

Review of *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad

Excerpts:

Pg 14, paragraph 3: “White supremacy is a system you have been born into. Whether or not you have known it, it is a system that has granted you unearned privileges, protection and power.” ... “What you receive for your whiteness comes at a steep cost for those who are not white.”

Pg 15: Saad says that those needing to do the work in this book include any person who holds white privilege. This includes persons who are biracial, multiracial, or white-passing People of Color. Even those who are not white at all but are instead a Person of Color who is lighter skinned, white passing or white adjacent.

Pg 19: “White supremacy is an evil. It is a system of oppression that has been designed to give you benefits at the expense of the lives of BIPOC (that is, black, Indigenous and people of color), and it is living inside you as unconscious thoughts and beliefs.”... trying to avoid the work “is the response of the white fragility and anti-Blackness lying inside.” ...“Anti-racism is lifelong work.”

Pg 25: the work will bring up “challenging emotions like shame, anger, grief, rage, apathy, anxiety, and confusion.” ...“you start to realize that you weren’t feeling these feelings before because you had shut down a part of your humanity in order to participate in white supremacy.” ... “No matter how bad it feels to wake up to the pain, shame, and guilt of your racism, those feelings will never come anywhere close to the pain BIPOC experience as a result of your racism.”

Pg 40: “It was not until I began directly writing and talking about race that I realized how deeply white fragility runs in the vast majority of white people” (My observation: this is not the only, but one of many times that the author makes a blanket statement about all or most white people. There is never any proof behind these statements, just a statement the author wants you to accept as true.)

Pg 43: “White fragility makes you dangerous to BIPOC.”

Pg 56-57: Examples of white silence: “Staying silent by not attending protest marches against racism like Black Lives Matter or protests for immigrants at risk” “Staying silent by not sharing social media posts about race and racism in your spaces... or simply reposting the posts of BIPOC but not adding your own voice.” ...“White silence is violence”

Pg 73: “On Day 7, we do not take a day off, because BIPOC do not get to take a day off from (your) white supremacy” (Another observation: multiple times throughout the book, the author mentions the pain or discomfort you may be feeling doing the work... but it is always mentioned that this pain is much less than the pain you and your complicity/privilege/supremacy/silence/etc have cause BIPOC.)

Pg 95, paragraph 3: “In the United States, there is of course a fraught and abusive relationship between Black men (and Black people) and the justice system. This is enabled in part by white people who are constantly calling the police on Black men (and Black people) for simply existing.” (The author is a woman currently living in the Middle East, has lived in the UK, but never in America or the Western hemisphere. Yet, she states the above with zero evidence, and expects that it should be taken as fact)

Pg 109, last paragraph: “Just because a stereotype seems positive does not mean it is not harmful. Stereotypes rob people of their complex individuality and erase the impact that colonization has had on

why some of these stereotypes emerged.” (Now, at page 109, the author wants to warn about stereotyping and how it can be harmful. Throughout the entire book, she has made it clear that individuality and individual actions are not important because of the white supremacist society we live in. It doesn't matter if you are a nice person that doesn't feel racist, you still are since you are benefiting from the system and causing the pain on BIPOC simply by existing in this system. Yet, now, she wants to warn about stereotypes and that we (white, mixed race, white adjacent, white passing) are not allowed our individuality.)

Pg 120: “What actions have you taken when you have seen other white people culturally appropriating? Have you called it out? Or have you used your white silence? (There are examples of cultural appropriation listed and these examples included some items as small as tanned skin and braids. Yet, if you don't say anything to someone committing these offenses, that is white silence, which we learned is violence.)

Pg 150: This section is about white saviorism (BIPOC need white people to save them), she lists examples of white saviorism... these include missionary trips to Africa and the story of the family in *The Blind Side*.

Pg 174: White feminism: This section is where the author criticizes white women that are feminists, they focus only on the disparities and oppression of gender, do not take into account the disparities and oppression of other intersections that are just as important (race, class, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc.)