

# Blackface White Tears: A Memoir of Maintenance Man

Reginald Van Lee's memoir, *Blackface White Tears*, is a powerful and moving account of his experiences as a black man working as a maintenance man in a predominantly white community. The book explores the themes of race, class, and identity, and provides a unique perspective on the American experience.



## BLACKFACE WHITE TEARS: MEMOIR OF A MAINTENANCE MAN by KG Stiles

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1650 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 1 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



Van Lee was born in the segregated South and grew up in poverty. He eventually moved to the North in search of a better life, but he found that racism and discrimination were just as prevalent there as they were in the South. He worked a variety of low-wage jobs before landing a job as a maintenance man at a wealthy white community.

At first, Van Lee was grateful for the job. He was treated with respect by his supervisors and co-workers, and he was able to provide a good life for his family. However, as time went on, he began to experience more and more

racism from the residents of the community. He was called names, he was given dirty looks, and he was even threatened with violence.

Van Lee's experiences at the community center were a microcosm of the larger racial divide in America. The residents of the community were wealthy and white, while the maintenance staff was black and poor. The residents often treated the maintenance staff with contempt, and they seemed to view them as less than human.

Blackface White Tears is a powerful and moving account of the racism and discrimination that black people face in America. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the complex racial history of this country.

### **Themes of Race, Class, and Identity**

The themes of race, class, and identity are central to Blackface White Tears. Van Lee explores the ways in which these three factors intersect to shape the lives of black people in America.

Race is a major factor in Van Lee's life. He is constantly aware of his race, and he is often treated differently because of it. He is called names, he is given dirty looks, and he is even threatened with violence.

Class is also a major factor in Van Lee's life. He is a working-class man, and he often feels like he is invisible to the wealthy white people who live in the community where he works. He is treated with contempt by the residents, and he is often made to feel like he is less than human.

Identity is a complex issue for Van Lee. He is a black man, but he is also a working-class man. He does not fit into either category neatly, and he often

feels like he is an outsider.

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### **A Unique Perspective on the American Experience**

Blackface White Tears provides a unique perspective on the American experience. Van Lee's story is not just a personal story; it is also a story about the larger racial divide in America.

The residents of the community where Van Lee works are wealthy and white, while the maintenance staff is black and poor. This divide is reflected in the way that the residents treat the maintenance staff. The residents often treat the maintenance staff with contempt, and they seem to view them as less than human.

Van Lee's experiences at the community center are a microcosm of the larger racial divide in America. The wealthy white residents of the community are oblivious to the racism that their black neighbors face on a daily basis. They are content to live in their own bubble, and they do not want to confront the uncomfortable truths about race.

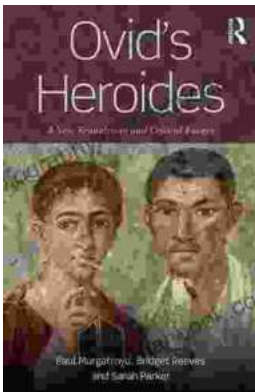
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