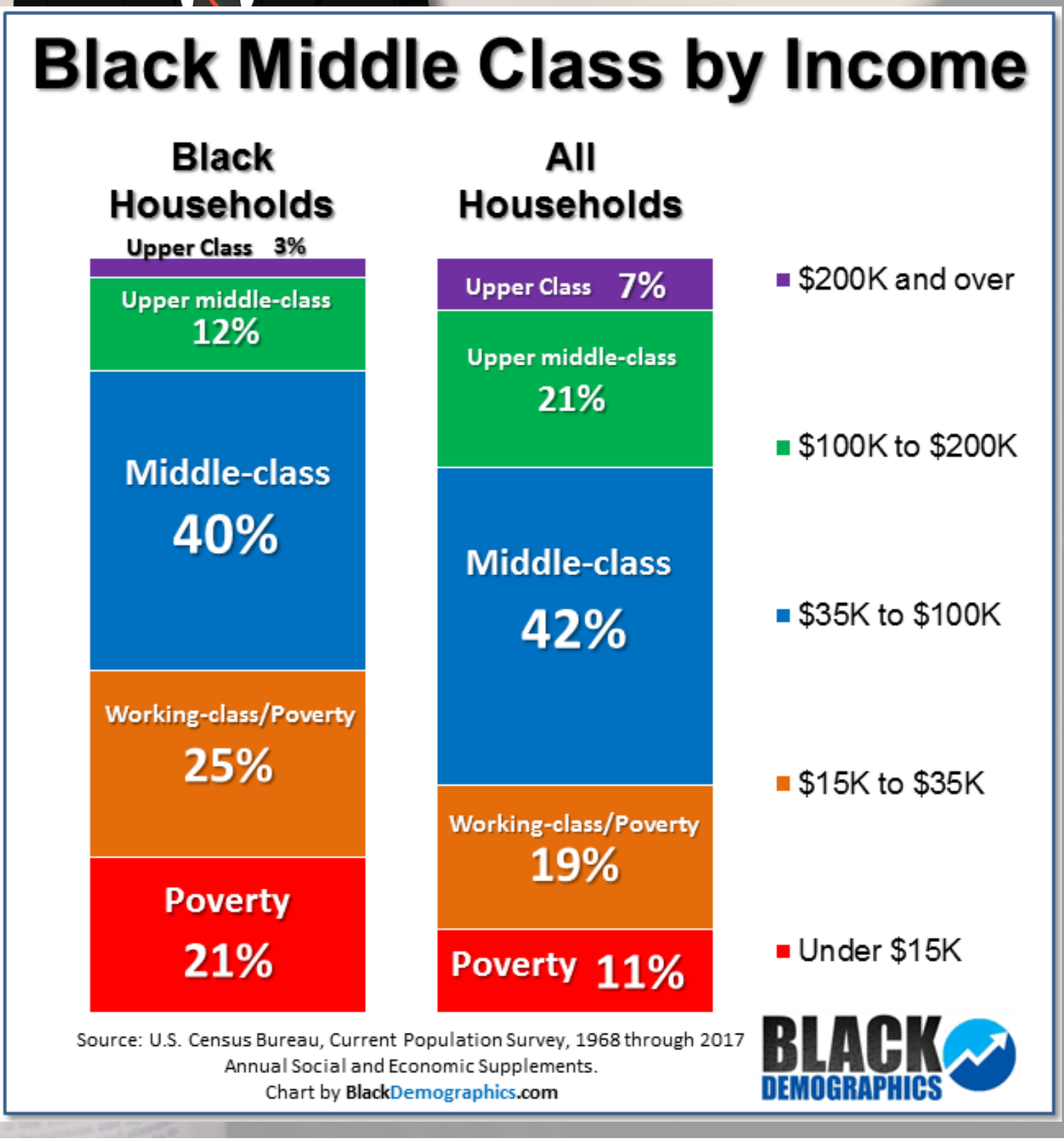
Data & Statistics

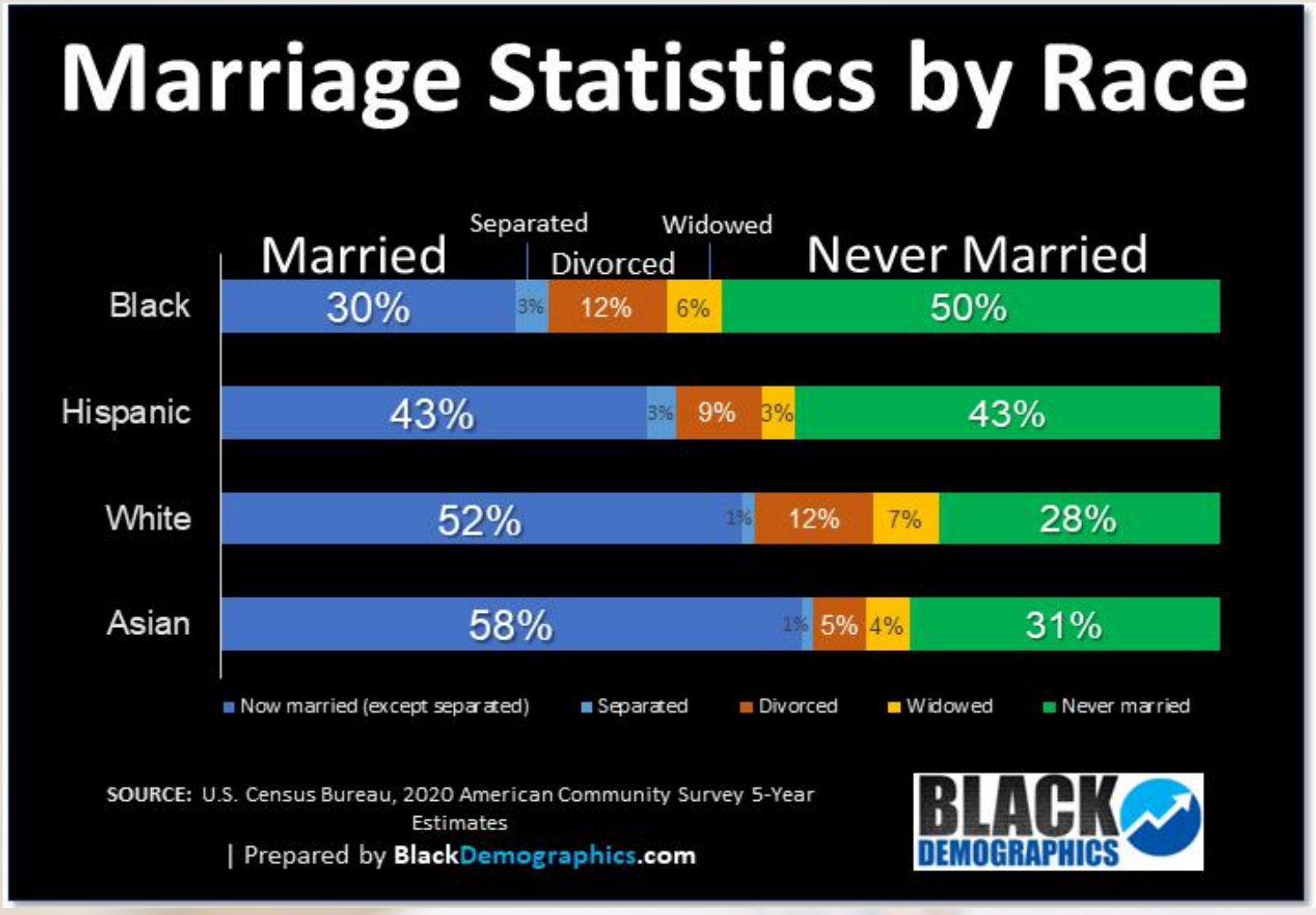


