

Kathleen Stewart



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Summary of Readings: In Kathleen Stewart's "Real American Dreams (Can be Nightmares)" is a poignant representation of the concept "we" in a society indicative of groups. There is the yearning for "ideal society" but, those who already achieve a material status that could give them one, become so ingrained of their properties and accumulations they begin to suspect their fellows to be always on the lookout for his properties or wealth. There is a perceived threat from those whom the individual (or his group) from "outsiders" or "others."

Questions:

1. What does Stewart seem to be suggesting about the people of the "hollers" sense making of this moment of late capitalism

As I may interpret it, Kathleen Stewart seem to be suggesting a noise or complaining, or a protected area which is at the same time haunting representative of the poignant status of the "winners" or those who are materialistically wealthy in the present society.

There seems to be a parallel between what Mooer's (2003) representation of the 'visible' and the 'invisible' of which the wealthy lives apart and seem not to notice those who do not belong to their social and material circle. As Mooer (2003) put it. "Visibility and invisibility is ultimately determined by where one stands in a chain of social relations linking the sphere of production and the public sphere. In the bourgeois public sphere, those who do not conform to the 'unmarked' identity of the bourgeois male enter the public sphere at the cost of shedding their concrete, embodied identities."

2. Are the behaviours of this group similar to our own Come up with examples.

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The behaviours of this group definitely mirror our present society, where status is dependent on one's income and where there is a never-ending want to get whichever a person with more has. People have the innate concern and yearning for "equality" with those who are beyond their class, their reach, and their "circle."

One example for this is the overwhelming desire for leaders to have their own supplies of crude oil, so that they aspire to own or control islands, occupy countries, and wage war in order to own or control the natural source of crude oil.

3. Is the rhythm of "dreams" and "eruptions" a good description of how we inhabit our contemporary cultures

Yes, it seems to me that the rhythm of dreams and eruptions best describe how we inhabit our contemporary cultures. As already mentioned, there is paranoia for "war" when those who have, leaders who speak of war and terrorism could not even actually point out who actually did a crime, or if the cause of the crime was actually to wage war. In the political spectrum of things, people in a certain area get threatened with things like "terrorism", displacement, loss of a luxurious source of income or job to the "perceived" others. This is definitely mirrored in our contemporary political, social and economic events as policies are questioned, long-guarded constitutional rights are challenged and actually stepped on, and so forth.

In fact, it does not end to encircling of an individual of his person, and immediate family, but it does come from that desire, to preserve a once earned status of "security" brought by accumulation of wealth.

The "hollering" reaches a point where policies on race relations, displacement of jobs overseas, among other things are questioned. In fact,

this situation also confuses the individual or his group as to what matters most, his priorities: is it security from "eruption" of another terrorist act, or in protecting a "private" self

4. How would you describe "dystoposthesia"

As I understand, dystoposthesia would be a displacement, a corruption or improvisation of the word "dystopia" that means "an imaginary place or state in which the condition of life is extremely bad, as from deprivation, oppression, or terror," (Farflex, 2006). Already, as "terrorism" and the promotion of wars elsewhere outside the "hollers" territory become the trend, it acutely represents a real life scenario: scanners in airports, disclosure of even individual bank accounts, mysterious disappearance of a family member, or even a whole family.

All these things causes paranoia beyond compare which the US community is experiencing at the moment and it is not funny.

5. Could "dystoposthesia" be described as an "eruption" in Stewart's sense of the word

Yes, I believe that dystoposthesia is an eruption of something that is avoided but expected by most American citizens.

Reference:

Farflex. "Dystopia." The Free Dictionary. Accessed Oct 12, 2006. From <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/dystopia>

Fletcher, Christopher (2005) "Dystoposthesia: Emplacing Environmental Sensitivities" in *Empire of the Senses: The Sensual Culture Reader*, Berg: Oxford.

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Stewart, Kathleen (2000) " Real American Dreams (Can be Nightmares)" in Cultural Studies and Political Theory, (Ed: Jodi Dean), Cornell Univesity Press: Ithaca