

SIDE #5

Brian

Scene 14

*(BRIAN stands before a small audience in a small lecture hall. He is dressed more formally than we've ever seen him. His demeanor, slightly more nervous, somewhat more impassioned. This is his swan song.)*

BRIAN. I'd first like to thank the Institute for having me, and I have the pleasure of having in the audience two of my deans, Dean Jankowski, Dean Thompson... I won't begin to name the rest of you, I surely could only get in trouble that way...but suffice to say, it's wonderful to see so many of you from so many disciplines... No pressure. *(It's a half-hearted joke, and no one laughs.)* I will just dive in then.

*(Turning to his paper - establish slide of dolls from Clark's study. Then projected: families of various ethnicities, comprised of various numbers of children, or not, some blended families, some same gendered couples...)*

Our understanding of prejudice has largely been characterized as simple animosity born of fear and ignorance. We have subscribed relatively narrow parameters to the phenomenon of prejudice... Evidence for this can be found in bipolar attitude scales, like-dislike, that measure prejudice...

*(A complicated scale appears on the small projection screen behind BRIAN.)*

Economists,

*(An even more complicated chart littered with numbers and arrows.)*

sociologists and psychologists,

*(A black-and-white photograph of three White dolls and three Black dolls, laying on their backs in a row.)*

FOR CONTEXT



We've seen this.

*(He turns the screen off... Angered by the audience's lack of interest.)*

There was a time when I'd have attributed your eyes rolling up into the back of your heads as a direct correlate to my inability to grab you, and hold you. I thought it was the words. How the words "racism," "prejudice," "discrimination" always send us into a collective tailspin, a downward spiral of defensiveness, embarrassment, animosity, inadequacy, or rage. I get that. I understand that. Honestly, I almost don't resent that. Just LISTEN! Please.

Start

So what are we to do? How then to approach the explaining of that which both defies and begs for explanation? You, my peers and superiors from the hard sciences, would say don't. We are not here to explain, we are here to present. God forbid anything as "subjective" as race touch our precious findings. So the data collective sits there, years and years and hundreds of thousands of dollars spent gathering and aggregating, and it sits there while we bullshit around it. God forbid we're the White people saying the wrong thing. Let's face it, you're afraid that government interests and the big moneyed donors you're in bed with will pull your resources. It's unconscionable. Tragic really - your silencing of truth. This dynamic has held our country hostage since its inception. And you'd rather we not look at it? *(beat)* Well I say, grow a pair. Suck it the fuck up. The level of aggressive passivity in this room, in these vocations, in this country, is shameful.

END

Roll up your sleeves and wade through the muck. We must look at the scientific data and embrace that we, the White people, are implicated. Look *(referring to slides)* ...numbers, more numbers. *(beat)* What's that? Numbers. Cold, hard data. I'm speaking your language. I've proven that it's there, in our heads, in our cells, in our fucking blood. A predisposition to hate. We are programmed to distrust, and fear those with more