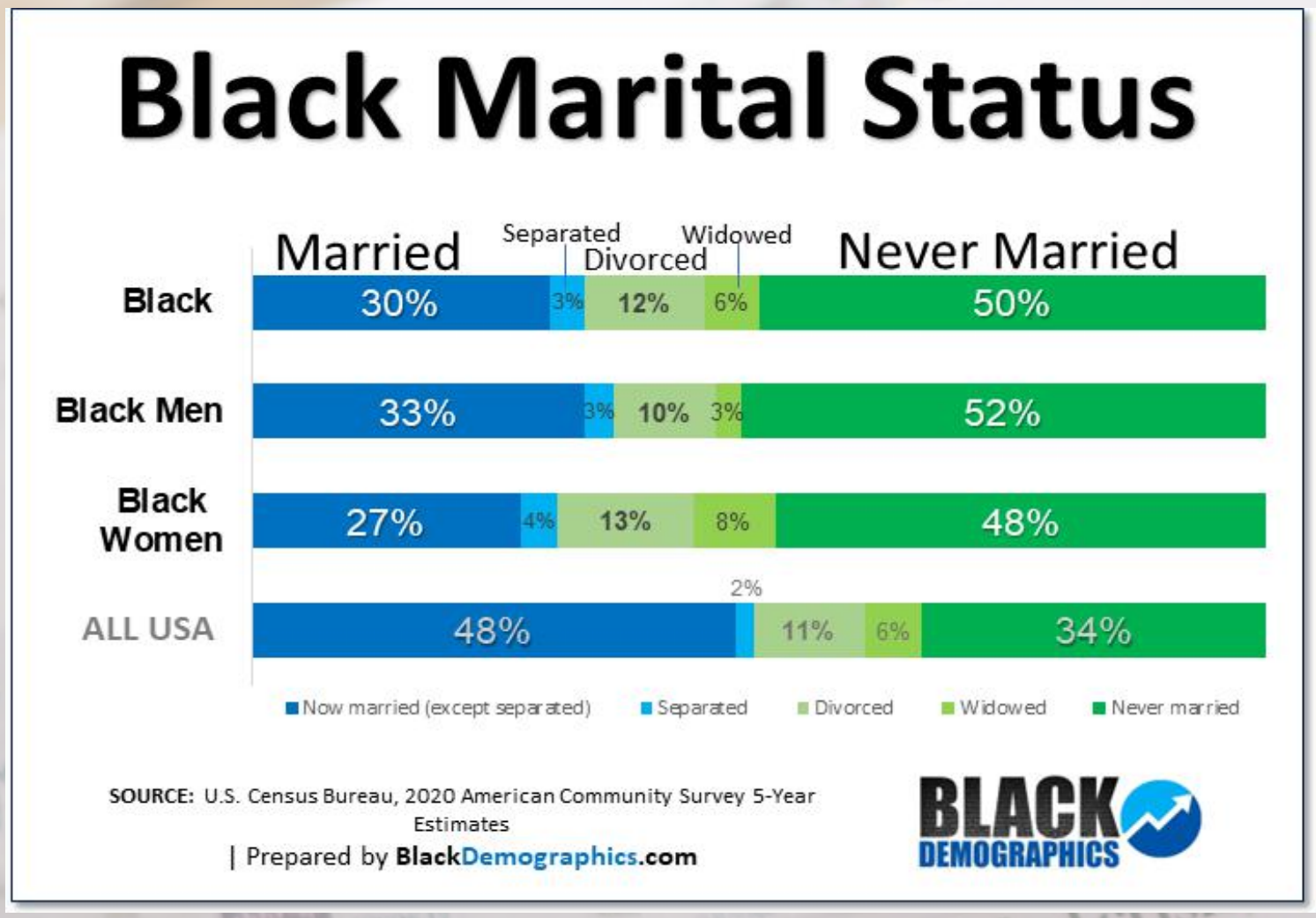


“Look at the data. Really look at the data; are we getting the outcomes that we say we want and if we're not, what are we doing to change the outcome exactly?”

