

Source Analysis 4: The film "*Moonlight*" and Interviews

In our interview Donna spoke greatly of women's rights in Alton. Since the YWCA focuses a lot on women's rights, this was very important. She did touch on some crime, but it was not juvenile crime like we have talked about with Dorothy, it was domestic abuse in households. She would tell Mary and I stories about how women in households would get beat up but no one did anything about it. There were no women programs to go to when this happened, and police would just look the other way. She brought up grocery stores, as she used to work in her grandfather's store. She told us about the change in local stores, to malls, to big corporate stores.

One new finding I would like to look more into was the church when Donna was growing up. I asked her what community meant to her and she told me it was her church. Soon after she told us about how her mother was told she can't get communion at church because she was divorced. I believe that is not right and I want to look more into the church 'rules' that they went by and expected people to follow back then. On the digital story I would like to focus more on women's rights and the catholic church. I would of course put something in there about the stores, but I felt her story was different from the one she wanted to tell us about. I think she had a story she wanted to share, but her heart led her somewhere else, that is why we got two big stories. One just stood out more than the other.

In the movie *Moonlight*, the setting is very important. Chiron and his mother live in a low income area surrounded by violence, drugs, and etc. Chiron has a hard time pretty much everywhere. He only has one friend at school who later beats him up and has hard challenges with the other kids and himself. If this movie/story was told in the opposite setting where they are in a high income area with no violence or anything, a good school where Chiron had more friends and never had any problems he would not have ended up how he is. Chiron is the person

he is today because of his mother, Teresa, and Juan. Juan was like the father he never had. Taught Chiron how to swim, protect himself, and gave him someone to lean on. Teresa was like his step-mother in a way, always giving him a place to stay. After getting out of prison, Chiron wanted to be like Juan, and he became Juan.

I feel Juan could be his father. Now I don't know this for sure of course because they didn't say he was, but there was definitely a past with Juan and Chiron's mother. Maybe this theory is not at all true and the reason that Juan took so much of an interest in Chiron is because Juan saw himself in Chiron, we will never know. What we do know is that Chiron needed Juan. He was his father figure while he was around. They were both good for each other, but Chiron's mother did not like it. Her knowing he was a drug dealer could have played a role in this, or maybe some sort of past. It was bound to happen that Chiron was going to turn out like Juan. Children, especially little boys, most of the time always look up to their father.

Growing up in a household without a father is hard. Chiron only had his mother who didn't really pay much attention to him. She was too into her drugs and men to even bother looking at her son. She was very manipulative and mentally abusive. The fact that she was on drugs most of the time when she talked or saw Chiron probably didn't help anything. When she would talk to him it was probably very confusing for him. I think she mostly affected his sexual identity by not being around. He was always surrounded by boys and never had any social interaction with girls, so I felt this could be a reason of many. The nicknames others called him too could play a role as well. Connecting these nicknames to himself can make you think these things of you, so when something about Chiron was said, he thought that of himself.

The defining moments in my life is definitely when Karen (My grandmother whom I don't call grandmother anymore) abused me, mentally. She had told me stuff as a child that

carried on into my teen years that caused me to harm myself. Getting out of this hole was hard but I got out. One of the people that helped me out was my ex. This was another defining moment in my life, when I found out he was cheating on me after being together for over a year. He was my best friend...in the beginning. He became very manipulative and took advantage of me many times. He would gaslight me and I had no idea, my friends were the only people who saw it until the end where I started to see it. I could not be myself with him. I wanted to express who I was with my physical appearance, for example my pink hair. I told him in our junior year of highschool I wanted to dye my hair pink and he told me I would look stupid and could never pull it off. We broke up April 1st and I slowly started to show myself, now I have pink hair.

I don't have many defining moments, but those two were all I needed to find who I really was and who I wanted to be. They also helped me find out who I want to surround myself with and how I treat them. Everyone needs a defining moment to find their true self and Chiron got his fair share of moments. You won't learn about yourself if you don't live. You have to make mistakes and feel all the feelings in the world to find out who or what you truly are.

Other than the city in the movie being low income as well as some of Alton, I feel there was not really much of a connection. There were a couple of big connections though like single motherhood and the roles of women. Donna's mother was a single mother and also a nurse as Chiron's mother was in the movie but that is all. Women didn't have much of a part in anything other than taking care of the children.