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Professor Lisa

This is the second time I am reading the book "Just Mercy". My first time reading this book was in my sophomore year of high school. So it's safe to say it's been a couple of years. I also have seen the film and I remember it being up to many different emotions, Such as sadness and anger. I am excited to see how my thoughts and feelings have developed as I revisit a book that captured my greatness and Got me thinking.

Before the introduction of the book, there was a quote I wanted to touch on. "Love is the motive, But justice is the instrument." - Reinhold Niebuhr. I sat with this quote for 10 minutes thinking about the meaning of Justice and love. I don't have an answer just yet but I hope as I walk through this book I can conclude.

These chapters were a great introduction to the author and the characters in the book. Bryan Stevenson is shown as an underdog who has a heart for justice. He is an educated man from a poor family. One interaction that stood out to me is while he was finishing up his law degree he went to go visit a man on death row named Henry. The News Bryan delivered to Henry was that he was getting one more year to live. Bryan sat and talked with Henry for many hours and when it was time for Henry to go the prison guard was very rough when he escorted Henry away. As Henry was leaving he was singing a soul hymn. Even during death row and abuse, Henry can still sing praise. I want to be more like Henry.

Another thing I picked up from the story is how People of color always have to look their best and present themselves well. No matter where they are. An African American woman was

working at the law office. She was always dressed well. When Bryan walked in one day in jeans and a hoodie he was looked down on. Black people are already not taken seriously. Imagine when you are not dressed for the part. Just something That I always think of as I move through life there are certain things I don't have the luxury of. I should mention I am African American and Puerto Rican. So many of the topics this book hits on are very close to me.

Finally, Another thing that stood out to me was how Bryan was treated when he was sitting in his car. One night Bryan was sitting in his car listening to music and two Cops stopped him. One officer processed to pull out his women on Bryan as well. He was held until they looked up his license and then they let him go. Additional information was that a nearby neighbor called in for a robbery. So he was considered a suspect. This is still happening to so many black and brown people today. So this doesn't surprise me. Bryan proceeded to set up a meeting with the chief of police and advocate for himself. He Got an apology for the situation. I find this empowering and surprising. Growing up most black people just let it go and kept their heads down.

In conclusion, I am excited to go through this heart-wrenching journey as I read this book. I am excited to see what emotions come up. I am also looking forward to visiting my classmates and their opinions on the many topics of this novel.