Black Middle Class by Income

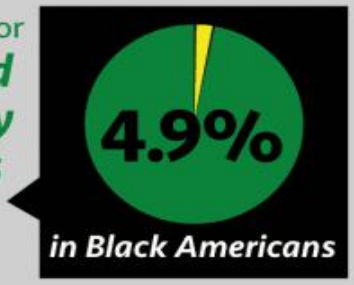



Marriage Statistics by Race
Married
Separated
Divorced
Widowed
Never Married
Black
30%
3%
12%
6%
50%
Hispanic
43%
3%
9%
3%
43%
White
52%
1%
12%
7%
28%
Asian
58%
1%
5%
4%
31%
Now married (except separated)
Separated
Divorced
Widowed
Never married
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
| Prepared by BlackDemographics.com
BLACK DEMOGRAPHICS


Black Marital Status
Married
Separated
Divorced
Widowed
Never Married
Black
30%
3%
12%
6%
50%
Black Men
33%
3%
10%
3%
52%
Black Women
27%
4%
13%
8%
48%
ALL USA
48%
2%
11%
6%
34%
Now married (except separated)
Separated
Divorced
Widowed
Never married
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
| Prepared by BlackDemographics.com
BLACK DEMOGRAPHICS

Mental Health Issues Facing the Black Community

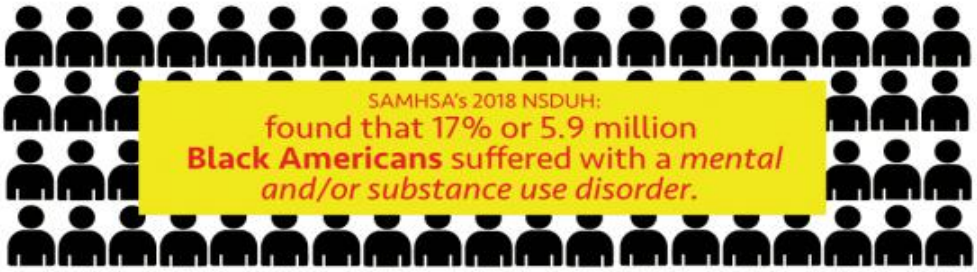
Lifetime risk for ***generalized anxiety disorder is***



According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health (HHSOMH),



Black Americans are 20% more likely to experience ***serious mental illness*** (SMI) than the general public.



SAMHSA's 2018 NSDUH:
found that 17% or 5.9 million **Black Americans** suffered with a *mental and/or substance use disorder.*

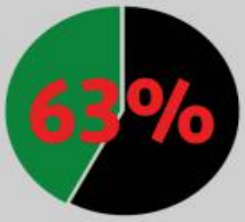
The substances most often **used and abused** by **Black Americans** are:

- ***Alcohol 1.2 million***
- ***Marijuana 5.9 million***
- ***Opioids 1.2 million***
- ***Inhalants 175,000***
- ***Cocaine 577,000***
- ***Methamphetamine 64,000***



one-third *of adult Black Americans* who need mental health **care receive it.**

11.5% of **Black adult Americans** had **no health insurance** *despite the ACA.*



of Black Americans think that **mental illness** *is a sign of* **weakness** *or a* **personal failing**



