Sinead Scott

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QCQ18

Quotation:

“Grace says her friends helped her grapple with the aftermath of her night with Ansari. “It took a really long time for me to validate this as sexual assault,” she told us. “I was debating if this was an awkward sexual experience or sexual assault. And that’s why I confronted so many of my friends and listened to what they had to say, because I wanted validation that it was actually bad.”

Comment:

I chose this quote because I think it is one of the most important parts from this story. The article follows a woman’s date with Aziz Ansari and what ensues after dinner. What struck me in particular about this quote was that I think this is what many woman struggle with when trying to come to terms with uncomfortable, violating sexual encounters (not to say men do not but specifically I want to focus on the #metoo movement). There is often still a gray area when it comes to consent, at least when trying to determine if what you just went through was just uncomfortable and maybe awkward or something more than that. It becomes even more confusing when both parties engage, to some degree, in sexual acts because it gives the person in power an excuse, a reason to think they are not in the wrong while at the same time making the other person feel conflicted about what they just went through. However, even so, this is yet another instance of a man in power who takes advantage of his position to get what he wants from a woman. While they did not have sex, Grace clearly stated that she wanted to chill out and take it more slowly and that she did not want to feel forced. Ansari continued to pressure her by agreeing with her, apologizing, and then going back to what he was doing and using her words against her (“it doesn’t seem like you hate me”). I think a lot of woman would have struggled in this situation, especially because he is a celebrity with influence there is often a feeling that if you do not go along with what the man wants than you are the one that is in the wrong. Though I know this seems a bit archaic, I think it is fostered by our society and the view it has had of woman for so long. Grace should not have had to find validation for her violating sexual experience and yet she had to because we as a society have not allowed for woman to find sexual acts, that are not explicitly rape, as degrading or otherwise violating.

Question:

Do you think that the #metoo movement was beneficial in raising awareness of sexual assault and how it is more than just rape?