Sinead Scott

4/14/20

QCQ 17

Quote:

“You don't understand, you weren't there, says Bev Shaw. Well, she is mistaken. Lucy's intuition is right after all: he does understand; he can, if he concentrates, if he loses himself, be there, be the men, inhabit them, fill them with the ghost of himself. The question is, does he have it in him to be the woman?”

Comment:

This quote comes from David’s thoughts regarding Lucy’s rape and his understanding of the word and of the action. What struck me was his question asking whether he had it in him to be the woman, even though he could understand the part of the man. I think in this way he can come to his conclusion of justice because he cannot put himself in the position of the woman and so his sense of justice comes from his understanding of what it is to be the man. He cannot put himself in her position because of who he is and what he has done. David has been the man in that position, though he may not have raped anyone with the violent hatred that Lucy experienced, he has been in that position, the one of power and of control. Lucy even says, previous to this quote, that it’s not that the men who raped her wanted her as a slave, rather it was subjugation; the desire to control and dominate her. I think this quote is interesting also because it also, to an extent, plays into the “justice” part. In particular, it highlights David and Lucy’s argument about who has a say in what happens as David, and men (though obviously rape is not solely done to women and thus not always gendered) or others cannot place themselves in the position of less power.

Question:

How might this situation relate to our upcoming focus on the “#metoo” movement?