RESOURCES PROVIDED BY
sunshinebehavioralhealth.com

Kevin Samuels' Legacy

CIA - Confident, **I**ntelligent, **A**ssertive

CIA$_2$ - Competitive, **I**ntriguing, **A**ggressive

FBI - Feminine **B**eautiful **I**nspirational

H.E.N.R.Y. - High **E**arner **N**ot **R**ich **Y**et

Blue H.E.N.R.Y. - Blue Collar H.E.N.R.Y.s

B.L.A.K.E. (H.E.N.R.Y.) - Ethnicities/Race: Brad, Lee, Ahmed, Keith, Enrique

H.I.T. - H.E.N.R.Y.s-In-Training

B.A.G. - Bold, **A**mbitious, **G**enerous

T20 - Top 20%

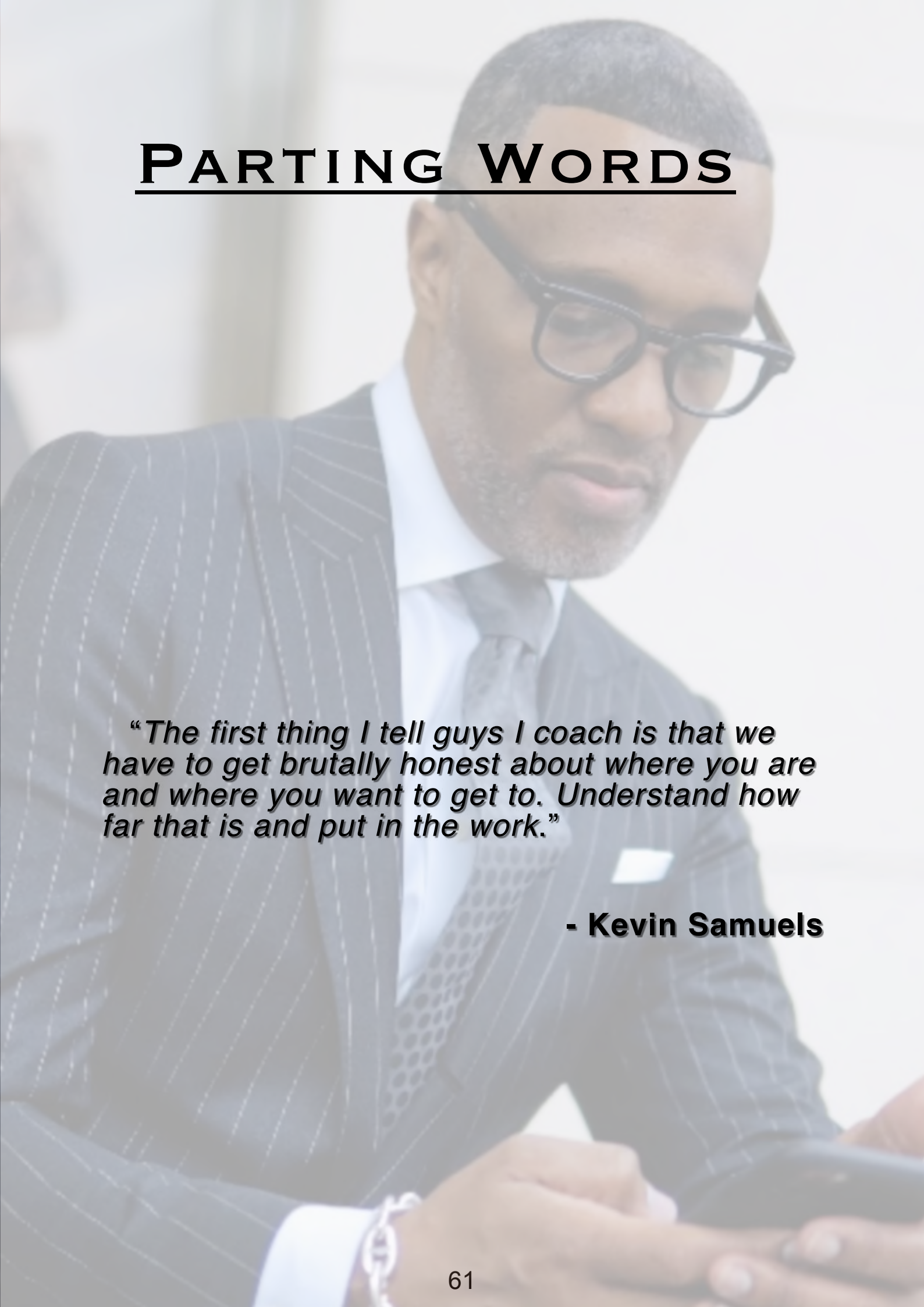
S.I.G.N. Language - Shame, **I**nsults, **G**uilt, **N**eed to be Right

D.I.M.E. - Discipline, **I**ntegrity, **M**orals, **E**thics

V.O.I.D. (Women) - Vicious, **O**rnery, **I**nfuriating, **D**emanding

Phi Phi Mu (Women) - Proud **P**ick **M**e: women who change to get what they want

Parting Words



"The first thing I tell guys I coach is that we have to get brutally honest about where you are and where you want to get to. Understand how far that is and put in the work."

- Kevin Samuels

Thank you
Kevin